

## The Present Work of Jesus

What work is Jesus doing now?

## Introduction

- We could study what Jesus has done for us – dying on the cross and being raised from the dead so that we might be saved
- Or we could study what Jesus will do in the future - His second coming when all will be judged
- But, in these lessons, we will study the work Jesus is doing now to benefit all especially His children

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## Introduction

- Although Jesus has rested from His creative work and His perfect sacrifice for the world's sins has been completed, He still is doing much while ruling in heaven now
- We will focus on great Bible teachings about Jesus' person and position
- We will also focus on the attitudes and actions we must display in light of these teachings

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## The Present Work of Jesus

Jesus – Sustainer of The Universe  
Jesus – Lord of all and king of the nations  
Jesus – Head of His one church  
Jesus – Our perfect high priest

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## The Present Work of Jesus

Lesson 2  
Jesus – Lord Of All And King Of  
The Nations

## Introduction

- Even today, Jews are looking for an earthly Messiah to come from heaven and rule in Jerusalem, saving Jews from their enemies
- Also, Jehovah's Witnesses and other so-called Christians look for Jesus to come to earth and rule over a material kingdom where there will be no chaos

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## Introduction

- Misapplied Old Testament prophecies behind both of these views - looking for future fulfillment rather than believing they have and are being fulfilled now
- These views are wrong because we will see that Jesus is now reigning as Lord and King from heaven over heaven and earth
- This belief based on same Old Testament prophecies that have their fulfillment in the first century

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## Introduction

- As King, what is Jesus doing now?
- What are some of the proofs that He is King now?
- And, what should it mean to us that He is King now?

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## Jesus – Lord Of All And King Of The Nations

God has always ruled the nations

The Jews' wrong expectations of the Messiah

The promise and the "problem"

Jesus – Lord of all and King of the nations

Practical applications

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## God Has Always Ruled The Nations

- God is Creator
- God has a Divine purpose to be done for the benefit of His saved people
- Therefore, God has always ruled the nations according to His will

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## God Has Always Ruled The Nations

Jer 10:6 There is none like You, O LORD; You are great, and great is Your name in might.

Jer 10:7 Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? Indeed it is Your due! For among all the wise men of the nations And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You.

Jer 10:8 But they are altogether stupid and foolish *In their* discipline of delusion--their idol is wood!

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## God Has Always Ruled The Nations

Jer 10:9 Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, And gold from Uphaz, The work of a craftsman and of the hands of a goldsmith; Violet and purple are their clothing; They are all the work of skilled men.

Jer 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, And the nations cannot endure His indignation.

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## God Has Always Ruled The Nations

Jer 10:11 Thus you shall say to them, "The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth will perish from the earth and from under the heavens."

Jer 10:12 *It is* He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom; And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.

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## God Has Always Ruled The Nations

Dan 4:16 "Let his mind be changed from *that of* a man And let a beast's mind be given to him, And let seven periods of time pass over him.

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## God Has Always Ruled The Nations

Dan 4:17 "This sentence is by the decree of the *angelic* watchers And the decision is a command of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men."

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## God Has Always Ruled The Nations

- Through history, God has judged the nations
- We note a few example
- Then, we will seek to answer, does God judge the nations today through Jesus as King?

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## God Punishes Sodom And Gomorrah

Gen 18:20 And the LORD said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.

Gen 18:21 "I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

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## God Punishes Sodom And Gomorrah

Gen 18:22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the LORD.

Gen 18:23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"

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## God Punishes Sodom And Gomorrah

Gen 18:24 "Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep *it* away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it?"

Gen 18:25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated* alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"

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## God Punishes The Canaanite Nations

Gen 15:16 "Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."

Deu 9:4 "Do not say in your heart when the LORD your God has driven them out before you, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,' but *it is* because of the wickedness of these nations *that* the LORD is dispossessing them before you.

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## God Punishes The Canaanite Nations

Deu 9:5 "It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you are going to possess their land, but *it is* because of the wickedness of these nations *that* the LORD your God is driving them out before you, in order to confirm the oath which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

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## God Punishes Babylon

Jer 51:1 Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I am going to arouse against Babylon And against the inhabitants of Leb-kamai The spirit of a destroyer.

