

Jesus King, Priest, Baptiser

Valleys Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 23rd Dec 2012

Intro

- At this Christmas time I want us to look at the events surrounding when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary about her pregnancy and the relevance of it all to give us a fresh insight as to why the birth of Jesus is something to celebrate.
- We will look at three promises Jesus came to fulfill. The promise of King, Priest and Baptiser.

Read Luke 1:5-45

Jesus is our King

- **v32- 'God will give Him the throne of His father David'.**
- Mary and Joseph were both of the tribe of Judah. This is significant because it is the kingly tribe. It is the tribe that David came from. Not only that, but they were both descendants of David. Both their genealogies are helpfully given to us in scripture- Mary's in Luke 3 and Matthew's in Matt 1. Mary was a descendant of David through his son Nathan and Joseph through David's son Solomon. So Jesus was a 'son' or descendant of David legally through his father Joseph (although we know God was His true father) and physically through his mother Mary.
- But what does it mean to be given 'the throne of his father David'? David tried to build a house (temple) for God but God said his seed (his son) would build the house and God would make sure that his house (i.e. Kingdom of his son) would continue forever- Read 2Sam 7:8-16 & Ps 89:3-4, 28-29, 36-37(Note that some aspects in David's promise refer to David's kingly descendants in general-e.g. sinning and punishment).
- David was impressed with this and in fact his son Solomon did build a temple for God, but Solomon not only died but also sinned against the Lord and the kingdom split in two after his death, not quite the amazing 'seed' that God seemed to be speaking about.
- It seemed God was speaking about another kingly descendant of David who was to come- this king would be the perfect king and would have an eternal kingdom. The prophets continued to promise this coming King- Is 9:6-7; Is 11:1-2 (note the reference to Jesse, David's father- the branch- i.e. Someone on David's tree of descendants would be the perfect king).
- V33 'And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end'. An eternal throne could only come about by something supernatural- a king who would rule and overcome death- Jesus is this King! Jesus overcame death and is now sat at the right hand of the Father- reigning on His throne. As king soon He will come to truly end the world and judge all.
- What was Mary's response to this? Bear in mind that in the Jewish culture of arranged marriages to be engaged was to be legally married and only divorce could stop an engagement due to fowl-play- i.e. Sexual impurity. The engagement lasted a year as a time of testing purity and commitment. If a woman was found to be pregnant during this time it was more shameful than once they were married. The offended party could do as Joseph did- get 2 witnesses and have a quiet divorce, or they could have the other person stoned to death.
- So what was Mary's response? V38 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word!' What she said was 'I am the bondservant of the Lord'- a

bondslave had no right of their own- they were their master's property and in full submission to the will of their master. Mary was saying- Jesus is MY KING therefore whatever He says goes.

- Have you come to know Jesus as your King? The perfect king, in whom we can place all our trust.
In the film The Hobbit, Balin (the second-in-command Dwarf) tells the story of how he comes to follow Thorin after seeing him stand alone to fight the enemy: "...there is one I could follow...and one I could call king." Is Jesus one you could follow and call King?
- Jesus is the King of Love who has laid down His life for us- He gave up the riches of Heaven to become poor, was ridiculed for us, mocked and spat on, striped for our sicknesses- will you not surrender to His kingship today?
- What areas of your life are you holding back from Him as King. There is a saying 'Jesus is Lord of all or He is not Lord at all'. Are we kidding ourselves that we are surrendered when there are areas we would never surrender?
- Let's join Mary and let God have His way in us by saying 'I am the Lord's bondslave'.

Jesus is our High Priest

- **v36 'Elizabeth, your relative'**. I will explain the relevance of this shortly.
- What is a priest? Someone who represents people before God- they stand before God on other people's behalf offering sacrifices of worship and also atonement for sin.
- To qualify as a priest in Israel a person had to be born of the tribe of Levi and be a descendent of a particular person in that tribe, Aaron the brother of Moses. Both of John the Baptist's parents Elizabeth and Zechariah were descendants of Aaron. For Zechariah this meant that he qualified to serve as a priest. Zechariah was chosen by lot to burn incense before God, representing the prayers of the people- this was a huge privilege and a once in a lifetime opportunity- it was like winning the lottery. It was a God-incidence, as God was bringing two tribes together in the same family for a purpose- the kingly tribe of Judah and the priestly tribe of Levi.
- v5 'His wife was of the daughters of Aaron and her name was Elizabeth'. v36 'Elizabeth, your relative'- Mary was a relative of Elizabeth, a daughter of Aaron- how can this be and why is this significant?
- Mary and Elizabeth's mothers may have been sisters. If one sister married a man in the tribe of Judah and one married someone in the tribe of Levi then the children born would be from 2 different tribes as tribal identity was through the father rather than the mother.
- This is very significant because although Jesus could not serve as a priest because He was not of the tribe of Levi, He nevertheless had a close connection to the priesthood through His mother. This is significant because Jesus came to be both King and Priest- in fact our great High Priest.
- Read Zech 6:11-13 Joshua (Jeshua/Joshua= variant spelling and it is the name 'Jesus'). This passage says to crown the High Priest who was called 'Jesus' and that he is a man whose name is 'The Branch'- i.e. The king Isaiah predicted and there would be a harmony between the role of King and the role of Priest in Him!
- The fact that Jesus did not belong to the priestly tribe is covered in Hebrews 7. Jesus is a priest of a different order- not of Aaron but of Melchizedek. Melchizedek lived before Aaron was even born- he was priest of Jerusalem at the time of Abraham and Abraham gave a tithe to him and Melchizedek blessed him. In this way the order of Melchizedek is greater than that of Aaron as it pre-dates it and Aaron was in Abraham's loins submitting to it. Thus Melchizedek becomes a 'type' a picture, a foreshadowing of what Jesus would be- the perfect High Priest.
- All of the priests and their sacrifices offered in the Old Testament were but a picture

