

Revelation 1:4-8; Christ the King
November 21, 2021

I know that I am about to tread into a very sensitive area for some.... But here it goes. I really don't have much interest into the British monarchy. I know that some of you may really like everything about the British royals. There are some that follow all the weddings, births of children, the Queen, the Princesses, the Princes and who will be King, but I really don't get it. It's not that I have anything against anyone. I just don't get it. Maybe it is because the monarchy really is mostly a symbolic role in their government today, if I understand it correctly. From what I read last week, she formally opens Parliament every year, and when the government passes a bill, it must receive her stamp of approval, a process called Royal Assent. In reality, though, no monarch has refused to give Royal Assent since 1708. Today, her formal duties are mostly representational, such as traveling on goodwill visits and hosting heads of states. The monarch's main role is to serve as a vital part of Britain's "*national identity, unity and pride.*"

With that being said, I did find some interesting powers that she has. Technically, the Queen owns all "*unmarked swans in open water.*" She also owns all the sturgeons, whales, and dolphins in the waters around England and Wales that dates back to a statute from 1324 AD. She doesn't need a driver's license. She is the only person in the United Kingdom who legally doesn't need a driver's license or a number plate on her cars. She also doesn't need a passport to travel abroad. Like I said, I don't really get it. I'm not against it, but if that's the kind of monarchy they need, they certainly can have that.

This morning, on Christ the King Sunday (weekend), we ask ourselves the question: *What Kind of King do we need?* Therefore, let us answer that question as we look at these words of the Apostle John found in the first chapter of Revelation.

"Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ." I wonder what it must have been like when Jesus left this earth and ascended back to heaven. All roads of heaven leading to the royal throne of Jesus. Maybe the streets were lined with angels and the souls of those who had already gone to heaven. Jesus taking his place on the throne. This King is part of the Trinity – the Father, **"who is, and who was and who is to come,"** along with the Holy Spirit, described as the **"seven spirits before his throne."** That's the kind of King we need – a King that will always be there for us.

John continues to describe Jesus our King. **"Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness."** This King will always speak the truth. In our Gospel Lesson for today, Jesus stood before Pilate, and he was asked: **"Are you the king of the Jews?"** Look at Jesus' answer: **"I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."** If the words of Jesus are always trustworthy and true, we can live every day of our life knowing that we are secure in him. Security is extremely important to us. That is why we lock the doors of our homes and cars. You may even have an alarm system for your home or a dog for added security. Sure, it might be hassle to go through security at an airport. But if you are the one flying in that plane at 35,000 feet in the air, you like the security it brings. We have a Homeland Security Department in our Country to keep us safe. We save, invest, and spend our money wisely so that our future is secure when we retire. Our King brings us security with his trustworthy words. That's kind of King we need.

Our King is described as **"the firstborn from the dead."** Jesus is the first person, the first born, who ever died and raised himself back to life again. He died on the cross, but he did not stay dead. He raised himself back to life just as he said he would. Even he is the **"firstborn,"** that means we will follow him. We might die in this world, but we won't stay dead. The Apostle Paul describes it in these words: **"We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."** (1. Cor. 15:52) We will live with our God for all eternity.

What if we could live each day of our life on this earth thinking to ourselves that before this day comes to a close, Jesus will return to this earth on clouds of glory? What if we could live each day as if Jesus rose from the dead yesterday, and is coming back to us? Then suddenly all those problems in our lives seem small and insignificant in comparison. Then we

might be able to say with Paul: **“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”** (Philippians 1:21) That’s kind of King we need.

We have a King who is **“the ruler of the kings of the earth.”** There is not a nation in the world that can stand up to the power of the Almighty God. The Psalmist tells us that the **“One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.”** (Psalm 2:4) We have a King who rules all the world and also rules in my heart. This almighty and all-powerful God has defeated the greatest enemy this world has ever faced – Satan himself. Sin had destroyed our relationship with our God, just like a bomb that goes off inside a building. A building that was destroyed so bad that it could not be rebuilt. It could only be rebuilt by God himself. John describes what this King has done for us. **“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever!”** That’s the kind of King we need.

Finally, we need a King who says: **“I am the Alpha and the Omega.”** We everything from A to Z in this King. Everything we need is found in Jesus. Every King that has lived on earth has had limitations. But not this King Jesus. He is everything that we are not, nor could ever be. In his hands, we have placed ourselves.

I don’t really get into the whole royalty thing, but if are, I’m happy for you. There is one King that we all need. When this King returns, what a day it will be when we will cry out: **“Look, he is coming with the clouds.”** That’s the kind of King we need. Amen.