
He is My King
Ex 19:5-6
(1 Pet 2:5, 9)

Intro: Last week Pastor Rob used a video illustration called *That's My King*. The audio for that illustration was inspired by a sermon called *That's My King* by Dr. S.M. Lockridge a retired Baptist pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, San Diego CA. He pastored that church from 1953 - 1993. He entered into the presence of his King 2000. What you heard last week was a reenactment of that sermon. To remind you of that message it begins like this:

The Bible says He's a Seven Way King. He's the King of the Jews - that's a racial King. He's the King of Israel- that's a National King. He's the King of righteousness. He's the King of the ages. He's the King of Heaven. He's the King of glory. He's the King of kings and He is the Lord of lords. Now that's my King.
Well I wonder if you know Him.

Dr. Lockridge had a life that was devoted to his King, he understood what it meant to have a true "Kingdom vision" because he had a complete understanding of the King of that Kingdom.

The kingdom has always been God's plan and purpose for all eternity and he has painted pictures of it from one corner of Scripture to the other. We can truly see God's kingdom best not by listening to a sermon but by opening our Bibles and letting God speak to us through the pages of his story, through the lives of his people, and through the love of his Son.

Understanding the kingdom is central to our relationship with God; his purpose has always been to raise up a people who would embrace his mission, embody his name and obey his Word. And we are the people, connected across time with God's people of every age, united with him and with one another in living out his eternal message.

In our text for today we see what that eternal intention is. In Ex 19:4-6 God again speaks to one he has chosen and makes it very clear what this kingdom would be.

[Read Ex 19:4-6/Pray/Dismiss Jr. Church]

There is a companion text in the New Testament to the text of Exodus 19 it is found in 1 Pet 2:5 & 9.
"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ..v9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Pet 5, 9).

What exactly is the kingdom of God? We see no mention of the Kingdom of God or heaven in the Old Testament; only in the New do we see it this clearly stated.

The kingdom refers to the rule and reign of God. This is an eternal reality—a rule that has always existed, a reign that will exist forever—yet God has established his kingdom on earth, which gives it a present-tense aspect. Jesus spoke of the future dimension of His kingdom, when ***"...many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven"*** (Mat. 8:11). Yet He could also say, with equal accuracy, that ***"...if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you"*** (Luke 11:20). This absolute control of God over all things, which will one day be visibly seen for the reality it is, has already invaded or day and time and it is God's stated intention that we live in it today.

Bottom Line—God rules us. We are His. He orchestrates events and directs human history, while somehow leaving intact our ability to make decisions and choose our own path. We walk through each day fully aware by faith that every person we see, every article we read, every question we are asked and every event that takes place are all coming our way by the intention of the King. Wrapped up inside each of these events is an opportunity for us to **embrace his mission, embody his name and obey his Word**—to live willingly in agreement with his rightful rule over our lives.

This is God's kingdom at work in our day and it is our opportunity to walk in continual kingdom awareness. When we understand this then our lives will no longer feel empty; or life will have a point to it. We will no longer suffer from guilt or disillusionment, be frustrated or feel useless. We will be able to face life with a heartfelt joy and loving attitude when understand that we do matter and life isn't out of control but in perfect control.

But we must accept and acknowledge God as our king. The New Testament teaching on this is that of making Christ Lord of our lives. I am not going to get into a teaching on Lordship today but we are going to try to understand what it takes for us to say with Dr. Lockridge, ***That's My King***.

THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT, UNLIKE EARTHLY KINGS WHO OFTEN RULE WITH AN IRON FIST, OUR KING...

1) ***WANTS US FOR HIS OWN POSSESSION, NOT A PLAYTHING V. 5***

- a) Every parent here knows the "if, then" phrase.
 - i) You know what I am talking about, the classic *"If you eat all your vegetables, Son, then you can have some dessert."* Dads know it as *"If you get the yard mowed, we'll go to the game tonight."*

As a kid I quickly got the message that privileges are often preceded by responsibilities. No carrots, no cake, No lawn mower, no night life.