Jer 51:11 Sharpen the arrows, fill the quivers! The LORD has aroused the spirit of the kings of the Medes, Because His purpose is against Babylon to destroy it; For it is the vengeance of the LORD, vengeance for His temple.

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## The Jews' Wrong Expectations Of The Messiah

- Accurate in some of their expectations
- Wrong in others that dealt with nature of king and kingdom to come
- Still wrong today

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## What Did The Jews Expect In The Messiah?

- Descendent of David
- Rule on David's throne in Jerusalem
- Forcefully defeat Jews' political enemies
- His rule would not only cover Israel but also some Gentile nations

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## Wrong Expectations of Messiah Even By The Apostles

Act 1:6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

Act 1:7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

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## Wrong Expectations of Messiah Even By The Apostles

Act 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

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## They Wrongly Understood The Promise To David

2Sa 7:12 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

2Sa 7:13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

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## They Wrongly Understood The Promise To David

2Sa 7:14 "I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,

2Sa 7:15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

2Sa 7:16 "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."""

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## God's Promise To David

- A descendent of David
- Ruling on David's throne in Jerusalem
- Builder of a house for God's name
- Reign of David's descendents established forever before God

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Jesus – Our perfect high priest

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## The Promise And The "Problem"

Jer 22:24 "As I live," declares the LORD, "even though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were a signet *ring* on My right hand, yet I would pull you off;

Jer 22:25 and I will give you over into the hand of those who are seeking your life, yes, into the hand of those whom you dread, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chaldeans.

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## The Promise And The "Problem"

Jer 22:26 "I will hurl you and your mother who bore you into another country where you were not born, and there you will die.

Jer 22:27 "But as for the land to which they desire to return, they will not return to it.

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## The Promise And The "Problem"

Jer 22:28 "Is this man Coniah a despised, shattered jar? Or is he an undesirable vessel? Why have he and his descendants been hurled out And cast into a land that they had not known?

Jer 22:29 "O land, land, land, Hear the word of the LORD!

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## The Promise And The "Problem"

Jer 22:30 "Thus says the LORD, 'Write this man down childless, A man who will not prosper in his days; For no man of his descendants will prosper Sitting on the throne of David Or ruling again in Judah.'

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## The Promise And The "Problem"

- Coniah to be taken captive to Babylon
- Coniah will die in Babylon
- None of His descendents to prosper ruling in Judah on David's throne
- How would God fulfill His promise to David?

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## Jesus – Lord Of All And King Of The Nations

- The promise to David has been fulfilled through Jesus
- All apparent problems are overcome and Jesus is now reigning over all in heaven at the right hand of God
- We note how this came about in the first century

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

- After He died for our sins, Jesus was raised from the dead by the Father
- By His resurrection, Jesus was declared to be that descendent of David who would rule forever
- David himself had prophesied of one who would overcome death and reign

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Act 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--

Act 2:23 this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Act 2:24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Act 2:25 "For David says of Him, 'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.'

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Act 2:27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.

Act 2:29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Act 2:30 "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,

Act 2:31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.

Act 2:32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

- God never intended for Jesus to reign on the earth
- God never intended for Jesus to reign in Jerusalem on David's throne
- David's earthly throne was a type of the true throne of God in heaven where Jesus is now reigning
- Jesus could not be both high priest and king if He were reigning on earth

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Jer 22:30 "Thus says the LORD, 'Write this man down childless, A man who will not prosper in his days; For no man of his descendants will prosper Sitting on the throne of David Or ruling again in Judah.'"

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

- David's earthly throne was called the throne of the Lord
- But the Lord's true throne is in heaven
- Jesus would rule from heaven and not Jerusalem or anywhere else on the earth

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

1Ch 29:23 Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father; and he prospered, and all Israel obeyed him.

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Isa 66:1 Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?"

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Luk 1:32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; Luk 1:33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Zec 6:13 "Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices."

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Heb 8:1 Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Heb 8:4 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law;

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

- After being raised from the dead, Jesus ascended back to heaven
- Apostles baptized in Holy Spirit confirmed Jesus' reign
- His ascension foretold by David

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Act 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

Act 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Act 2:35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET."

