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21 December 2025

Christ the King of Christmas

John 1

Introduction

Here's a question people like to bring out at Christmas time? How many kings were there that came to visit Jesus after following the star that guided them? Some will say there were three kings, because there were three gifts, while others rightly point out that the Bible doesn't say how many there were.

I'm going to look at three kings this morning. But not the ones you're thinking about. And we'll see how Jesus is the greater king, he's what the children were singing about: the King of Christmas.

1. The King of Rock and Roll

The first king is Elvis Presley. He was around when I was very young and was hugely famous. He had a whole load of hit songs, and had screaming fans whenever he sang in concert. Some people called him the King of Rock and Roll.

He was a great singer, and he was very popular, but he didn't write the songs. He didn't invent rock and roll music. Maybe the people who started the genre should get more credit. Elvis did popularise the music, and he was a great performer, but other people were there before him, and he just built on what they had done.

Jesus didn't come into a world made by someone else. It wasn't a whole setup that was already in motion and he came in to play his part. It was his world, he made it, and when he came he entered in to his own creation.

I don't know if you've ever thought about that. The book of Genesis teaches about God creating the world in six days. He spoke and the world was made.

But John teaches us that Jesus was that Word of God. Listen to how he introduces Jesus:

> *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
>
> *[John 1 v 1-3]*

The world was made by Jesus, and made for Jesus. So when he came into the world as a baby, he came into his own world, that he had made.

Jesus is the King of Creation.

2. The King of a Corrected Country

The next king is the king of our country. What do you think of our country? Many people complain about it, and there are certainly problems, but I think it's a pretty good place to live. Charles here probably thinks it's a great country. He lives in a palace, has everything he wants, and whenever he travels to visit places, they always make the place look nice for his coming.

Someone once said that the Queen thinks the world smells of paint. Because any time she visited a place there was always someone a hundred yards in front of her painting the place so that it looked nice. I suppose we always want to look our best for royalty, but I wonder how much the queen, or now the king, ever got to see the real country, and the real people.

Jesus didn't come to a corrected world, he came to a broken world and came to make it better. He came to a broken people, and came to bring a new hope, a way to God that was possible, and to do that he had to die.

The Israelites had an agreement with God, a covenant. He said that if they obeyed his law he would bless them. But they couldn't obey the law, none of us can. So Jesus brought in a new covenant. He paid for our sins on the cross, and made a way for the world to come to God. In accepting that we are sinners, and trusting in Jesus for forgiveness, we can be part of God's family.

John told us this as well. Listen:

> *He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*
>
> *[John 1 v 10-13]*

Jesus brought in a new agreement between God and man. One that didn't rely on man to live up to the standard God had set, but relied on the price that Jesus paid when he died. When the angels sang about good news at Jesus birth, this is what they were singing about.

Christ is the King of Covenant.

3. A Mythical King

The third king is from Disney's cartoon film, The Lion King. His name is Mufasa. He is the Lion King, and in the film he shows his son, Simba, all the lands that one day will be his. He teaches Simba about responsibility, and how to lead his people well. These are all good lessons, but Mufasa is missing something that the previous two kings had.

The first two kings were real people, but this king is just part of a story. He's not real, just a character, a myth.

There are people who think Jesus is just a myth, just a story people tell to help us behave better. What did John say about that?

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

[John 1 v 14]

Many of the books of the New Testament are written by people who met Jesus, who saw him and heard him, who ate with him, and who were changed by him. He wasn't a made up person, he was real.

In the Lion King story, Mufasa died and the title of king passed on to Simba. Jesus died too, but he didn't pass on the title of king because he rose from the dead. John and the other disciples saw him, Paul had an encounter with Jesus after he rose, and millions of people around the world since then have met Jesus. He has spoken to them through his Word, come into their heart when they accepted his gift of salvation, and changed their lives as newborn Christians.

We don't celebrate Christmas as a day when something happened and then it was over. It was the day when the world changed. Jesus came into the world to change us, and he died, and rose, and lives forever.

Christ is the King of Christmas

Conclusion

Every year I hear people say they're trying to cancel Christmas. But that's not what it looks like to me. I see trees, lights, candy canes and presents, maybe more than ever.

And maybe people do forget what Christmas is really about, in among all the tinsel and toys and trees. The children were pointing at ways we can be reminded:

- The tree reminds us of the new life that can be ours in Jesus. Those who trust in him are born again, and grow in him day by day.
- The lights remind us that Jesus was the light that came into the World. John tells us about that as well:

  In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

  [John 1 v 4-5]
- The candy cane reminds us that Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd. He came not just to look after his sheep, but to give his life for them.
- And then the presents. How do they remind us of Jesus? He is the gift from God that we remember at Christmas time. And new life is the gift from him that was made possible for us by his brith and his death. The Bible has a word it uses for a gift: grace. John says:

  For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

  [John 1 v 16]

May all these things point you this Christmas to one thing: Jesus Christ,

- The King of Creation,
- The King of Covenant,
- The King of Christmas.