

“The King of the Jews”

Luke 23:38

I. The King and His Royalty

- a) His Right to the Throne
- b) His Rise to the Throne

II. The King and His Reign

- a) The Source of His Dominion
- b) The Scope of His Dominion

III. The King and His Rejection

- a) The Response of His Foes
- b) His Response to His Foes

Introduction:

There has never been a king like the Lord Jesus! Throughout history, many kings have risen and fallen. However, Jesus reigns eternally! When our Lord came on the scene, he came preaching “Repent, the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” The implication there is that Jesus is the king of that kingdom. At first glance, the cross looks like the scene of another fallen King. However, we know that the cross was not a tragedy; it was a triumph. Pilate called Him the King of the Jews and that mockingly. Yet He was King and still is today. Let’s take a few minutes to consider the crucified King together.

I. The King and His Royalty

Over the years, there has always been a popular fascination with Royalty. There has always been something mysterious and desirable about being royal. Jesus was royalty of royalty. This is seen as we consider *His Right to the Throne*. Matthew begins his gospel with the words, “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.” As the son of Abraham and David, Jesus was the rightful heir of an earthly throne. His is not an illegitimate reign. As the son of God, Jesus was the rightful heir to an eternal throne. His reign will last forever. Consider the royalty of the King in *His Rise to the Throne*. Many kings came before Jesus, but all of them pointed to Jesus! All were imperfect; they pointed to the Perfect One to come. He was the long-awaited King!

II. The King and His Reign

As King, Jesus is the sovereign Lord over all the universe. Consider *the source of his Dominion*. Earthly kings derive their power from their subjects. Christ's sovereignty comes from himself. If He is truly is Who Scripture declares Him to be, He cannot be anything else but King. Consider also *the scope of his Dominion*. The inscription was written in Greek, Latin and Hebrew. Greek is the language of culture, Latin the language of power and education, and Hebrew the language of religion. This is a wonderful illustration of the fact that Christ's dominion is universal! It also reminds us that Christ is not only the King of the Jews but of the Gentiles also.

III. The King and His Rejection

Hundreds of kings have been rejected. So was Christ. In the scene of the cross, we witness *the response of his Foes*. The cross was fallen man's response to divine sovereignty and authority. Their response was one of ridicule (Vs 33-38) and rejection. "We will not have this man to reign over us" (Luke 19:14). However, thankfully we see *His response to his Foes*. By grace he would not abdicate the tree nor the Throne. Though the crowds called for His surrender ("Come down", they said) Jesus saw the work through to the bitter end. He retained the throne and the altar for the ones He loved.

Conclusion:

On December 11th , 1936, King Edward VIII abdicated his throne in order to marry the American divorcee, Wallis Simpson. He gave up the Throne to secure the one he loved. Our Lord retained the Throne to accomplish the same objective. What a King!