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

- He is declared Lord of all, King above all
- He not only determines conditions for pardon but also the standard for living the Christian life
- He also executes judgments among the nations

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:39 "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."

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Act 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

1Ti 6:15 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,

1Ti 6:16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

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## Promise To David Fulfilled In Jesus

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood--

Rev 1:6 and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father--to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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## The Present Work of Jesus

Jesus – Sustainer of The Universe  
Jesus – Lord of all and king of the nations  
Jesus – Head of His one church  
Jesus – Our perfect high priest

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## Jesus – Lord Of All And King Of The Nations

God has always ruled the nations  
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## Practical Applications

Jesus is in control of all things including the nations  
As citizens of heaven, we are to obey earthly rulers  
We should pray for earthly leaders  
Jesus will not reign on earth in the future  
We should persuade men now to submit to Jesus

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## Jesus Is In Control Of All Things Including The Nations

- Jesus has been given all authority over all except the Father
- His rule is over His church and also over all nations
- Among the nations, He now does what the Father did in the Old Testament, judges them on the basis of His righteous standard

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## Jesus Is In Control Of All Things Including The Nations

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.  
Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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## Jesus Is In Control Of All Things Including The Nations

Eph 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,  
Eph 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

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## Jesus Is In Control Of All Things Including The Nations

Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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## Jesus Is In Control Of All Things Including The Nations

Rev 6:9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

Rev 6:10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

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## Jesus Is In Control Of All Things Including The Nations

Rev 6:11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until *the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.*

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## As Citizens Of Heaven, We Are To Obey Earthly Rulers

- Nations are allowed to exist to carry out God's purpose, punish evil and praise the righteous
- Therefore, Christians should obey rulers to the extent of not violating the apostles' teaching
- Ultimately, our citizenship is in heaven and we are but temporary citizens here of any nation

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## As Citizens Of Heaven, We Are To Obey Earthly Rulers

Rom 13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

Rom 13:2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

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## As Citizens Of Heaven, We Are To Obey Earthly Rulers

Rom 13:3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;

Rom 13:4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. <sup>72</sup>

## As Citizens Of Heaven, We Are To Obey Earthly Rulers

Rom 13:5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

Rom 13:6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

Rom 13:7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

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## As Citizens Of Heaven, We Are To Obey Earthly Rulers

Act 5:27 When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them,

Act 5:28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

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## As Citizens Of Heaven, We Are To Obey Earthly Rulers

Act 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

Php 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

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## We Should Pray For Earthly Leaders

- Pray for rulers
- Pray that Christians may live the Christian life unhindered
- Pray that the gospel may spread unhindered

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## We Should Pray For Earthly Leaders

1Ti 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

1Ti 2:2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

1Ti 2:3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

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## We Should Pray For Earthly Leaders

1Ti 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

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## Jesus Will Not Reign On Earth In The Future

- Jesus is reigning now in heaven
- When He comes again, His reign will end
- Any theory advancing any type of future earthly reign by Jesus or whoever they believe is Messiah is utterly false

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## Jesus Will Not Reign On Earth In The Future

1Co 15:23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

1Co 15:24 then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

1Co 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

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## Jesus Will Not Reign On Earth In The Future

1Co 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

1Co 15:27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

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## Jesus Will Not Reign On Earth In The Future

1Co 15:28 When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

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## Jesus Will Not Reign On Earth In The Future

1Th 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

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## Jesus Will Not Reign On Earth In The Future

1Th 4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

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## Jesus Will Not Reign On Earth In The Future

1Th 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1Th 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

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## We Should Persuade Men Now To Submit To Jesus

- Now, we should seek to serve Him as Lord, obeying all He commands
- We should also persuade others to do the same knowing He will judge us all in that great day

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## We Should Persuade Men Now To Submit To Jesus

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.

Luk 6:46 "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

Act 11:23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and *began* to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain *true* to the Lord;

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## We Should Persuade Men Now To Submit To Jesus

2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2Co 5:11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

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## We Should Persuade Men Now To Submit To Jesus

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

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## We Should Persuade Men Now To Submit To Jesus

2Co 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,

2Co 10:4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

2Co 10:5 *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

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## We Should Persuade Men Now To Submit To Jesus

Mar 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Mar 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

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