

King of the Jews

Mark 11:7-10

Charlie Brackett

The charge which cost Jesus His life on the cross had to do with His claim to be "King of the Jews." The inscription of that charge hung above Him on the cross. He is that, and more. He is "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." But those Jews, even many who accepted Him as the promised Messiah who would sit on David's throne, failed to grasp the significance of His claim and the true nature of His kingdom. They looked for a physical throne and an overthrow of Roman rule. But that was not at all what Christ's reign was about.

By the time of our text, many who followed Jesus believed that He would triumphantly enter Jerusalem and take over the throne. Jesus was just outside the walls of Jerusalem. At His command, His disciples brought Him a colt upon which no man had yet ridden. They put their garments over the animal - rough garments, hardly fit for royalty to sit upon - and Jesus sat upon it.

A multitude of well-wishers lined the roadway as Jesus made His way past the crest of the hill just east of Jerusalem and down into the city. Many spread their garments in the road for Him to ride over. Others spread leafy branches they had cut from trees in the fields. And those who preceded, and those who followed, cried, "Hosanna!

'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'

Blessed is the kingdom of our father

David That comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!"

Anyone viewing that scene would have recognized the event as the kind of triumphal entry into the city that a king about to mount a physical throne might have made. But there were marked differences. Jesus did not come with the rich, pomp ceremony that would have been insisted upon by an earthly king. His entourage had no courtly appearance, but was uneducated, unpolished, and somewhat dirty, a band of twelve who had no training in the affairs of state. His clothing was not kingly, but tattered and soiled from constant use and the rigors of travel. No trumpets blared, and He wore no crown.

Some there might have been skeptical. "Are you sure this is our king? He doesn't look like a king," some might have said. What they failed to appreciate was the spiritual nature of Christ's kingdom. He didn't come to sit upon the physical throne of David. He never intended to, nor does He ever plan to. Good people today continue to make the same mistake as those early Jews. They look for Jesus to sit upon the physical throne of David, and since He has not yet done so, they look for it in our future. It will never happen!

Jesus established His kingdom when He arose from the dead. Peter affirms in Acts 2 that He took David's throne then. He continues on it to this day reigning as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords."