

"I AM THE KING" (2)

Jesus' "I AM" (5)

Banská Bystrica, 26th January 2014

John 18:33-40 So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world- *to bear witness to the truth*. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

OUTLINE

0. INTRODUCTION: "THE KING"

0.1. "TALKING POLITICS" → EXPECTING THE UTOPIA?

0.2. THE TRUTH BEFORE POLITICS (BEFORE)

1. "I CAME ...TO TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH" - THE GOSPEL

1.1. THE RESURRECTION

1.2. SALVATION

2. "I CAME ...TO TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH" - CHANGED LIFE

2.1. LIGHT → LIFE OF JESUS

2.2. LIGHT → LIFE OF THE DISCIPLES (CITIZENS OF HEAVEN)

3. "I CAME ...TO TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH" - SPIRITUAL POWER

3.1. SELF-DEFENSE

3.2. EXORCISM

4. CONCLUSIONS

0. INTRODUCTION: "THE KING"

1. "TALKING POLITICS" → EXPECTING THE UTOPIA?

[LLOYD-JONES] ...there are those who use the Bible in a narrow sense, as being exclusively a text book of *personal salvation*. Many people seem to think that the sole theme of the Bible is that of our personal relationship to God. Of course that is one of the central themes, and we thank God for the salvation provided without which we should be left in hopeless despair. But that is not the only theme of the Bible. Indeed, we can go so far as to say that the Bible puts the question of personal salvation into a larger context. *Ultimately the main message of the Bible concerns the condition of the entire world and its destiny*; and you and I, as individuals, are a part of that larger whole.¹

¹ LLOYD-JONES, D.M. *Faith Tried & Triumphant*, p. 4.

2. THE TRUTH BEFORE POLITICS (BEFORE)

- the world of lies around us (the types of lie:) → believe the Gospel
- the problem of the Pharisees and our problem → to *see* the proofs of God's power
- Jesus as the KING begins with the TRUTH → (1) God before men, (2) the spirit before the flesh, (3) eternity before temporalness → the *soul* before the *world*², (4) holiness before pleasure, (5) trust before profit (6) the unseen before the visible (7) giving before receiving...
 - Jesus says that every power has been given to Him – we need to ask difficult questions such as: Where can I see His power in this world?
 - If I'm a Christian, I believe He is the King and He reigns but I need to understand why His reign is not evident in different areas of this life
 - = His kingdom is not of this world – He works out His power in a different way one would expect
 - His power is confronted with Satan's and with the power of my own will – God created me in the way that I am able to be in a conflict with Him (freedom)

1. "I CAME ...TO TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH" - THE GOSPEL

Jesus the King has a certain value system – we would like to see His kingdom come in full power in this very moment but His kingdom has been coming in a different way: through the victory of truth

Truth – not only accordance of a sentence with reality but the truth is THE WHOLE reality (saying everything, not concealing anything about reality).

The devil puts reality in a different perspective trying to persuade us that flesh is more important than spirit, pleasure than holiness.

the Holy Spirit testifying to the truth

The church is supposed to be a pillar of truth: trusting God before profiting from this life. Eternity is for we're living for.

The truth involves loving the truth. Modern thinking: the truth is what I like.

- "the gospel of the kingdom" -
 - **Mt 4:23** Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the *gospel of the kingdom*, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.
 - **Mt 9:35** Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming *the gospel of the kingdom*, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.
 - **Mt 24:14** This *gospel* of the **kingdom** shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.
 - **Mark 1:15** "The time is fulfilled, and the **kingdom** of God is at hand; repent and believe in the *gospel*."
 - **Luke 16:16** "The Law and the Prophets *were proclaimed* until John; since that time the *gospel* of the **kingdom** of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

1. THE RESURRECTION

- **Eph 1:18-23** *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of *the strength of His might*²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and *seated Him at His right hand* in the heavenly *places*,²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

² **Mt 16:26** For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

2. SALVATION

- **Rom 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for *it is the power of God* for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

This world is a place of lies – we need our eyes to be opened through the Holy Spirit and not let ourselves be carried away by the “truths” of this world (e.g. scientific, technical, political facts/truth).

I need God’s revelation in order to understand the power of the gospel of the truth.

2. "I CAME ...TO TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH" - CHANGED LIFE/TESTIMONY OF THE CHURCH

- **Nu 23:9** [Balaam]...from the hills I behold him; behold, *a people dwelling alone, and not counting itself among the nations!*
- **Mt 28:18-20** "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore and *make disciples* of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- **Phil 3:20** For **our citizenship** is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

1. LIGHT → LIFE OF JESUS

- **John 1:4** In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men
- **John 8:12** "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

2. LIGHT → LIFE OF THE DISCIPLES (CITIZENS OF HEAVEN)

- **Mt 5:14** "You are the light of the world. (1) the poor in spirit, (2) those who mourn, (3) the gentle, (4) those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, (5) the merciful, (6) the pure in heart, (7) the peacemakers, (8) those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, (9) insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me)
= living a life that is different from the surrounding culture

3. "I CAME ...TO TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH" - SPIRITUAL POWER

- **Eph 3:8-10** To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.
- **1 Peter 3:22** Now that He has gone into heaven, He is at God's right hand, with angels, authorities, and powers subjected to Him.

God knows that it’s hard for us as Christians to always see only contra facts – adversity surrounding us. It’s hard to believe when you don’t see any evidence. That’s why He gives us His Holy Spirit who testifies to the truth and He also gives us moments, situations in which we experience victory in Him = in spiritual war:

1. SELF-DEFENSE

- **1 John 5:18** We know that everyone who has been born of God does not sin, but the One who is born of God keeps him,²³ and the evil one does not touch him.
- **Eph 6:12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly places.

2. EXORCISM

- **Luke 10:19** "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of **the enemy**, and nothing will injure you.
- **Mk 16:17** **in My name** they will cast out **demons**, they will speak with new tongues;

4. CONCLUSIONS

- The Kingdom of Jesus comes through the truth. → faith and salvation
- The Kingdom of Jesus changes lives → citizens of Heaven ("counter culture")
- The Kingdom of Jesus gives power over spiritual powers → for self-defense and to help others.