

“Behold thy King comes...” John 12:15

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Palm Sunday, 2026

Are we prepared for our King?

Reflection: Israel had a very mixed history with Kings. Judges had guided them for about 400 years. (from Moses to Samuel) Eventually Israel demanded Samuel make them a King so they could be like the other nations. (1 Sam 8) God gave them what they wanted, *but they didn't always want what they got.*

1. Israel under the rule of Kings. The books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles outline the disappointing history of civil wars, compromises and conspiracies covering the 457 years that God gave them what they asked for.

A. A Combined Kingdom (1043-931 BC)

- 1) **Saul was the kind of King the People demanded, but he had a proud heart, leading to his rebellion against God. (1 Sam 15:22,23) He never repented of his pride!**
- 2) **David was the kind of King “after God’s heart”, (1 Sam 13:14) but he was still flawed. When confronted with his sin, he repented and sought God. (1 Sam 12:13; Ps 32, 51)**
- 3) **Solomon began well but got sidetracked by women and idols. (1 Kings 11; Eccl.)**

B. Rehoboam’s Pride led to a Divided Kingdom. 931 BC (1 Kings 12,13)

- 1) **Northern Kingdom of Israel led by Jehoboam rejects God and embraces idols. (2 Ch. 12)**
 - a) Each of the 19 Kings of Israel continued to worship idols, eventually leading to God’s judgment at the hand of Assyria in 722 BC. (2 Kings 17)
 - b) They never survived as a nation, intermingling with the heathen leading to a compromised and corrupted faith, becoming the Samaritans of the New Testament. 2 Kings 17:33 *“They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.”*
- 2) **Southern Kingdom of Judah.**
 - a) Each of the 20 Kings of Judah were all direct descendants of King David. (1 Kings 2:1-4)
 - b) Most of them led Israel into Idolatry, eventually leading to God’s judgment at the hand of the Babylonians in 609 BC and the eventual destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. (2 Kings 24)

2. Israel (Judah) as a vassal nation. 609 BC-AD 70

A. After 70 years in Captivity the Persian King Cyrus allowed the return of the Jewish exiles in 537, but relatively few actually accepted his offer. (Ezra 1,2)

- 1) These eventually rebuilt the Temple and Jerusalem. (See Ezra and Nehemiah)

B. They remained a vassal nation serving Persian, Greek and eventually Roman Empires until the destruction of Jerusalem Jesus warned about (Mt 24) in 70 AD.

C. The Maccabean revolt led to a Quasi kingdom. 167 BC-63 BC

- 1) **The Political significance.** The Greek (Seleucid) King Antiochus Epiphanes (god manifested) attempted to Hellenize the Jews by outlawing Jewish worship, defiling the Jewish Temple with Pig’s blood and an image of Zeus, and demanding they worship the Greek gods.
 - a) Mattatias (a Jewish Priest) and his 5 sons led a revolt, tearing down the pagan altars.
 - b) Upon Mattatias’ death, his son Judas Maccabeus (the hammer) led the revolt, eventually retaking Jerusalem and cleansing the temple in 164 BC. (Hanukkah) *The Jewish people met him with Palm branches and praise! 2 Maccabees 10:7 and Josephus’ Antiquity of the Jews Book XII*
 - c) Judas sought the help of Rome in his battle against the Greek kings. When he died in 161 BC his brother Jonathan took over and eventually made peace in 153 BC and became a quasi king. Eventually his brother Simon took the quasi throne with the support of Rome.

- d) The Maccabean descendants ruled over the “Hasmonean” dynasty until Rome replaced them with Herod (who married a Hasmonean princess Mariamne) in 47 BC. Herod ordered the execution of the other Hasmonean rivals, eventually including his own sons with Mariamne, as well as her.

2) The Prophetic significance.

- a) Daniel prophesied about this period in Daniel 8:8-27 and 11:21-39
- b) Jesus used this historical event to warn it would happen again in the Tribulation. Mt 24:15-22
- c) The people of Jerusalem were recreating the scene from the Maccabean cleansing of the Temple.
- d) Jesus entered Jerusalem and Cleansed the Temple.
 - (1) He had done this in the beginning of his ministry at the Passover (John 2:13-22) 23-24 *“many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.”*
 - (2) He did it again on Palm Sunday. (Mt 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48)
Mt 21:15,16 *“And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased, And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?”*
- e) **Jesus entered Jerusalem on a Donkey! (Compare Zech 9:9 with Mat. 21:5; Jn 12:14,15)**
Zech. 9:9 *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”*
- f) **The priests plotted to have Jesus’ killed. Mark 14:1** *“After two days was the feast of the passover, ... and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death.”*

Conclusion:

Israel’s Kings were anointed by the Priest pouring olive oil on their head, symbolizing the consecration of God for their task. Each human king was a poor and inadequate picture of God’s ultimate purpose for authority. (To Lead, Feed, Protect) Ps. 78:72; Ezek. 21:27

Messiah (Christ) literally means: “the anointed one.” This “anointing” was demonstrated at:

- **His Conception. Lk 1:35**
- **His Baptism: Mt 3:16, 17**
- **The Garden of Gethsemane (literally means: Wine press) Mt 26:39**

While each of Israel’s Kings were “anointed” by a priest, their priorities and decisions revealed that it was “their will” that mattered most. This same attitude was reflected:

- 1) **In the Crowd on Palm Sunday: Jn 12:13** *“Hosanna: (from yāša‘: save us and nā’: NOW!) Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name (onoma: authority, character, purpose) of the Lord.”*
- 2) **In the Disciples at the last supper! (See Luke 22:24)**

In spite of Jesus repeated explanations, they were so focused on their will, that they were blind to God’s ultimate purposes! (See John 12:23-28!)

Application:

Are we much different? Are we more focused on our own political, personal or practical kingdom comforts, than on God’s Kingdom and purposes?

Notice Jesus’ clear warning in John 12:25,26 *“He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.”*

Whose honor, comfort, kingdom are you actually seeking and serving?

In Jn 19:14 *“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.”*

Who is your King? What will you do with (for) Him?