

Does Jesus Now Reign as King and Priest?

Many premillennialists make the following claim:

“The allegation that Christ is seated on the Father’s throne reigning over a spiritual kingdom, the church, simply does not fulfill the promises of the covenant ... A literal earthly kingdom must be constituted over which the returned Messiah reigns” – Pentecost, *Things to Come*, pp. 114,115 (via Miller, p. 98).

“...even though Christ has the *right* to rule the earth, He isn’t exercising this authority ... at this time” – Hal Lindsey, *There’s a New World Coming*, p. 206 (via McGuiggan and Jordan, slide #206).

To understand the Bible teaching, consider the following:

The Doctrine of Jesus as King

Teaching of the Gospels

Luke 1:31-33 – The angel promised Mary that Jesus would receive the throne of David, and His kingdom would have no end.

Matthew 2:2 – The wise men said Jesus was born King of the Jews.

John 1:49 – Nathanael said to Him, “You are the King of Israel.”

Matthew 21:5,9,15,16 – Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of how the king would come (compare Zechariah 9:9). The people called Him “Son of David” (verses 9,15 – heir to David’s throne) (John 12:13).

Matthew 27:11; John 18:37 – Before Pilate, Jesus admitted he had come to be a king. (Compare Luke 22:70,71; Mark 15:2; Luke 23:3.)

Matthew 28:18-20 – Jesus claimed He had all authority in heaven and on earth, so all nations must be taught to obey all His commands.

How could Jesus ever have greater authority on earth than He has now? To affirm that He someday will, is to belittle His present authority!

The Teaching of the Book of Acts

Old Testament prophecies

2 Samuel 7:12,13 – God promised to set up David’s seed and establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (Psalm 132:11; 89:3,4)

Psalm 110:1-4 – David’s seed would sit at God’s right hand and rule in the midst of His enemies. If we know when Jesus began to sit at God’s right hand, we will know when He became King!

Fulfillment of these prophecies – Acts 2:30-36

Verse 30 – God had sworn to set David’s descendant on his throne.

Verse 31 – Foreseeing this David prophesied of Jesus’ resurrection.

Verses 33,34 – Peter quoted Psalm 110:1 saying Jesus is now exalted at God’s right hand. But remember, this is where He would **rule**.

Verse 36 – He concluded Jesus has been made both Lord and Christ. “Lord” means ruler. “Christ” means “anointed one.” So Jesus is now the anointed ruler, sitting on David’s throne at God’s right hand!

Denying that Jesus now reigns as King in effect denies He is **Lord and Christ!**

The Teaching of the Epistles

1 Corinthians 15:25,26 – Jesus must rule **till** all enemies are put under His feet. That will happen when death is defeated at the resurrection.

Ephesians 1:20-23 – God made Jesus sit at His right hand when He raised Him from the dead (verse 20). He is far above all principality, power, might, dominion, and every name

named in this world or **that to come**. All things are subject to Him. How could He be greater in a future age?

Hebrews 1:3,4,8,9,13 – The context describes Jesus' position when He had purged our sins. He sat down at the right hand of majesty (verses 3,4). He now has been anointed, has a throne and a scepter of His kingdom (verses 8,9). Verse 13 then quotes Psalm 110:1, showing Jesus now fulfills it.

Revelation 1:5 – Jesus now rules over the kings of the earth.

The Doctrine of Jesus as High Priest

The importance of Jesus as High Priest

Hebrews 2:17 – Jesus is High Priest to make **propitiation** for sin.

7:24,25 – By His priesthood He is able to save to the uttermost.

9:11,12 – As High Priest He obtained eternal redemption by His blood

If Jesus has not become High Priest to offer Himself as sacrifice, we would have no forgiveness of sins!

Old Testament prophecies regarding Jesus as High Priest

Psalm 110:1-4 – Jesus would be priest after the order of Melchizedek (verse 4). Melchizedek was **King** of Salem and **priest** of God (Genesis 14:18).

Zechariah 6:12,13 – The “branch” (Messiah – Isaiah 11:1) would **rule** and be **a priest on his throne**. Jesus would be king and priest at the same time. If He is not King now, then He is not priest now, and we are all still **lost** having no sacrifice for **sin**!

Evidence that Jesus is now High Priest

Hebrews 6:20 – Jesus has **become** priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 8:1 – We **have** a High Priest seated at the right hand of majesty.

Hebrews 10:12,13 – Jesus sat at God's right hand after He offered a sacrifice.

Jesus **is** now High Priest. Therefore, He is now **King**.

The (unintended) consequences to Premillennialism

* Premillennialism says Jesus is **not** now King. But Jesus would be king and priest at the same time. So if He is **not** now king, then He is not our High Priest now and we are still in our sins.

* Hebrews 8:3 – Every priest must have something to offer. So, if the Jews had accepted Jesus and **not** killed Him (as premillennialists say God expected), Jesus would have **no sacrifice** and could not be our High Priest!

* Hebrews 8:4; 7:12-14; 9:16,17 – Jesus could become priest only if the law changed. But for the law to change, Jesus had to die.

So if the Jews had **accepted** Jesus, He could not have become High Priest (and therefore not King). And premillennialists say He is not king now because the Jews **rejected** Him (which would mean He is not priest now). So whether the Jews **rejected** Jesus or **accepted** Him, if premillennialism were true Jesus would not be High Priest (or King) and we are lost in sin!

* Premillennialists say Jesus will become king when He returns, but that is 2000+ years after the sacrifice was offered! It will be too late for Him to become High Priest. So the consequence of premillennialism is that Jesus is not our High Priest, never could have been, and never will be!

Although they do not intend or realize it, they consequence of Premillennialism is that we have no High Priest and therefore no sacrifice for sin! What a price to pay for a future kingdom!

Premillennialism is not just idle speculation about future events. It is a doctrinal system that belittles and undermines the fundamental authority and glory of Jesus. It unintentionally denies the basic truth of salvation through the sacrifice for sins offered by Christ as High Priest!

© David E. Pratte – 2019; www.biblestudylessons.com

Scripture quotations are generally from the New King James Version (NKJV), copyright 1982, 1988 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.