

His Name Shall be Called Wonderful (16)

King of Saints

Throughout the sacred Scriptures the Lord Jesus is referred to as King. Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in the New Testament, with the coming of the Lord Jesus into this world. The Lord Jesus is referred to as *King of the Jews*” (Matt. 2:2; Jn. 19:19) and *“King of Israel”* (Matt. 27:42; Mk. 15:32; Jn. 1:49, 12:13). Twice in the New Testament, He is given the royal designation of *“King of kings and Lord of lords”*. (1st Tim. 6:15; Rev. 19:16).

In the book of Psalms, the Lord Jesus is referred to as *“the King of Glory”*. The gates and everlasting doors are called to lift up their heads for the King of Glory to come in (Ps. 24:7-10). It is as if to make room, so that the regal splendor and majesty of the King of Glory might be able to enter.

In the book of the Revelation, those who had gotten the victory over the beast, sing the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb. There, the Lord Jesus is referred to as, *King of saints*” (Rev. 15:3). This is the only occurrence of this divine title in the Word of God and applies uniquely to our blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

The titles *“King of the Jews”* and *“King of Israel”*, remind us that as coming from David’s royal line, the Lord Jesus Christ is heir to the throne of Israel. The people of Israel understood that Messiah, the Christ would come from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was (Jn. 7:42).

In the book of Romans, the apostle Paul referred to the gospel, which was concerning Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David, according to the flesh (Rom. 1:3). Matthew began his gospel account by tracing the human genealogy of the Lord Jesus, describing Him as, *“Jesus Christ, the son of David”* (Matt. 1:1).

The prophet Isaiah made numerous references to the coming of the Lord Jesus and of His future reign on the throne of David. The most familiar of these is that wonderful passage describing the child born and the son given. Isaiah wrote, *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this” (Isa. 9:6-7).

The title King of kings and Lord of Lords, proclaims the Lord Jesus Christ as sovereign ruler over all the kingdoms of the world. David’s prayer for His son, Solomon and his kingdom, *“He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth”* (Ps. 72:8), will be fulfilled in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and His ultimate rule over the nations. The prophet Zechariah also used these words in describing the coming King and His kingdom (Zech. 9:9-10).

The title, *“King of saints”*, is only found in the book of the Revelation. It is mentioned in connection with the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. Some suggest that these are two distinct and separate songs of deliverance. The song of Moses celebrated Israel’s deliverance over Egypt, when the Lord brought them safely through the Red Sea and overthrew their enemies (Ex. 15). The song of the Lamb celebrates the totality of the victory of those who are redeemed by the blood of Lamb, over the beast, and over his image and over his mark and over his name.

It is interesting to note that as the victors sing, they ascribe the name, “*Lord God Almighty*”, to the King of Saints. They sing of His works, which are great and marvellous and His ways, which are just and true. Associating the Lamb with “*Lord God Almighty*”, speaks to the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, as we have in chapter 1 verse 8 of the book of the Revelation.

The title, “*King of saints*”, has been translated by some as, “*King of nations*”. In chapter 12 of the book of the Revelation, we read of a woman who brought forth a man child who was to rule all nations (vs. 5). This aligns with the prophecies of the Old Testament, that point to the future reign and rule of the Lord Jesus Christ over all the kingdoms of the world.

Others translate it as “*King of ages*”. This title tells us of the eternal character of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not just that His kingdom will last forever, but that He Himself in His character and particularly His divine office as King, existed in eternal ages past and will continue to exist throughout the eternal ages.

Paul wrote to Timothy concerning the eternal kingship of the Lord Jesus, “*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever, Amen (so let it be)*” (1st Tim. 2:17. The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews, quoting from Psalm 45, wrote, “*Unto the Son he saith, thy throne, O God, is forever and ever (from eternity to eternity)*” (Heb. 1:8).

*All hail the King of the Ages,
Whose kingdom is of old;
Inscribed on the sacred pages,
His majesty is told.*

*He was born in incarnation
Through line of royal birth;
Yet endured humiliation,
While here, upon this earth.*

*In mockery they crowned Him,
With cruel crown of thorn;
While heavenly hosts renowned Him,
This King to glory born.*

*Though a king, He was rejected,
His royalty denied;
Yet, He was by God selected,
That He be crucified.*

*Above his head was written,
Jesus, the King of Jews,
For our transgressions smitten,
Upon His death, we muse.*

*His life as a ransom given,
His precious blood was shed;
This, the royal King of heaven,
Suffered in sinners' stead.*

*In the throne of glory seated,
Banished are death's pains;
Every foe has been defeated,
The King of Glory reigns.*

Bernie Payne