Unfortunately, all too often I failed to fulfill my stated responsibility and therefore missed out on the blessing. My disobedience didn't disqualify me as a son, but I did miss out on all that was available to me.

- ii) The people of Israel would have know exactly what I'm talking about.
- b) Most of the so-called gods of Moses' day were seen as authoritarian dictators who afflicted men according to the god's own whims.
 - i) They arbitrarily called the shots, and the people did their best to keep them happy
 - ii) These gods were to be appeased, not enjoyed...or at least unprovoked.
 - iii) The less notice the gods paid to the people, the better.
- c) That's what made God's promise of a covenant (agreement) with Israel so special, so extraordinary.
 - i) This God wanted a relationship with his people.
 - ii) He was willing to treat them with love, mercy and grace, to value their worth as his creation, to care about what happened to them
- d) V. 4 says that he ***"...I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself..."*** in V.5 he says ***"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:"***
- e) ***He Wanted them for His own special possession – all they had to do was obey him.***
 - i) The obedience in verse 5 was after their deliverance from bondage and therefore not to be misunderstood as being a threat of loss of that deliverance.
 - (1) No where does the Bible say or even imply that he was going to send the people back into bondage if they didn't obey.
 - ii) This obedience was to be a voluntary response; God was not coercing Israel to serve him the way a conquering king might.
 - (1) This is key to understanding the nature of Our King and what it means to live as a kingdom person
 - (2) We are not forced to obey, although he warns us in love that our disobedience will cause us unnecessary harm and suffering.
 - iii) Obedience was not a condition of deliverance but a doorway to its fullness
 - (1) Obedience was to be motivated by thankfulness for what God had done.
 - (2) It enabled the people to enjoy both their relationship with their King and their usefulness in his kingdom
 - (3) To experience everything their redemption had won them
- f) ***Obedience is the Key to Usefulness in the Kingdom***
 - i) This was one of the themes of Jesus' teaching regarding the kingdom

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- ii) When challenged weather or not He was the Messiah in Jn 10:24 he didn't try to convince them he simply said to them, **"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"**
 - (1) "They follow me" this obedience to God's voice gives clear evidence of a relationship.
 - (2) It is the key to identity, usefulness and enjoyment
 - iii) **Why do so many Christians struggle with joy and fulfillment? They fail to obey God's clear teaching**
 - (1) They say, I can't obey everything I am only human;
 - (a) The good news is that yes you can
 - (b) God would not have told us to obey if we were not able to

SINCE WE ARE HIS POSSESSION...

2) **WE ARE HIGHLY AND UNIQUELY PRIZED** V. 5b

- a) Who among us hasn't seen a child take a treasured blanket or stuffed toy and draw it to his chest and say boldly **"MINE!"**
 - i) We understand the sentiment
 - ii) This possession of his is special
 - iii) It has a specific use and brings joy to him
 - iv) That is why he guards it with such great passion
 - v) It is a treasured possession
- b) Have you ever watch that TV show on discovery I think it was called clean sweep. A crew of people would come in and try to organized a persons home and life. One of the things they had to do was take everything they owned and whittle it down. Then they would have a yard sale and sale or donate what they get rid of. I was amazed at what people treasured and wanted to keep. They would pit the husband against the wife in the yard sale and the one who made the most money in the sale got to chose one keep item from the other to donate.

The wife would pick up something and the husband would say "no, that doesn't go that is special to me." The husband then would pick something and make it for the sale and the wife would grab it from him and say "my mom gave me that; it goes only if I go."

What they were saying is, this item gives me great joy or has a purpose in my life and I am not willing to part with it.

