

Bite Size Bible Study

King of Kings #69

By Pastor Lee

We often ascribe the term King of Kings to Jesus, but what does that term mean and in what context? Where do we get the concept of a King being a ruler over other kings?

Did you know that at least two other rulers had that term applied to their rule?

*For the Lord GOD says this: “Behold, I am going to bring upon Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, **king of kings**, with horses, chariots, cavalry, and a great army. Ezekiel 26:7 (NASB)*

*You, O king (Nebuchadnezzar), are the **king of kings**, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the honor; and wherever the sons of mankind live, or the animals of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has handed them over to you and has made you ruler over them all. You are the head of gold. Daniel 2:37-38 (NASB)*

*Now this is the copy of the letter which King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, learned in the words of the commandments of the Lord and His statutes to Israel: Artaxerxes, **king of kings**, to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, perfect peace. And now I have issued a decree that any of the people of Israel and their priests and the Levites in my kingdom who are willing to go to Jerusalem, may go with you. Ezra 7:11-13 (NASB)*

Only three times in the New Testament is the term used and now it only applies to Jesus.

*. . . that you keep the commandment without fault or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the **King of kings** and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen. 1 Timothy 6:14-16 NASB)*

*These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and **King of kings**; and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.” Revelation 17:14 (NASB)*

*And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: “**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**” Revelation 19:16 (NASB)*

As I hope you noticed in the OT the term was “king of kings” and truly these kings were rulers over other kings.

The concept comes from covenants between rulers over kingdoms. If the smaller kingdom could not protect itself from invasion, it would make a treaty or covenant with a stronger kingdom to provide protection. For that privilege the smaller kingdom would pay a tribute to the stronger kingdom and be subject to the stronger kingdom. A lesser king (vassal king) would be subject to a stronger king (suzerain king), but still be allowed to rule his small kingdom and keep his throne, subject to the suzerain kings’ approval.

Now we come to the NT and find that Jesus is the suzerain king and that being the Son of God He is superior over all other kingdoms. The other kingdoms have lesser kings (probably appointed by Jesus) who would rule a smaller kingdom but only under the authority of Jesus. Now we have the term “King of kings”. Jesus is the (suzerain) King and the others are (vassal) kings. If a vassal king decides to not pay tribute or not follow the directives of the suzerain king then he is forcibly replaced and his kingdom is given to someone else who will carry out the desires of the suzerain king.

So in the NT we have a time when order is replacing the disorder that has run rampant from the time of Adam. The world will be put back into the state in which it was intended to be from the beginning. Jesus will rule and not only mankind will be renewed but the entire earth will be renewed. Eden was perfect in the beginning and will be again. I suppose that this will take some time and it will not be Jesus just “snapping His fingers” or “waving His hand” and all will be changed in an instant. I suspect that those who have chosen to follow His teachings in this life will be the ones that get the opportunity to be involved in the resurrection of Eden and the renewal of all of mankind.

. . . the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only that, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our body.

Romans 8:21-23

Cornerstone Community Church

PO Box 654 Lemon Grove, CA 91945-0654 – www.cornerstonecommunityonline.org