

The First Coming of King Jesus Part 8: The Upbringing of the King

November 27, 2022

Matthew 2:19-23, Various

Background: Nazareth is in the northern kingdom of Israel, about 70 miles from Jerusalem. It is located between Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea. It is an elevated location at about 1100 feet above sea level. It has views of Mt. Carmel (Prophets of Baal-1 Kings 18:20), Mt. Tabor (Barak and Canaanite king- Judges 4:14), and Mt. Gilboa (Saul death in battle-1 Sam. 31:1-4). It is the hometown of Joseph, and the town Jesus was raised in (Luke 2:39). It would be based on agriculture with vineyards and would have been synonymous with outcasts and the downtrodden.

>>>But from Nazareth came the Savior of all those whose sins are forgiven. He was rejected by His own in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-19, 29) but was made sin by God to rescue many, 2 Cor. 5:21.

Jesus came in humiliation and will come again in exaltation using passages in Isaiah:

1) **Jesus Came in Humiliation:** Matt. 2:23 is not a specific OT prophecy about a Nazarene, but a summary of a number of prophecies concerning the lowliness and humility of the One who would come: Ps. 22:1 (forsaken), 6 (a worm, a reproach); Is. 53:2-3 (no splendor of appearance, hid our faces and despised by men), Zech. 11:12-13 (blood money purchased a potter's field: a field purchased for the unclaimed bodies of the deceased, having little value). Being called a Nazarene was an epithet and an insult. Nathaniel responded to the hometown of Jesus in John 1:45-46.

- a. Luke 4:31-34, Jesus of Nazareth used as an insult by demons.
- b. Jesus knows our lowliness and weakness, Ps. 8:4; Ps. 103:14; Heb. 4:15.

2) **Jesus will Come Again in Exaltation:** Is. 49:1 (Listen to Me! (The Lord), v5 (be glorious in the eyes of the Lord and have God's strength), v7 (kings shall see and rise, princes shall worship the Lord chosen to rule by God).

- a. V7 shows Jesus' humiliation and exaltation in one verse.

>>> **3 Ways that the Lord Jesus will be exalted:**

- 1) To the nations: **In judgement:** Is. 17:13; 25:3; 29:7-8; 30:28; 34:2; 40:15, 17; 66:24. **In Rule:** Is.42:1, 6; 43:9; 45:20; 52:10, 15; 60:3, 6; 66:18-19. He is the Prince of Peace: Is. 2:4; 9:6-7; 11:10.
- 2) **Exalted by Kings:** Is. 52:15; 60:11; 66:18
- 3) **Exalted by Israel as King:** Is. 11:12; 49:23; 62:2-4; 60:10 (the walls rebuilt by foreigners); 49:6 (restore Israel); 49:22-23 (Kings and queens shall care for the young of Israel); 60:11 (gates open continually for Gentiles to bring their wealth); 60:14 (sons of those afflicting Israel will bow and bless the City of the Lord); 49:7 (Yahweh decrees worship of the Holy One of Israel).

Paul's three accounts of his conversion to Christ: Acts 9:1-5 and Acts 26:12-15 show Paul asking, "Who are you, Lord?" In Acts 21:40-22:10, Paul includes in this account that Jesus declares Himself as: "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting."

- Paul, as well as all of us, have to accept that our faith is based upon our Savior who has come in humiliation as a Nazarene and to be identified with Him. Our King will one day come and rule the nations and be exalted by all.

Further Discussion and Application

Nazareth's location makes it a part of the Biblical narrative from the time of the judges to Paul's conversion. We identify with Jesus. What truths do we accept about Jesus that others find repulsive? What does the world think about Jesus being God and man?

We as humans on earth have a limited understanding of all that the Lord has done throughout the ages. What have we seen God do in our lifetime that demonstrates God's faithfulness to keep His word to us? Why is this time of God pouring His Spirit upon the Gentiles so unique in Biblical history?

What aspects of the Lord Jesus do we believe but yet have never seen? How does God's Word provide us with the faith necessary to hold fast to His commands and truths throughout our lives? How does that demonstrate God's strength and not man's wisdom?

Jesus will be exalted by all creation in the future. How does an unbelieving man see the promise of the coming and return of Jesus? What can we share with others about the return of Jesus and the hope we have within us?

Where Jesus' first coming was in humiliation, now the world sees Jesus as arrogant and wrathful. Those that don't have faith in Him hate Him and reject His teachings and the Scriptures. Darkness hates the light. What is the condition of the heart that wants to hide from God? What is the ultimate outcome of all unbelievers?

Jesus says in John 6:53 that we must eat His flesh and drink His blood. Why does Jesus use this type of language? How does adding: "Jesus the Nazarene," support the same principle that we must believe and receive Jesus as He has shown Himself? Why do believers keep His commandments? How do believers show that they love the Lord?