



# Waiting for the King

Matthew 3 - 4; Mark 1:1-20; John 1:19-42

For generations, God had promised to send a Savior, a Deliverer, a King, to His people. Through His prophets, God even gave the people clues about the coming King. The Jewish people waited and waited, but would they recognize the King when He walked among them?



## Day #1: God With Us

The people wanted a King who would take away all their problems. They were waiting for the wrong thing. Instead, God sent them what they really needed - God sent Jesus. Another name for Jesus is Emmanuel, which means God with us. God, Himself, came in human form to walk with and talk with His people. When the people trusted in Him, they would enter the kingdom of God. They would have all the things they were looking for - peace, love, joy, contentment, and everlasting life - right here on earth. What the people really needed was **God with them**.

Just like the Jewish people of long ago, sometimes we wait for something that will take away all our problems. We think that if we just had a different teacher, or different family, or if our loved one weren't sick, all of our problems would be solved. But we are waiting for the wrong thing. What we really need is **God with us**.

God never promised to take away all of the challenges in our lives. That's not what the kingdom is all about. So many times God uses those trying times for our good, for the good of someone else, or for His glory (Romans 8:28). What God does promise is that He will be with us **IN** everything. And the best part is, we don't have to WAIT for God to be with us! Turn to Him now. He is waiting for you!



The Lord says, "When they call on Me, I will answer; **I will be with them** in trouble. I will rescue and honor them." - Psalm 91:15 NLT



Is there something that you have been waiting for that you believe would solve everything? What you really need is to abide in God. It is better to be with God in hard times, than without Him in the best of circumstances! (Psalm 84:10)

## Day #2: King•dom

Did you know that some people study words? These people try to find the history of each word, such as when the word was first used, what each part of the word means, and how its meaning has changed over time. Studying words is called etymology.

Etymology can be really interesting. For example, the word aardvark means "earth-pig." It is made up of African words. "Aard" means earth, plus "vark" means pig. This animal was given this name because it burrows in the dirt (earth) looking for ants and termites to eat.

Every word has a history. Today we'll look at the meaning of a word that Jesus used many times. When Jesus started teaching people, His first words were about the **kingdom of God**.



"The time has come," He said. "The kingdom of God is near. Turn away from your sins and believe the good news!" - Mark 1:15

Jesus said that the very reason He was sent to earth was to teach people about the kingdom of God (Luke 4:43). Let's look at the etymology of this word kingdom.

The first part, "king," means a person of noble birth, from a royal family line. The second part, "dom," is short for domain. Domain is the territory or area that is ruled by one ruler or government. In that area, the ruler's will is done. Therefore, a kingdom is the area where the king's will is done. Jesus taught about the **kingdom of God**.



If a kingdom is where the will of the king is done, how would you define the **kingdom of God**? (The kingdom of God is wherever the will of God is done.) We'll be learning lots more about this in the days to come. Pray that God will help you understand about His kingdom.

## Day #3: Among You

Some people in Jesus' day thought that a trumpet would sound and a battle would take place before the kingdom of God would come. Even today, some people think the kingdom of God is a physical place, up in the sky. But these ideas are incorrect.



Once the Pharisees asked Jesus when God's kingdom would come. He replied, "The coming of God's kingdom

Day #3 continued:

*is not something you can see just by watching for it carefully. People will not say, 'Here it is.' Or, 'There it is.' God's kingdom is among you." - Luke 17:20-21*

The kingdom of God exists wherever the will of God is done. We know that God's will is done in heaven (Matthew 6:10), but that is not the only place God's will is done. For a short time, God's will was done on earth. When God created the earth, everything was good and Adam and Eve did the will of God. Adam and Eve walked with God and talked with Him. They enjoyed each other's company and everything in this kingdom was wonderful. But when Adam and Eve chose to sin, their sin separated them from God, their King. They were no longer able to do His will. Every single person who came after Adam and Eve also sinned. No one did the will of God, the King. Sadly, the kingdom was no longer on earth.

Jesus came to restore the kingdom of God on earth. Jesus made the way for the will of God to be done in the hearts of people once more.

When Jesus died on the cross, and God raised Him up again, He paid the price for our sin. For all who put their trust in Jesus, He purifies our hearts so His Holy Spirit can live there. Then we are able to do His will.



If you have put your trust in Jesus, you are in the kingdom of God. Pray for someone you know who is not in the kingdom of God.

## Day #4: Perfect King

If you were writing a book about a King and his kingdom, how would you describe the perfect King? Would he be strong, honest, and fair?

God sent the perfect King, and this King, Jesus, was far greater than anything our human minds could have imagined. Jesus was FAR better than any earthly king. Jesus was perfect. No human king could ever be perfect.

Every human sins, but Jesus NEVER sinned. A human king might lie, or want something that doesn't belong to him. Jesus never lied; He never even considered lying. Jesus never cheated - not even a little. Even though Jesus lived in the same world that we live in, with all the world's temptations, He never even wanted to sin (Hebrews 4:15).

It would be so easy for a human King to become prideful, because a human king has great power over others. But even though Jesus has all power, He was humble. He never put His own desires before those of others. Jesus, the King of kings, came to serve even the least of people.

Day #4 continued:



*In His very nature (Jesus) was God. But He did not think that being equal with God was something He should hold on to. Instead, He made Himself nothing. He took on the very nature of a servant. He was made in human form. He appeared as a man. He came down to the lowest level. He obeyed God completely, even though it led to His death. In fact, He died on a cross. So God lifted Him up to the highest place. He gave Him the name that is above every name. When the name of Jesus is spoken, everyone's knee will bow to worship Him. Every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth will bow to worship Him. Everyone's mouth will say that Jesus Christ is Lord. And God the Father will receive the glory. - Philippians 2:6-11*



If an earthly king or president wanted to meet with you, wouldn't you take the time to do so? Jesus, the perfect King, wants to meet with you everyday. He wants to walk by your side all day long. Abide in Him. He is FAR greater than any other King.

## Day #5: Official Messenger

John, the baptizer, played a very important role in introducing the King to the world. John's entire life was devoted to telling people that the kingdom of God was coming soon. He warned people that they had a sin problem that kept them far from God. He showed them their need to repent - to turn away from their sin and go the opposite direction. And most of all, He pointed them to Jesus, the real King.

*John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for He existed long before me.'" - John 1:29b-30*

Because of John's testimony, countless numbers of people heard the truth and were able to enter the kingdom that Jesus came to bring. There is no greater calling in the world than telling others about our loving King.



Have you ever thought of yourself as Jesus' official messenger? Well, listen to this:



*God has trusted us with the message that people may be brought back to Him. So we are Christ's official messengers. It is as if God were making his appeal through us. Here is what Christ wants us to beg you to do. Come back to God! - 2 Corinthians 5:19b-20*

You don't have to live in the wilderness and eat locusts as John did! And you don't have to memorize a big speech to tell people. Just be yourself. Love people, and when God gives you an opportunity to tell someone about His love, tell them what you know.