

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (NIV84)

Theme: Christ—The Eternal King.

1. He is the King of kings.
2. We joyfully serve in his kingdom.

It's time for a pop-quiz. I'm sure you didn't expect a quiz at Church today, but it won't be graded. I am going to list 10 of some of the top conquerors in the history of the world. I want you to come up with an answer in your head as to where that person was from and roughly when that person lived. Are you ready? Here are the 10: 1. Genghis Khan 2. Alexander the Great 3. Tamerlane 4. Atilla the Hun 5. Charlemagne. 6. Thutmose III 7. Ashoka the Great 8. Cyrus the Great 9. Ch'in Shih Huang 10. Augustus Caesar.

How did you do? I'm guessing that recognized most of these names. Perhaps there were a few you haven't heard of. But even for the names you recognized, could you remember where they were from or where they lived?

These guys conquered many lands and ruled over many people—they were famous. Yet, there is much that normal people like us in 2012 don't know about them. Most of us couldn't even give some basic facts what their reign. Despite what they thought when they were alive, it turns out that they really aren't that important. They have long been dead and so has their kingdom.

But there is one king who was on this earth 2000 years ago, yet he still reigns. Christ is the eternal king. He is the King of kings so we joyfully serve him in his kingdom.

Our text for today takes place in the middle of a vision the prophet Daniel. He saw four beasts. A lion with wings of an eagle. A bear with three ribs in its mouth. A leopard with four wings and four heads. And finally a fourth beast with iron teeth that was more powerful than

all the others and had 10 horns. These beasts represented different countries and their leaders. We are not exactly sure what countries these beasts represented, but a good option is: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome.

Then Daniel's vision moves to a courtroom. The beasts are on trial before the Ancient of Days, a reference to God the Father. God executed his judgment. All the beasts lost their power. The last beast was destroyed and thrown into the fire. Then our text for today begins.

After these four beasts, were stripped of their power and destroyed another came up. The words of our text, **In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.** One called, "the Son of man" was given authority glory and sovereign power. All peoples, nations, and men of every language worshiped him. He is ruler and king over all people. His kingdom is over everything. He didn't have to conquer any lands. It was given to him by the Father.

And unlike those other kings, his kingdom is one that will not pass away. It will never be destroyed. He doesn't have to worry about other people coming up and challenging his throne. His kingdom wasn't going to fall or be divided when he died. He wasn't going to die. He will reign forever. This everlasting king with an eternal kingdom, is and always has been in charge of all things. His is the only true kingdom, and he is the only true King.

The rulers of Babylonia, Persia, Greece, and Rome—they never were really in charge. They never really were in complete control of their kingdom. No matter how much power a man thinks he has, the Son of Man still has control over him. He is the King of kings. All those leaders thought they were the center of the universe. They were the most powerful people in the world at their time. Everything revolved around them. They strutted around on their little stage of history

thinking it was all about them. But they died. And the world went on without them. They rewrote the history books. Much ink has been spilled about them. Yet there are some you have never heard of. There are others you couldn't even give basic information about—let alone specifics of their conquests. But how foolish those men were who thought that the world was all about them. How foolish to think that the world revolved around them and depended on them. And so are we. How foolish we are to think that the world revolves around us. How dumb we are to consider ourselves the center of history. And yet is that what we often do. We want to become famous so that everyone will notice us and give us praise. We want to rewrite the pages of history. And so we have the tendency to think that others are here to serve us. We expect everyone to do what we want. We get upset when people don't cater their lives to ours. We expect others to do what pleases us, to give us praise, to remember our favorites, our birthdays, and everything else about us. And we are crushed when they don't. If those world conquerors turned out not to be a important. And if they aren't—than neither are you.

But there is one who is important. The Son of Man. But who is the Son of Man? He is Jesus. In fact Jesus often called himself the Son of Man. It is his favorite name for himself. It is used to refer to Jesus 81 times in the New Testament. And it isn't used for any other person. Jesus rules over all things. He rules in the hearts of all believers everywhere. He is controls all of his creation from his throne up in heaven. And soon our king will return. Then everyone will know that he is the king of kings. Jesus is the center of the universe. All of history has revolved around him. Somehow, in some way Christ has controlled history for his benefit. To prepare the world for his first and second coming.

