

A Royal Christmas – The King without an empire

Trevor Van Laar - 12.12.21

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:15–20NIV

THE KING WHO LIVED WITHOUT AN EMPIRE...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

YOUR THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK –

EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, (USUALLY WHEN I’M FEELING POWERLESS IN SOME SITUATION) I THINK ABOUT WHAT I WOULD I DO IF *I WAS KING OF THE WORLD!!!* LUCKY FOR ME (AND LIKELY EVERYONE ELSE!) I’VE NEVER HAD THE CHANCE! I WISH I COULD SAY THAT MY FIRST THOUGHTS ALWAYS TURN TO HOW I MIGHT BRING WORLD PEACE, SOLVE WORLD HUNGER, OR CURE CANCER, BUT NO... USUALLY I’M PRETTY FOCUSED ON FIXING ONLY MY PROBLEMS.

JESUS WAS BORN WITH MORE THAN AN EMPIRE. HE WAS BORN WITH ALL OF CREATION. YET, HE WAS BORN IN HUMILITY AND HELPLESSNESS. THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST WAS TO BE DIFFERENT THAN ANYTHING HUMANITY COULD EVER HOPE TO EXPERIENCE OR ACCOMPLISH. HOWEVER, THERE ARE PLENTY OF DAYS THAT I FORGET ALL ABOUT JESUS AS KING AND I IMAGINE MYSELF AS THE ONE IN CONTROL.

AS WE COME CLOSER TO CHRISTMAS, THE CELEBRATION OF THE COMING OF THE KING, THINK ABOUT WHAT EMPIRE, WHAT KINGDOM YOU TRY TO CLAIM AS YOUR OWN. IS IT YOUR CHURCH, YOUR FAITH, YOUR SPIRITUALITY? MAYBE IT’S YOUR HEALTH, YOUR BODY, OR YOUR FAMILY. PERHAPS IT’S WHAT YOU DO FOR WORK OR WHAT YOU DO FOR PLAY. ODDS ARE, YOU AND I TRY TO BUILD OUR OWN EMPIRES AND RULE OUR OWN KINGDOMS EACH AND EVERY DAY. THIS WEEK, HOW CAN YOU LET JESUS RULE HIS KINGDOM IN YOUR LIFE?

SOURCES:

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Vaughan, C. (1981). Colossians. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Ephesians through Philemon (Vol. 11)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.
