

KING OF THE JEWS

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"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who is born **King of the Jews**? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him.'"
(Matthew 2:2)

King: from the Greek word: *basileus* which means: a king, a ruler; but in some passages: an emperor. (the male ruler of an independent kingdom, especially one who inherits the position by right of birth.)

Jews: from the Greek word: *loudai n* which means: Jews, Jewish, a Jew, belonging to the Jewish race, Jewish as respects birth, race, religion; of Judaea.

This first use of the title '**King of the Jews**' is used by non Jewish Gentile persons: the wise men from the East. This title is primarily used by non Jewish persons when referring to Jesus. Consider these other occurrences of this title of Jesus:

"When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: And when they had bound Him, they led Him away, and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. ... And Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked Him, saying, Are You **the King of the Jews**? And Jesus said unto him, Thou say it. And when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto Him, 'Do You not hear how many things they witness against You?' And He answered him to not a word; insomuch that the governor marveled greatly."
(Matthew 27:1-2, 11-14)

"Then Pilate answered them, saying, 'Do you want that I should release unto you **the King of the Jews**?' For he knew that the chief priests had delivered Him up for envy. But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them. And Pilate answered and said again unto them, 'Then what shall I do unto Him whom you call **the King of the Jews**?' And they cried out again, 'Crucify Him.' Then Pilate said unto them, 'Why, what evil has He done?' And they cried even more exceedingly, 'Crucify Him'. And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged Him, to be crucified." (Mark 15:9-15)

(Note: the Jewish chief priests and elders, never called Jesus **the King of the Jews**.)

"He (Pilate) brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour; and he said unto the Jews, 'Behold your King!'"
(John 19:13-14)

"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto Him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet robe. And when they had made a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand: and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying, Hail, **King of the Jews**! And they spit upon Him, and took the reed, and smote Him on the head. And after they had mocked Him, they took the robe off from Him, and put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified." (Matthew 27:27-31)

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"And when they came to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.' And they parted His clothes, and cast lots. And the people stood watching. And the rulers also with them derided Him, saying, 'He saved others; let Him save Himself, if he is Christ, the chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming to Him, and offering Him vinegar, and saying, 'If You be **the King of the Jews**, save Yourself. And a superscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**" (Luke 23:34-38)

Also, this title of Jesus was used on only two occasions: once by the Gentile wise men from the East, at the time of the birth of Jesus; so that they might worship Jesus; and then several times by Gentile Romans, Pilate and his soldiers, who mocked Jesus, just before His death on the Cross. To the Gentiles, Jews were just a nationless people called 'the Jews'. To the Jews they were still the Nation of Israel, in spite of the Roman occupation. Thus, the believing Jews called Jesus by the more proper title: **the King of Israel**; as when Nathaniel said, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." (see John 1:43-51) And again when the common people said, "Hosanna; Blessed is the King of Israel who comes in the name of the Lord." (see John 12:12-15)

For those of us Gentiles who are believers in Jesus, He is both **the King of the Jews**, and **the King of Israel**. Consider these verses:

"Therefore remember, that you being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by those who are called the Circumcision - in the flesh made by hands; That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus** you who formerly were far off have been brought near **by the blood of Christ**. For **He is our peace**, who has made **both one**, and has broken down the dividing wall of partition between us (i.e. between Jew and Gentile); having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to create in Himself of the two **one new man**, so making peace; and that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having put to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off (Gentiles), and to those who were near (Jews). For through Him **we both** have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, **but fellow Citizens** with the saints, and of the **Household of God**. And you are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with **Jesus Christ Himself** being the Chief Corner Stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together grows unto a **Holy Temple** in the Lord; In whom you also are built together for a **Habitation of God** through the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:11-22)

JESUS is ...

the King of the Jews,
He was born to be King! And He died on the Cross as King!

Jesus, You are King of all believing Jews; and You are King of all believing Gentiles!

All praise to Jesus, the Son of God, and the King of Israel !!!