

“Y to K” - SAY YES TO THE KING - OUI, JESUS, MON ROI

Christian Celebration - 31.12.99

Why do we celebrate Jesus as King? Pourquoi célébrer Jésus comme roi?

Blessing of Moses on the children of Israel before he died:

Dt 33:5 “Yahweh came to Israel as King, and made himself the inheritance of the children of Israel when the leaders assembled and the tribes of Israel gathered together.”

Yahweh is acknowledged by Israel as King of the nations:

Ps 22:29 “For dominion belongs to the Lord and he reigns over the nations.”

The whole Scripture acknowledges and honors God as King and Author of Creation. All creatures come under his rule; although angels and humans are free to not do his will. Yahweh is a king who also saves us from sin:

Is 33:22 “Yahweh is our judge, Yahweh is our king: he will save us.”

Ps 93 – 101 Praise the king of Israel, of the nations, of creation.

#### JESUS AS KING

Mt 2:2 “The wise men asked, “Where is the new born king of the Jews? We observed the rising of his star and have come to honor him.” Herod perceived Jesus’ kingship as a threat and tried to kill him; indeed, Jesus came to do battle with sin, evil, darkness and deceit. Yet, from the start, Jesus’ kingship is devoid of external pomp. He accepts the title from Pilate; though he didn’t claim it.

Jn 18:36 “My kingship does not come from this world.”

Jesus’ kingship rests in his divine sonship:

Jn 1:49 “Nathanael answered, ‘Master, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’” However, Jesus is a lowly king:

Jn 12:13 “the people cried out, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!’”

Mt 20:28 He has come as a servant; not to judge, but to save:

Jn 3:16-21 “Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world; instead, through him the world is to be saved.” Yet it remains possible to choose condemnation by refusing to believe in the Son.

Then, when he comes in his glory as universal king, Jesus tells us, He will have to put order in his sheepfold; as a shepherd separates sheep from goats.

Mt 25:31-46 Those who have followed his lead of love and service will enjoy eternal happiness; whereas those who refused to

imitate Jesus will be sent with the other selfish ones.

1 Cor 15:24 Then Jesus will deliver the kingdom to his Father.  
Jesus did not look like an earthly king; so he was disbelieved and mocked:  
Lk 23:38 “There was also an inscription over Jesus, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’”

However, when he returns in his glory, all will see him as he is: all sinners will lament their sins against him; yet the poor will be comforted by his coming, and the faithful will give him praise:

Rev 1:5-8 “Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will lament. So it is to be. Amen. ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’”

Therefore, when we celebrate Jesus as our King, we acknowledge Him as our Head and express our hope in faith that where our Head has gone we expect to follow. By accepting to enter into his death now – which is a life lived for love of others – we look forward in hope to enter into his resurrection to eternal life. In addition, by celebrating Jesus as our King, we also proclaim Him before the world; that others might also come to know Him, to follow Him, to love and serve Him, and in turn proclaim Him.

## NOTRE DIEU EST LE GRAND ROI DE L’UNIVERS

Toute l’Ecriture proclame Yahvé le Roi d’Israël, des nations et de toute la création: il est notre juge, notre roi, il nous sauvera. Pour sa part, Jésus n’accepta jamais une royauté de ce monde. Au contraire, il s’est montré un roi qui est venu pour servir et pour sauver. Au Calvaire, on a moqué sa royauté, mais quand il reviendra dans sa gloire, il devra séparer les brebis des chèvres; ceux qui auront aimé comme lui de ceux qui auront refusé d’aimer. Toute puissance lui sera donnée par son Père à jamais:

Apoc 22:13.16.17 « Je suis l’Alpha et l’Omega, le Premier et le Dernier, le commencement et la fin.... Je suis le rejeton et la lignée de David, l’étoile brillante du matin.... Que celui qui a soif vienne; que celui qui le veut reçoive de l’eau vive, gratuitement. »

Gilles A. Surprenant, St. Thomas à Becket Parish, Pierrefonds.