

Messianic Prophecies in Isaiah #11: King of Israel

Isaiah repeatedly refers to God, but specifically to the Messiah, as the King of Israel.

Isa. 9:6-7 – “For unto us a child is born ... 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.”

Isa. 43:15 – “I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.”

Isa. 44:6 – “Thus saith the LORD, the King of Israel. and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.” (cf. Rev. 1, where Jesus is “the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last”.

See also Isa. 24:23, 32:1, 33:22, and 41:21.

There are other places in the OT that show the Messiah to be the great King.

Num. 24:17 gives an early hint at this King to come – “there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel”.

In 2 Sam. 7:12-16, God promised David a son whose throne would be established for ever. This explains the common knowledge in Jesus’ day that the Messiah would be “the Son of David”, and King of Israel. The Syrophenician woman, Bartimaeus, and the two blind men all called for mercy from “thou Son of David”.

Jer. 23:5-6 – “Behold the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

Dan. 7:13-14 – “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

So it is not surprising that these scriptures are quoted in the NT to show that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, and the King of Israel.

Mt. 2:2, 5-6 – “Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? ... for thus it is written by the prophet [*Mic. 5:2*], And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.”

Jn. 12:13-15 – “Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. ... as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass’s colt.” (*quoting Zech. 9:9*)

Heb. 1:8 – “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.” (*Ps. 45:6*)

While Jesus was on earth, it was understood by many that he was the King of Israel, and he himself promised a future kingdom.

Lk. 1:31-33 – “... shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

Jn. 1:49 – (*Nathanael said*) “Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.”

Mt. 16:28 – “Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.”

Mt. 25:34 – “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (not the Father, so obviously the Son)

Lk. 22:29-30 – “And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Jn. 18:36-37 – “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. “

He was openly proclaimed King as he entered Jerusalem, but was later mocked at his crucifixion.

Lk. 19:38 – “Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord”

Lk. 23:2-3 – “... We found this fellow perverting the nation ... saying that he himself is Christ a King. And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews?”

Mk. 15:9 – “But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?”

Jn. 19:14-15 – “saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.”

Mt. 27: 29 – “... *[the soldiers]* mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews.”

Jn. 19:19-20 – “And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. ... and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin.”

Mt. 27: 42 – “He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.”

But the one thief came to believe and acknowledged his kingdom.

Lk. 23:42 – “And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”

The rest of the NT also proclaims this kingdom of Christ.

Eph. 5:5 – “For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, not covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”

Col. 1:13 – “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”

1 Tim. 6:14-5 – “... until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;”

2 P. 1:11 – “For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Rev. 1:9 – “I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ ...”

But Jesus is not only the King of Israel, he is the King of the whole earth – “the King of kings and Lord of lords”.

Rev. 1:5 – “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth ...”

Rev. 17:14 – “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

Rev. 19:16 – “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

The day when Jesus is universally recognized as the King of Israel is yet future, at his return. But Jesus preached “the kingdom of God is at hand”. The point is that for us who believe, we have already entered into that kingdom. Right now he IS our King, and that kingdom is “within you” (Lk. 17:21). For the rest, see 2 Tim. 4:1 – “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom.”

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