- c) Would it surprise you, then, to learn that you too are a special possession to God—that you have both meaning and purpose to him?
- d) That you bring him joy?
- e) This is what God said to Israel in V. 5a
 - i) They had not been redeemed for the sole purpose of escaping the bondage of slavery
 - ii) God wasn't done with them once they had passed the **"Now Leaving Egypt"** sign on their way out of town.
 - iii) No, God had a larger plan in mind for them—a much larger plan.
 - (1) They were to be part of his strategy to reach the nations
 - (2) They were to be his prized possession of all his kingdom
- f) So are we.
 - i) **We've not been saved merely to be rescued from hell and guaranteed a home in heaven.**
 - ii) God has a much larger plan in store for us.
 - iii) We are his special possession
- g) He tells them that they are going to be **"...a peculiar treasure..."**
 - i) The NASB translates the phrase **"...My own possession..."**
 - ii) The meaning of the word peculiar is *special*
 - iii) What God is calling them is **"His own special possession"**
 - iv) This is precisely the same thing Peter tells us in 1 Peter 2:9, **"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people..."**
 - v) **"We are a people for God's own possession"**
- h) God's people are like his crown jewel, his masterwork, his one of a kind and he never let Israel to forget it; time and time again throughout the Old Testament he tells them, *Your are mine.*

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- i) In Deut 7:6; 14:2; 26:18 he tells them that they are his, in Mal 3:17 he says to Israel, **“they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.”**
 - ii) In Eph 2:10 he tells us that we **“... are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”**
 - i) As his special possession he has the right to do with us as he chooses.
 - i) Since God is always advancing his kingdom and we are his resources, it is his choice not ours where he wants us and what he wants us to do
 - ii) He can use you when and wherever he chooses
 - iii) We really don't have a choice when he places us someplace we are there for his purpose not our own.
 - j) Since you are here today you are here for a purpose; a purpose chosen by God
 - i) As members of this body you were placed here with a particular gift that he wants his Highly and uniquely prized possession to use to fulfill his purpose
 - ii) How useful and available are you?

SINCE WE ARE HIS POSSESSION... AND ARE HIS HIGHLY AND UNIQUELY PRIZED POSSESSION...

3) We Have Been Entrusted With A Great Responsibility V. 6

- a) The fact that we are a precious, yet useable treasure in the eyes of God means that we are a possession that he not only embraces but also employs.
 - i) Maybe you have never thought of yourself as having any value to God but you do
 - ii) What does it mean to be a useable treasure?
- b) To begin to understand the answer to that question we need only to look at V. 6 (1 Pete 2:9)
- c) V. 6 (1 Pet 2:9) **Tells us that we have been Entrusted with a great responsibility:**
 - i) **They are expected to be a kingdom of priests—what an awesome responsibility**
 - ii) A kingdom must be ruled by a king and Yahweh is the king.
 - iii) They would be known by their relationship with their king
 - iv) Their role would be to extend the rule of the king
- d) We can summarize this calling in 6 words, **serve God and minister to others**
- e) They were called to be a nation of priests
- f) Our calling is even more specific 1 Peter tells us that not only are we to be a Holy Priesthood and a Royal Priesthood but we are to be **Living Stones** and Paul tells us that we are to be **Living Sacrifices**
 - i) As God's prized and usable treasure and living stones the king is using us to build his house and advance his kingdom
 - ii) Living stones, like inanimate stones, have a mind of their own.
 - (1) They can often be obstinate and hard to work with, insistent on wanting things done their way.
 - (2) It sure would be easier if God were to use less lively stones
 - iii) But one of the duties of a priest was to bring sacrifices before the Lord
 - (1) And because we are Living Stones we are able to bring him “Living Sacrifices” (Rom 12:1)—the only offerings which are “acceptable” in his sight.
 - (2) I find this encouraging; have you ever thought you had nothing of worth to offer to God?
 - (3) All he really wants is you.
 - iv) What are these sacrifices:
 - (1) Our bodies
 - (2) Our Worship
 - (3) Our service
 - (4) Our witness
- g) Israel was chosen and so were each and every one of us who are born again—you didn't chose Christ He chose you.
 - i) The fact that I have been chosen makes me feel special
 - ii) The fact that I have been chosen, however, means that I have been entrusted with a great privilege
 - iii) The privilege of representing the creator God to a lost a dying world.

Conclusion: Can you say to today with Dr. Lockridge, **That's My King?**