

Monday Morning Rewind – December 8, 2008

Have you beheld your King this morning? On Sabbath we contemplated Jesus as He stood before the Roman governor, Pilate. Beaten and bloodied, a crown of thorns pressing blood out of His temples, He looked anything but royal on that day. But appearances can be deceiving.

When The Creator gurgled and cooed from the feeding trough amidst the stench of animals, He didn't look a king. When the devil came to Jesus in the wilderness after fasting for 40 days and nights, He didn't look like the Son of God. When He hung out with the homeless, the tax collectors, and sick, He didn't look very royal. And when He sweat great drops of blood as He clutched the earth and cried out to His Father for another way to save mankind, He didn't have the swagger of a monarch.

And now He stands before Pilate. "Are you the king of the Jews?" If He only knew Who he was talking to! He was talking to the "Star Breather" and the "DNA Weaver."

Rewind to Psalm 90:2; 33:6; Matt. 17:2; Isa. 49:16; 46:3, 4 to get a better picture of your King, Jesus. Was He a King? Yes and so much more! Pilate had no idea that the One who stood before Him was His maker and redeemer.

The Ceasars and Herods had nothing to worry about. Jesus was not there to depose His rivals. He was there to die for them, so they could live and reign with Him. Earthly kings kill their enemies to establish their thrones. This King dies for His enemies to establish His.

"You are right in saying I am a king," Jesus says, "In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world." (John 18:37)

The marketers have it all wrong. The infant-King didn't come to stay a babe in the manger. He didn't come to be a porcelain figurine in a pristine. He came to live, love, and die among human beings...and to take back His kingdom! Jesus didn't look like a king that weekend, but that wouldn't be the last they'd see of Him.

When He came the first time, a few shepherds and pagan astronomers came to welcome Him. When He comes the second time, "He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him" (Rev. 1:7).

The first time He came, it was with the tender cooing of a baby. The second time, He "will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first." (1 Thess. 4:16)

The first time, He was "oppressed and afflicted, . . . he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth." (Isa. 53:7) When He comes the second time, He rides on a white horse and on His head are "many crowns."

But if He is to be our King then—when He comes again—He must be our King today. Rewind to John 19:14, 15 and meditate on the choice the Jews made. They chose Ceasar and rejected Jesus as their King. When and how do we do the same on a daily basis? With Christmas only a couple of weeks away, let's behold our King anew—and fall on our knees in adoration. – Pastor Randy