

The King is Coming

The King of the Nations (O King of the Nations)

Key idea:

Jesus was rejected by humanity, but He is the Chief Cornerstone of God's Temple and the King of all the nations.

Key text:

Isaiah 49:5–7

And now the Lord says — he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength — ⁶ he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.” ⁷ This is what the Lord says — the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel — to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: “Kings will see you and rise up, princes will see and bow down, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Key points:

1. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be a King Who would come and restore Israel.
2. Surprisingly, Isaiah (and many other places in Scripture) predicted that the King would be rejected by His own people.
3. However, many places in Scripture stated that the King would not only redeem and restore Israel but that He would bring salvation to all nations.
4. God's Chosen way to work is often missed by humans, as we expect something far different than what God does. But God will accomplish His work in all the world!

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Why did the Messiah need to restore Israel? What had happened that Israel needed restoration?
3. Why must the Messiah be a King? What prophecies did He have to fulfill that required Him to be the King over God's people?
4. Why did God's people reject their King when He came? What about Jesus was not what they expected - or wanted? What can I learn from this?
5. How does God respond to the rejection of Christ by His people? Does their rejection foil God's plans and purposes? Does God restrict the Kingship of the Messiah, or actually enlarge it?
6. How does Malcolm Guite develop the idea of the rejection of Christ by humans? How does he develop the surprising nature of the way God comes to us and accomplishes His work? How should I respond to this?
7. How do we see the fulfillment of the prophecy that Jesus would be the King of the nations? What parts of His Kingship are evident? What parts await His return?
8. Where is God coming in unexpected ways in my life that I have been missing? Is He working through suffering? Difficult relationships? Physical sickness or trouble? Some small opportunity I have overlooked? A new potential way to serve others? How can I respond properly to this unexpected way of God's coming into my life?
9. Whom can I pray for, share what I have learned, and invite to church this week?

Preview of Christmas Eve: God With Us (O Emmanuel) [Isaiah 7:14]

Preview of next week: Two Types of Blindness (Mark 10:35-52)