

BACK TO BASICS: THE KING IS COMING!

Scripture used: [Revelation 23:1-6 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

This is the final week of our “Back to Basics” series, which explored the fundamental truths about Jesus and Christianity. Today’s message speaks directly to our greatest fears and provides us with a powerful source of hope: Jesus our King. We live in a time that tempts us to despair. The human institutions that lead the world seem to be failing us. There is systemic racism, inflation, and climate change, plus the threats of Artificial Intelligence, world war, and another pandemic. It’s clear that we need Jesus to return as King with total authority. Pastor Hurmon compared this to a famous story from World War II. President Roosevelt ordered a complete withdrawal from the Philippines because of the Japanese invasion. The man in charge of the American military, General Douglas MacArthur, left in the middle of the night on March 11th, 1942. Despite almost being captured, he confidently said “I shall return!” Less than three years later on October 20th, 1944, General MacArthur landed again in the Philippines ([see story](#)). He returned as a victor and liberator of the people, which is a faint hint of how Jesus will return to redeem and recreate our world. This is where we can safely place our trust despite the terrible brokenness of our world. Things may look bleak but we remember that The King Is Coming!

KEY POINTS

- 1. Jesus the King has total authority over Earth.** He is referred to as “King of kings” and “Lord of lords” for a reason. These are not merely titles. They speak to His total authority over us and our world. All things are placed under his feet. One of the words used in the Bible to describe His coming is *parousia*, which means “royal presence.” This explains the reason why He is described as royalty, and also the importance of His physical return. Remember the angels who spoke to the disciples before the Ascension? They comforted them by saying that Jesus will triumphantly return.
- 2. Jesus the King comes to make all things new.** Jesus has already defeated sin and death, and is coming to finish the work of redemption and recreation. This is explained in poetic detail in [Revelation 21:1-2 \(NLT\)](#): “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth” and “I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven.” This is especially important for us to remember when we feel like our efforts don’t matter. The new is made out of the old. Pastor Hurmon gave the simple example of Soul food. This world class cuisine began with African Americans being forced to use the food discarded by others. Infused with creativity and love, these scraps became delicious meals that are now celebrated all over the world. Nothing is wasted in God’s kingdom!
- 3. Jesus the King is the proof and the first fruit of what is to come.** His resurrection is a triumph over sin and death, and a guarantee of everlasting life. When Jesus returned to earth, He did so in flesh and blood. His body still bore the scars from His crucifixion. This gives us hope in Him, and also helps us understand what to expect as we too are transformed. We will also be transformed the way Jesus was transformed. That’s why the early Christians described the dead as having fallen asleep. They looked forward hopefully to the moment when they would arise as a new creation. This hope allowed them to dare to suffer in this broken world without despairing. We need this same hope. We must be willing to die with great expectations, and dare to rise into God’s glory.

DISCUSSION

- 1) HEAR** - What news about the world affects you the most? What tempts you to despair? Remember that God loves us far too much to leave us in a terrible situation. He promises us to be with us in our pain and grief, and He also guarantees that the victory over death and sin is already won.
- 2) UNDERSTAND** - Many of us tend to think about heaven as the place our souls go when we die that will be a disembodied, “spiritual-only” reality. This is a common misconception. God promises that the fulfillment of His work of Creation will be when Jesus will come down to earth and dwell with us. God is in our space and we are in His space. The world will be recreated just as the body of Jesus was recreated. That’s what we mean in the Lord’s prayer when we say “on earth as it is in heaven.” Earth is becoming a heavenly colony, and we are citizens of that colony as Paul says in [Philippians 3:20 \(NLT\)](#). What are the most powerful assurances to you from [Revelation 23:1-6 \(NLT\)](#)? Was this message helpful that the focus was not on the “when” of Jesus’ return or the “how” of Jesus’ return, but on the hope and impact of Jesus’ return? How does the assurance that God’s justice and love will have that last word speak to you?
- 3) DO** - Read The Apostle’s Creed on [our website](#) and [Revelations 21:1-6 \(NLT\)](#). Pray for God to strengthen you based on this hopeful message about the coming of Jesus the King. After all, the King is coming!