

The Nature of God—His Position

by: Steven J. Wallace

“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’” (Is. 44:6-8, all verses are NKJV unless noted)

In the last article, we looked at the name of our God from this passage. He is Jehovah, the self-existing God who keeps His covenant. Today we are looking at Jehovah’s position—King. Isaiah recorded that Jehovah is Israel’s King, Redeemer and the LORD of hosts. What Isaiah records above is similar of the sketch painted of our Lord by the inspired stroke in Revelation 1:5-8, where we see similar attributes of Jesus as our faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and ruler over the kings of the earth. These qualities speak volumes about His constancy, His redemptive work, His deity, His sovereign rule and His prophetic voice. Likewise it brings to view the personal investment and sacrifice that our Lord and great God would perform, the sacrificing of his own blood, “...To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.” It is an amazing contemplation that the King of the universe and Creator of all things died for us and that we cannot only partake of that redemptive sacrifice when we obey the gospel in baptism, but that we can continue to fellowship His shed blood when we suffer for Him (Rom. 6:3, 4; 1 Pet. 4:12-14).

The King of Israel

We want to focus briefly on Jehovah as the king. He was not king of Israel in the Old Testament alone, but is also of the church today (1 Tim. 1:17; 6:15). Because Jehovah is the great “I Am” and has therefore always

existed, it makes sense that He is king. While Israel would often recount, “Hear, O Israel, Jehovah our God is one Jehovah” (Deut. 6:4, YLT), there was a time when they failed the GREAT I AM and asked for a king like the nations around them. This began a journey for them to learn that deliverance does not come from the strength of flesh. “Thus says the LORD: ‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD’” (Jer. 17:5).

Moses had previously tried to prepare the heart of the people for the time when they would eventually have a king (Deut. 17:14-20). He spelled out in very clear words that, “you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses...” (Deut. 17:15). He listed

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6 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. 7 And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. 8 Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one."	5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."
King/Dominion Redeemer/Firstborn from the dead Proclaimer/Faithful Witness First and Last/Alpha and Omega Witnesses/Kings and Priests	

things for him to do and things to abstain from. However, hundreds of years later, the people did not ask for a king who had a heart after God, but merely “...a king to judge us like all the nations” (1 Sam. 8:5). As God knows the heart of all men, He knew that it was a rejection of His own rule by the people (1 Sam. 8:7). Make no mistake; conformity with the world is a rejection of the authority and rule of God Almighty. God gave them a king “like the nations” when He gave them Saul, from whose reign the children of Israel suffered intensely from outside enemies. God used their desire to chasten them. Years later, the Holy Spirit spoke through Hosea in this manner:

“O Israel, you are destroyed, but your help is from Me. I will be your King; where is any other, that he may save you in all your cities? And your judges to whom you said, ‘Give me a king and princes’? I gave you a king in My anger, and took him away in My wrath” (Hos. 13:9-11; cf. 8:3, 4).

The lesson for Israel remains the lesson for the church today: we need to have full dependence and assurance upon God as our king and not upon man or any other such replacement. We should seek not to be conformed to the world, but be transformed from the world by lovingly trusting in Him and in His word with all of our heart, mind and soul.

- “So he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts” (Zech. 4:6).
- “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Heb. 11:6).
- “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom. 12:2).
- “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (Jas. 4:4).

As king, Jehovah is the unchangeable Rock of Ages and governor in the affairs of men. In the rise and fall of nations, God is the ruler of all nations. He is the rock of ages that remains despite the stream of events that flow around Him. “So the King will greatly desire your beauty; because He is your Lord, worship Him” (Ps. 45:11). Wise men once sought out the king to worship, “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him’” (Matt. 2:1, 2). Wise men will continue to seek Him today!