Christ rules over all people and all things. That means he has control over all things. And he makes all things work out the way he wants them to. Even all the wicked things all the evil rules of the past and present have done—Christ makes them work out for the benefit of his people. As the King of kings, he promises to guard and protect his people from all their enemies. And he will continue to do so until he brings us safely home.

Christ is the king of kings because he won the ultimate victory. Christ won his victory over sin death and the devil. On the cross he removed

our sins its curse. When he rose from the dead he defeated death. It no longer rules over us because when we die, we live. He crushed Satan's head, putting him into submission. And sent him to the gloomy dungeon to suffer for eternity. The King of kings not only won this victory, he also gives us this victory. Which is far more than any other world ruler has ever done.

And because Christ has done this for us, we gladly serve him in his kingdom.

When Jesus calls himself the Son of Man, we first and foremost think of Jesus being a human. He was born of a virgin. Mary was his mother. He is a true human being. He needed to sleep, he got hungry and thirsty, he had true real human emotions. He is true man in every way. He needed to be.

But Jesus being true man isn't the only think we should about when we hear this term, Son of Man. We should also think about Jesus being true God. That is actually what Jesus was saying when he used this term. Notice what happens with this Son of Man at the end of time. All people bow down and worship him. He has an eternal kingdom, which means that he is eternal. If the Son of Man is worshiped, if the Son of Man has an eternal kingdom, if his Kingdom cannot be destroyed, than there is only one who the Son of Man is. God. So by calling himself the Son of Man, Jesus was actually calling himself God! The Jews understood this as well. Before the Sanhedrin a few hours before his death Jesus made a reference to our text and applied it to himself. **You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven** The Jews were outraged at this and accused him of blaspheme.

Jesus had to be true man and true God in order to save us. If Jesus isn't a son of man—that is a human he could have never served as our substitute. He never would have been made subject to the law. It wouldn't have been that big of a deal for God to live a perfect life. In order to be our substitute, he had to be like us in everyway. If Jesus wasn't a man and just God, he never would have died the death that we die. On the other side of things, if Jesus isn't the Son of Man—that is God, he never could have saved us. No human being can keep God's law perfectly. And even if a human could, his perfect life

would have been enough to save himself, but not any one else. If he isn't God than he can't take away our sins. He can't give us his perfection. No human being can die for another. No one can pay the price of sins for another.

Jesus had to be true God and true man in order to save us. This is the claim Jesus is making when he calls himself the Son of Man. So, Jesus is calling himself our Savior. And all who believe that Jesus is true God and true man will be saved. All who believe that he is the world's one and only Savior will live with him in heaven forever. All who believe that through Christ's work alone—apart from works, which we receive through faith, we will have eternal life, will live eternally.

It is through faith that we are part of Christ's kingdom. He doesn't force us under his rule. He doesn't hold a gun to our heads demanding that we obey him. He leads us to be part of his kingdom through the gospel. And those who are part of his kingdom gladly serve and obey him. For we receive all the countless benefits of being a citizen in this kingdom. We have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, peace, joy, and protection. We are able to stand next to Christ forever. And this leads us to serve him—willingly, not under compulsion. We don't obey him out of fear of punishment—like most obey dictators, but out of love and thanks.

That is what we are here to do. We are here to serve Christ—the Son of Man, in his kingdom. For he is the center of the history of the world. And he has made us part of it. It is our purpose in life to serve our king. Our focus is on the king of kings. We are not the center of the universe—The Son of Man is. We are not here to serve ourselves and our interests, but those of Jesus. The world doesn't revolve around us—but our Savior. The Savior who brought us into his kingdom and promises eternal blessings to all those under his care. That is what we are here for—not to serve ourselves or others, but to worship and serve the center of the universe, the Son of Man—our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Three out of the four beasts in Daniel chapter 7 were mentioned in 10 conquerors in the pop quiz. Not one of them is around any more. Not one of them is in power; their kingdoms have fallen. Many of them have been forgotten—lost in the pages of history. As it turns out, they

were not the center of the universe. And if they aren't, neither are you. There is only one center of the universe—the focus of all of history—The Son of Man. The one who came up after those four beasts. He has always ruled; and he always will. He is the center of history. And he has graciously made us part of his kingdom. Through faith we are his citizens having the benefits of forgiveness and eternal life. So we gladly serve and worship him as our goal in life and station in life. For he is the king of kings, and he will rule us eternally. Amen.