

JESUS CHRIST IS KING - - - Confirmed by Scripture::::::::::::::::::

Scripture is full of passages which point out and prove that Our Lord is a King. Read the very first book of the New Testament and you will find that St. Matthew dwells upon our Lord's REGAL dignity. The opening sentence of his Gospel reads: "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham". David, of the royal stock of Judah, was the great warrior king of the Jewish nation. The Messiah was promised to be a descendant of Abraham through the glorious line of David: "I will raise up thy seed after thee . . . (God spoke to David,) and I will establish the throne of His Kingdom forever" (2 Kings)

The time for the establishment of that throne had arrived, as prophesied by the patriarch Jacob. "The scepter shall not be taken away from Judah, nor a ruler from his thigh, till He come that is to be sent, and He shall be the expectation of nations." (Gen.). Saint Matthew recalls this prophecy to the Jews of his time, who only too well knew that the scepter had passed into the hands of Herod, a foreigner and a puppet of the Romans.

Saint Matthew then goes on to enumerate the three sets of fourteen generations from Abraham to Our Lord. He reviews the threefold conditions of the Jewish people: the quasi-democratic during the time of Judges, the monarchical which was the peak of Jewish power, followed by the aristocratic under leaders such as the Machabees. According to the Fathers of the Church, Saint Matthew is pointing out that the government of the people was changed three times and now must be changed a fourth time by Christ and ended by Christ. We are now in the generation of Christ's Kingdom on earth which will not pass away until the end of time when the heavenly Jerusalem will be established.

Jesus was a direct descendant of David by the Blessed Virgin MARY. However it was by His foster Father, Joseph, that Jesus was lawful heir to David's scepter. Joseph and Mary were cousins and therefore both were of the royal household. That is why they had to go to Bethlehem, David's royal city, to be enrolled in the Roman census. Saint Joseph never possessed princely wealth, power or glory. Yet, he obtained a position more royal than any of his ancestors. No king ever exercised the power that Joseph did as he took charge of Mary and Jesus. Jesus was subject to both of them and Mary obeyed the decisions of Saint Joseph. Saint Joseph was clothed with every virtue. Not even King Solomon in all his glory could compare to the simple lily-white purity of Saint Joseph. He was royal in the deepest sense of the word. Saint Joseph will be forever the head of the Holy Family. It can be said of him that his royalty superseded all the grandeur and dignity of the preceding kings of Judah. His royalty was not of this world as Our Lord's kingdom was not of this world.

The spiritual dimension of Our Lord's kingdom is seen in the prophecy of Isaias: "For a Child is born to us, and a Son is given to us, and the government is upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, God the mighty, the Father of the World to come, the Prince of Peace. His empire shall be multiplied, and there shall be no end of peace. He shall sit upon the throne of David and upon His Kingdom; to establish it and strengthen it with judgment and with justice from henceforth and forever."

The Angel Gabriel confirmed that this prophecy referred to Mary's Child when he said, "The Lord God shall give unto Him the Throne of David, His father and of His Kingdom there shall be no end."

During the life of Our Lord, His Kingship was recognized by both friends and enemies. The apostle Bartholomew, upon first meeting Our Lord, exclaimed: "Thou art the King of Israel." On Palm Sunday the multitude cried out the Hosannas we all know, and we read in the prophecy: "Behold, thy King will come to thee, the just and Saviour. He is poor and riding upon an ass and upon a colt, the foal of an ass."

The praise that was given to Our Lord on that Palm Sunday was too much for those who hated Him. The hypocritical Scribes and Pharisees would not allow such an acclamation to One Whose Kingdom was not the one they had envisioned.

The praise that is given to Our Lord by those who sincerely love him is now too much for those who hate him. For that reason, we must give praise to Him, now, more than ever before.