

JJ¹

There isn't one king, president, prime minister or chancellor of a nation that pleases everyone. We've had plenty of reminders of that lately, haven't we? But in addition to not being able to please all the people of their nation, none reigns supreme either, even if they like to think so. Maybe for a time they hold the highest office of power in their land, but eventually it's gone. Someone else is elected, their term is up or sometimes they even die.

On the other hand, there is a King who has been hated more than any other king in history. Part of the reason is because he has ruled for so long. But that's just a small reason why they hate him. The greatest reason why they hate him is because he is **KING SUPREME**.

This is exactly what the Apostle Paul reminds us of today. Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, is **KING SUPREME**. You see, there were some false teachings in particular that were plaguing the Colossians. One false teaching led to the worship of angels as some kind of go-between from God to man. Another was a form of a very common false teaching that said you needed more than faith in Jesus to be saved. You had to do certain

things to achieve real holiness and communion with God.

Both of these false teachings reveal a darkness that mankind has struggled with since the beginning of time. It's the darkness of unbelief which says God is a liar and God doesn't do enough, so we have to finish the job. By nature, each one of us is lost in this "dominion of darkness." It controls us in every way, down to the very beginning of our thoughts! (Gen. 6:5) In this "dominion of darkness," Satan works to lead the whole world astray (Rev. 12:9). Which is a pretty easy job for him, at least initially since we all are born into this dark kingdom.

But only a short time after the crown of God's creation, Adam and Eve, plunged the world into this darkness, God promised to crush Satan and his power through the offspring of the woman (Gen. 3:15). In Eden, everything was as it was supposed to be. Ever since The Fall, God has been working to restore what was lost. It wasn't going to be through a weak, sinful human being. It wasn't going to be through angels. It wasn't going to be through some cooperation between God and man. No, this would only be accomplished through the **KING SUPREME**.

¹ JJ is the acronym for *Jesus Juve*, which is Latin for "Jesus Help". It is a short prayer used by many ministers and sacred musicians at the beginning of their work.

When Jesus came to be our King, he looked nothing like what people expected to see in the King of kings and Lord of lords. He was born in a stable to poor parents. He looked like any other child. He himself was poor and finally was put to death in the most shameful way—death on a cross! But Christ our King isn't seen as King in his appearance. Rather, we see him as **KING SUPREME** when we look at what he has done. And his greatest act as **KING SUPREME** is what he did on the cross. Jesus did everything for us. He fought our battle for us. He satisfied the Father's wrath against our sin. And then in time, in our hearts and lives personally, he sat down on his throne in our hearts!

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Friends, when you were baptized, God the Father transported you out of the "dominion of darkness" and unbelief and brought you "into the kingdom of the Son he loves." And the most important part of belonging to God's kingdom is that we have been redeemed. We have been bought back. We have had our sins completely forgiven! The promise made to the thief on the cross is made to you and me: "...you will be with me in paradise!" (Lk. 3:43)



But friends, until that day comes, Christ our King is by our side every step of the way. And in what many call the "Christ Hymn," Paul reminded the Colossians and he reminds us that Christ our King is with us because he is **KING SUPREME** of all creation and his Church.

Paul writes: "He is the image of the invisible God..." When you look at Jesus, you see God. You see Immanuel. Just as Jesus himself tells us: "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Right

now we see God through the eyes of faith. We have been brought into his spiritual kingdom and shall see him with our own eyes in his heavenly kingdom.

"He is...the firstborn over all creation." Now, this doesn't mean that the Son of God had a beginning.

God—Father, Son & Holy Spirit—has no origin, he has no beginning. Paul is drawing attention to both the Son's relationship with the Father, and the Son's role as **KING SUPREME**. All creation is his possession and inheritance because he created it, as Paul writes: "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

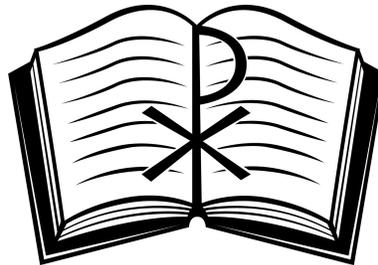
Jesus is **KING SUPREME** over all the creation he has made. That includes all people, governments, nature, the holy angels and the devil and his evil angels. Jesus is **KING SUPREME** and therefore in control, even when it doesn't seem like it. The society, economy and political landscape of our nation and the world may seem to show the opposite. But that's just what we can see with our failing eyes and intellect. It's also what the devil would love to trick us into seeing.

Just consider Jesus' crucifixion with the two criminals (Lk 23:5-43). It certainly looked like the devil was winning. It certainly looked like Jesus' enemies and a pagan government were in control. That's what both criminals saw...at first. Then one criminal's spiritual eyes were opened. Suddenly, through the eyes of faith, he could see clearly. He had been "rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought...into the kingdom of the Son..." He saw that Jesus was **KING SUPREME** and called to him, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Lk. 23:42).

Friends, Jesus is **KING SUPREME** over all creation. And he rules over all things and holds his universe together all for his Church, his body. "...he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and though

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."

I know that even in the church, it can seem like Jesus isn't **KING SUPREME**. False teachers rise up and lead many astray. It seems at times that more follow them than Jesus. We see abuses of power in the church. We see abuse in the church. But again, that's what our failing eyes and intellect see. That's all the devil wants us to see so that we'll give up.



Just consider the times in which Jeremiah wrote the words of our first lesson (Jer. 3:2-6). Not only had the Southern Kingdom of Judah fallen apart as a society and politically, they had fallen apart spiritually. One of the chief reasons is because the pastors

stopped shepherding God's people. Yet God promised that even though sinful man had done this, he was going to take care of his people by sending The Shepherd, the Righteous Branch, the LORD Our Righteousness. That is exactly what he became when he rose as "the firstborn from among the dead."

Friends, Jesus is **KING SUPREME** of his Church. His kingdom will never end. It will never end because he's just "the firstborn from among the dead." He made "peace through his blood, shed on the cross" all so that you and I would one

day follow him into the resurrection to eternal life.

Yes, governments and rulers in this world come and go—good and bad alike. But there is one Kingdom and one King that will never pass away. Christ our King is **KING SUPREME**. He loved us, and gave his life for us to “rescue us from the dominion of darkness” and has brought us into His kingdom. May our Lord Jesus preserve us in this one true faith until the day we see him sitting on his heavenly throne with our own eyes! Amen.

SDG²

² SDG is an acronym for *Soli Deo Gloria*, which is Latin for “To God Alone Be The Glory”. This is a statement of humility used by many ministers and sacred musicians at the end of their work to let themselves and others know that it isn’t about getting glory for themselves, but about giving all glory to God.