

## Christ the King Sunday (Revelation 1:4b-8)

### Rejoice the Lord is King!

- I. Happy New Year's Eve! Today is the last Sunday of this church year. Today we look back all the way to December 1, 2019, the first Sunday in Advent of last year. Next Sunday, November 29, 2020, will be the first Sunday in Advent for the coming year.
  1. Today we look back even to before the beginning, before creation. Revelation 1:8: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." He is before the beginning, before creation, beyond all time and space and dimensions. The Lord of lords, and King of kings, as in Psalm 95:3: "For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods." Also Psalm 96:4-6.
  2. Flesh out the mighty acts of God in salvation history, such as Noah, Abraham, the Exodus, David, return out of exile in 539, not too much, but reminders. Then His son, his breaking the power of sin and death.
  3. Whatever is happening in nature and history now, examples such as Covid-19 and the worst locust outbreak in decades in East Africa. Whatever happens, He is Lord.
  4. In John 18:37 "king" is a restatement of Mark 14:62. Jesus is Lord (Yahweh). "Jesus is Lord" (I Cor 12:3) is the earliest Christian creed, cf. Romans 10:9.
  5. Lord of Lords, because he has conquered sin and death, he sits on the right hand of God and rules forever. Matthew 28:20 means forever.
  
- II. But what then of evil?
  1. Commonly, God is either Santa or Fate.
  2. But see Isaiah 45:14, 45:5-7, 55:6-9. The Lord is neither Santa nor Fate. He solves the problem of evil his way: His son, the cross and resurrection. "Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?" I Cor 1:20. The folly of what we preach. 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:2, Colossians 1:15-20 "by his blood." He conquers evil His way, not according to our imaginations or our ideas (like "grace" as a general idea = Gnosticism). See Forde on God and evil in *Where God Meets Man*, 29-31, 40-44.
  3. Thus he came once; he is living now and comes to us in proclamation. See 1 Corinthians 1:17, 21, Romans 10:17.
  4. Infant baptism is the perfect description of our lostness and God's solution. "We cannot pin our hope on anything we are, think, say, or do." Smalcald Articles III/III.36; Tappert, 309 (Tappert translation superior to Kolb/Wengert). The infant does not decide, understand, or have a memorable experience of being baptized. "Further, we are not primarily concerned whether the baptized person believes or not, for in the latter case Baptism does not become invalid...Baptism is valid, even though faith be lacking." See Large Catechism, IV:52-53 (Tappert 443; Kolb/Wengert 463).
  5. "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall **certainly** be united with him in a resurrection like his." (Rom 6:5). The word "certainly" is required by the original Greek of the text; it is not an interpretation of the translator.
  6. Because, of course, he is Lord and has done and continues to do these things and more in your life and mine.
  
- III. He will come again.
  1. In both creeds: He will come again to judge both the living and the dead. Nicene Creed: "And His kingdom will have no end."

2. See Hebrews 9:26b, once for all, done, finished. Compare Hebrews 12:2 "looking to Jesus the pioneer (source) and perfecter of our faith...." John 19:30: "It is finished."
3. Hebrews 9:27 but not "the" judgment dealing with sin which happened on the cross. but judgment. The original text is "a" judgment.
4. Because the next verse, Hebrews 9:28: He comes the second time, "not to deal with sin"--because for those in Christ "it is finished" through the cross and resurrection.
5. And in Him through baptism we are co-heirs, adopted sons and daughters, Romans 8:16-17, Galatians 4:5. Now already, in 2 Corinthians 1:22 and 5:5 a "guarantee" = a down payment.
6. And therefore we "are eagerly waiting for him" (Heb 9:28).

#### IV. Therefore, rejoice the Lord is king!

1. He has broken the bonds of sin and death and comes to claim us and take us through death to his kingdom of everlasting life, innocence, and peace. Even now we enjoy the "the glorious freedom of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). And we eagerly anticipate his kingdom to come.
2. The seven-fold doxology, Revelation 5:12-13: "saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all therein, saying, 'To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!'"  
Handel's "Messiah," has not only the Hallelujah chorus, but the great "Amen" chorus. (hallelujah = let us praise ja(hwe), in Hebrew).
3. On this "New Year's Eve" we celebrate "him who is and who was and who is to come...the Alpha and the Omega...the Almighty." Rev 1:4b, 8.
4. "Thine is the glory, Risen, conqu'ring Son; Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won!"