of what Jesus would do when He died on the cross- Jesus didn't offer the blood of animals for sin but His own precious blood. When He died on the cross He said 'It is finished' and the curtain separating God from mankind was torn in two from top to bottom- Heaven is open and we have free access through Jesus.

- The beauty of this is that we don't have to go through ritual or formula or intermediary to enter the presence of God- we have free access through Christ, by faith. He did what we could not earn- we don't do good works to obtain access to God- we do good works because we have been granted access!
- Jesus forever lives to make intercession for us- sometimes people don't come into God's presence because they have sinned that week- Jesus died for all our sins! He wants us to sort it out, not avoid Him! Confess and receive His mercy, grace and forgiveness- allow His blood to cleanse your guilty conscience and come and worship with gratitude.
- Also we don't need to go through a priest as Jesus is our great High Priest- we don't need someone to talk to God on our behalf- we can talk to Him directly ourselves. We have become a kingdom of priests as Peter puts it- the priesthood of all believers- we all have a role in worship and all have access Zechariah could only dream about.
- Each one of us has the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit teaches us- if the preacher starts coming up with heresy we are able to discern it because we have God's Holy Spirit inside us.
- God wants to move us from passivity to maturity- a person is as godly as they choose to be- Tozer. We all like someone to blame for our lack of passion for God, or lack of maturity, and whilst we can sometimes point the finger at others the concept of the priesthood of all believers means we each have to take responsibility for our walk with God- this will involve being submissive to others, being teachable, loving others, being vulnerable, being transparent, accepting correction etc.- we are not islands and God has put leaders in His Church to oversee and bring out the beauty in each, however, maturity is not being spoonfed and passive, neither is it being rebellious but being mature and inter-dependant, living in harmony with others but playing our part.

Jesus is our Baptiser

- **v15'He (John) will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb'.**
- **V41 'when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit'**
- John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus and announced that he baptised people in water as a sign of their repentance but that Jesus would baptise people in the Holy Spirit.
- John has become named 'John the Baptist', but if the term is true of John how much more of 'Jesus the Baptist'. Jesus came that we would not only know about God, but know Him experientially.
- Jesus died and was raised and was enthroned so that He could send the Holy Spirit to baptise His Church so that His Church could experience the manifest presence of God and witness effectively. The gospel is not fully preached until people have not only responded to God in repentance and faith, but have witnessed His reality in works of power and received the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit.
- Where was this promise made by the Father? In Joel 2:28-29 'I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh'- that means everyone who receives the promise!
- Jesus tells the disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received what the

Father promised. He said, "For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Acts 1:4

- When Peter preached the gospel he said this regarding the Holy Spirit, "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." (Acts 2:39)
- When a person was converted to Judaism they had to become circumcised, offer a sacrifice at the temple and be baptised in a pool called a Mikvah. There were plenty of these in Jerusalem and many have been found in excavations in front of the temple. The word 'baptised' means 'immersed'. The promise is that when someone becomes a believer God will immerse them in His Holy Spirit- this happened to the disciples in Acts 2 and it changed their lives.
- Have you received the promise? Not just the promise of eternal life and sins forgiven, but the promise of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you. It is the full package. Have you only had half a package? Ask God today in faith and you too will receive the promise of the Father- it is why Jesus came- to be King, Priest and Baptiser.
- John was only a baby in his mother's womb when he was baptised in the Holy Spirit by coming into the presence of Jesus- it made him leap in the womb! Could you do with knowing the reality of the joy of the Lord today through a fresh filling of His Spirit? If a baby can receive in the womb, surely we can- we are children of the New Covenant, not the last breed of the Old Covenant.
- Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied over Mary when she just heard Mary's greeting. The fact that she was carrying Jesus caused Elizabeth to be filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesy. Jesus is here now. He wants us, like Elizabeth, to be filled and released into a prophetic flow regularly in our lives.
- My experience of being filled- St.Peter's in the school hall- like a coat coming down from above. Stoneleigh- laughter in the Spirit. We leak- receive a fresh filling today.

Summary

- Jesus is our King
- Jesus is our High Priest
- Jesus is our Baptiser

Song: *Before the throne of God above/Hark the Herald Angels Sing*