

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

## I. Intro - Strider

- A. Lord of the Rings - Hobbits in a pub, a man in the corner
- B. He looks shabby - but is really the heir to the throne!
- C. He is the one who will lead the fight to crush Sauron
- D. Same is true with hobbits - more than they seem!
- E. God often works in a hidden way - as in Jesus!
- F. How is the Coming King the King of the Nations?

## II. The King of the Jews

- A. The Messiah was the King to restore Israel  
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 — Isa 49:5
  - 1. The Messiah was God's Servant to restore Israel
  - 2. Israel had forsaken the covenant and was to be sent into exile
  - 3. But God would send His Servant, the Messiah to restore Israel.
- B. The Messiah was the Desired of Israel  
“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. Malachi 3:1
  - 1. The Lord they were seeking would come to them

- 2. The Messiah is the messenger of the Covenant - He brings the Covenant and restores the people
- 3. He is the One the People of God desired

- C. The Messiah is the Promised King, desired by God's people Israel, Who would come to restore them to covenant blessings.

## III. The Rejected King

- A. The King would be rejected by His own people!  
But I said, **“I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God.”**  
<sup>5</sup> 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** — Isaiah 49:4–5
  - 1. It seemed as if His labor had been in vain - but God would reward Him!
  - 2. He was honored in the eyes of God - but not in the eyes of His own people!
- B. The King will be the rejected stone  
O King of our desire whom we despise,  
King of the nations never on the throne,  
Unfound foundation, cast-off cornerstone,  
Rejected joiner, making many one,  
You have no form or beauty for our eyes,  
Malcolm Guite, “O Rex Gentium”
  - 1. He is the King of our desire - but we despised Him when He came
  - 2. The unfound foundation (both senses of ‘unfound’)
  - 3. He is the cast-off cornerstone, rejected joiner

4. Why does Guite do this in the poem? Because it is a key biblical prophecy regarding Messiah!

So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. Isaiah 28:16

- a. The LORD promised to lay a sure Stone for a foundation
- b. This Stone was tested and Sure, and it was the Cornerstone of God’s House
- c. He calls His people to trust in this Stone - even when the world is shaking all around them!

The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread, <sup>14</sup> and he will be a sanctuary; but for both houses of Israel he will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. Isaiah 8:13–14

- a. The LORD their Rock would come & be a sanctuary
- b. But His own people would stumble over the Stone

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; Psalm 118:22 NIV2011

- c. The Stone comes - and is rejected by the builders!
- d. Jesus said this verse was about Him (Matthew 21:42//Mark 12:10-11//Luke 20:17)
- e. Peter ties these verses together

For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,” <sup>8</sup> and, “A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” <sup>1</sup> Peter 2:6–8

1. Peter quotes these three passages and ties them together
2. He says Jesus is the Cornerstone that was rejected by humanity, who stumble over Him, but He is Precious to those Who trust in Him.

5. The surprising twist: the King is rejected when He comes to His people!

- a. The Seed of the Woman will be bruised but will ultimately crush the serpents head.
- b. Israel first endured slavery in Egypt, but was delivered by God and brought into the Promised Land.
- c. The life and Psalms of David tell the same story - the anointed king is rejected and persecuted by the powers of this age, but is chosen and approved by God.
- d. In Isaiah the Coming King is also the Suffering Servant - and the Suffering must come first.
- e. In Scripture, lamentation is prior to praise, the Cross precedes the Crown, and rejection comes before glory - and this is pre-eminently fulfilled in Jesus.

## IV. The King of the Nations

- A. God rejects the rejection - and extends Christ’s reign! 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.” <sup>7</sup> 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.” Isa 49:6–7

1. They rejected You - but I have chosen You!
2. You will not only restore Israel - You will restore the nations!
3. You were despised and abhorred, but now kings will bow down before You!
4. This is a great reversal - the rejected stone is the Cornerstone of all; the rejected King of Israel is now the King of all nations!

B. The Desired of All Nations will rule and save!

I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord Almighty. Haggai 2:7

1. This seemed utterly improbable in the days of the prophets - but it came to pass!
2. This seemed utterly improbable in the days of the apostles - but it came to pass
3. Isaiah promised the nations would stream to God's people to receive salvation and God's Word  
This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: <sup>2</sup> In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. <sup>3</sup> Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Isa 2:1-3
  - a. This seemed unbelievable - but has come true
  - b. The Messiah, the King of the Jews - is desired as King by people from every nation

- c. Through the ages, people have endured suffering, persecution, even death - as long as they could have Jesus!

C. The Cornerstone joining together God's people

1. The King and Redeemer of Israel is the King and Redeemer of the Gentiles
2. He is the Cornerstone of God's One redeemed people, comprised of Jew and Gentile - everyone who believes in Him and is therefore never put to shame.

3. He is the Cornerstone of God's One Temple - His People

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. Ephes. 2:19-21

- a. Believing Gentiles are now joined with believing Jews to be God's One People, His One Temple, the Church!
- b. Jesus is the Cornerstone, joining Jew and Gentile together in God's Temple!

D. Jesus is the Cornerstone and King, rejected by His own people, but Chosen by God and given rule over all the nations!

## V. Applying the Word

### A. Am I missing God's work in the world?

1. God is doing incredible things in the world today
2. It does not make big headlines
3. The Kingdom is quietly advancing in countries and among people who do not make the news
4. Don't miss God's work!

### B. Am I missing God's work in my life?

1. God's pattern - come and work in unexpected ways
2. He often chose the 2nd - Abel, Isaac, Jacob
3. Israel chooses Saul but God chooses shepherd boy
4. The King comes as a lowly Servant - and most missed and rejected Him
5. O Rex Gentium by Malcolm Guite  
You have no form or beauty for our eyes,  
A King who comes to give away his crown,  
A King within our rags of flesh and bone.

O King within the child within the clay,  
O hidden King...

6. Where is God coming in unexpected ways in my life that I have been missing?
  - a. Suffering in my life
  - b. A difficult relationship
  - c. A physical sickness or trouble

d. A small opportunity

e. A new potential way to serve others

7. How can I receive God's hidden work this season - and let it be a blessing to others?

### C. Closing prayer

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

Isaiah 49:5-7

December 22, 2019

Prayer

Psalm 67:1-2

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, Christology, prophecy (Old Testament), evangelism and missions

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, <sup>2</sup> that His ways may be known on earth, His salvation among all nations. Psalm 67:1-2

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 — <sup>6</sup> 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.” <sup>7</sup> 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.” Isaiah 49:5-7