

A King Crucified, a King Exalted, and a King _____



The Story of the King

Various Texts
Sunday, December 24, 2023
Tim Theule

Our fickle, inconstant hearts both long to be king and long for a good, righteous king who will make the world right. Not surprisingly, the Bible's great story includes "The Story of the King." This Christmas Eve we are telling that story to our hearts.

A Rejection, a Forfeiture, and a Long _____

A Request, a Concession, and a Sad _____

TAKING ACTION

The Bible's great story involves "The Story of a King" because our hearts were created to need and long for a king. Does this resonate with you? What evidence of this do you see in your own heart, in history, and in the world around us? If Jesus is the true and better King (and He is!), what does it mean to practically follow Him as King?

Empires, Prophecies, and a Strange _____

NEXT WEEK: *Covenant Renewal 2024*



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Growth Groups are the glue that holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the perfect time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org/groups

CONNECT *(ask this question to check-in with your group)*

Share a Christmas report and highlight. What did you do for the Christmas holiday and with whom?

DISCUSS *(use some of these questions to process God's Word together)*

1. How did you come under God's Word in the message this week? What were personal takeaways from "The Story of the King"?
2. Read together Gen. 49:8-12, Num. 23:13-27, 1 Chron. 17:11-14, Mic. 5:2, Luke 1:31-33. How do these passages all relate to the kingship of Jesus?
3. Do you think our hearts long for a king? What evidence do you see of this longing in the world around us?

4. What is strange about Jesus' birth that signals that He will be a surprising and very different king?

5. Read Mark 15. Why is Jesus crucified, according to this passage? How does the resurrection relate to the kingship of Jesus?

6. If "The Story of the King" is true, how should it impact how we process the world's current events? How should it impact how we view this upcoming presidential election?

7. What does it practically look like to joyfully live under the rule and reign of King Jesus now?

PRAY *(use these prompts to pray in response to God's Word)*

- Praise God for "The Story of the King" and the truth that the true and better King has come and is coming again.
- Pray that we would see ourselves together more and more as His kingdom people living by faith under His rule and reign, and waiting for His coming.
- Pray for one another's struggles as we wait!