



Life Church Smyrna
Sunday, July 8, 2018 | 10:30am
Pastor Christian Salzillo

Does the Gospel – the good news of Jesus – compel us to confront systematic evil and injustice in our world?

I Corinthians 15 – consider these facts regarding the time of writing:

- At around AD 55, the four Gospel accounts had yet to be written
- There is no New Testament yet and only a handful of letters
- The gospel – and all apostolic teaching– was done primarily through oral tradition, creeds and confessions
- This text is widely believed to be an early creed of the church

...I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures... **1 Cor 15:1-5 NIV**

- 1) Paul mentions that this gospel has the power to save**
- 2) Paul ties the gospel to certain events in Jesus' life, foretold by the Scriptures**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David...**Romans 1:1-4 NIV**

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel... **2 Timothy 2:8**

...The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." **Luke 1:31-33 NIV**

- 3) Paul ties the gospel to Jesus being King and bringing a Kingdom that will never end**

"The Gospel is the story of Jesus of Nazareth told as the climax of the long story of Israel, which in turn is the story of how the one true God is rescuing the world." **NT Wright, Pastor/Theologian**

The King & The Kingdom | The Gospel of the Kingdom

"The gospel was first and foremost for the apostles the story of Jesus as the fulfillment of the story of Israel." **Scot McKnight, Professor/Theologian**

"To call the four accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John 'Gospels' is precisely to express that Jesus himself, the entirety of his acting, teaching, living, rising and remaining with us is the gospel." **Pope Benedict XVI**

...²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **1 Corinthians 15:20-25 NIV**

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **Ephesians 6:12 NIV**

Q1: Is Jesus reigning as King now?

Q2: If Jesus is reigning now, is his Kingdom destroying evil now?

Q3: If he's king now, and his kingdom is destroying evil now, and we are called to seek his kingdom and pray that it be established on earth, then does the gospel of the Kingdom compel us to confront systematic evil in our world?

"The gospel is not, then, a system of how people get saved. The announcement of the gospel results in people getting saved...But the gospel itself, strictly speaking, is the narrative proclamation that Jesus is King." **Scot McKnight**

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." **Luke 4:18-19 NIV**

The idea of King and a Kingdom is connected to the original creation. God wanted Adam and Eve to rule in this world. They failed, so God sent his Son to rule. As its King and Messiah and Lord, the Son commissions the Church to bear witness to the world of the redemption in Jesus Christ, the true King, and to embody the kingdom as the people of God. **Scot McKnight**

We can't separate the gospel from Jesus being King. And we can't separate his Kingship from his people's responsibility to establish his Kingdom.

⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain... **Revelation 21:3-4**

Loving God! Loving People! Loving Life!



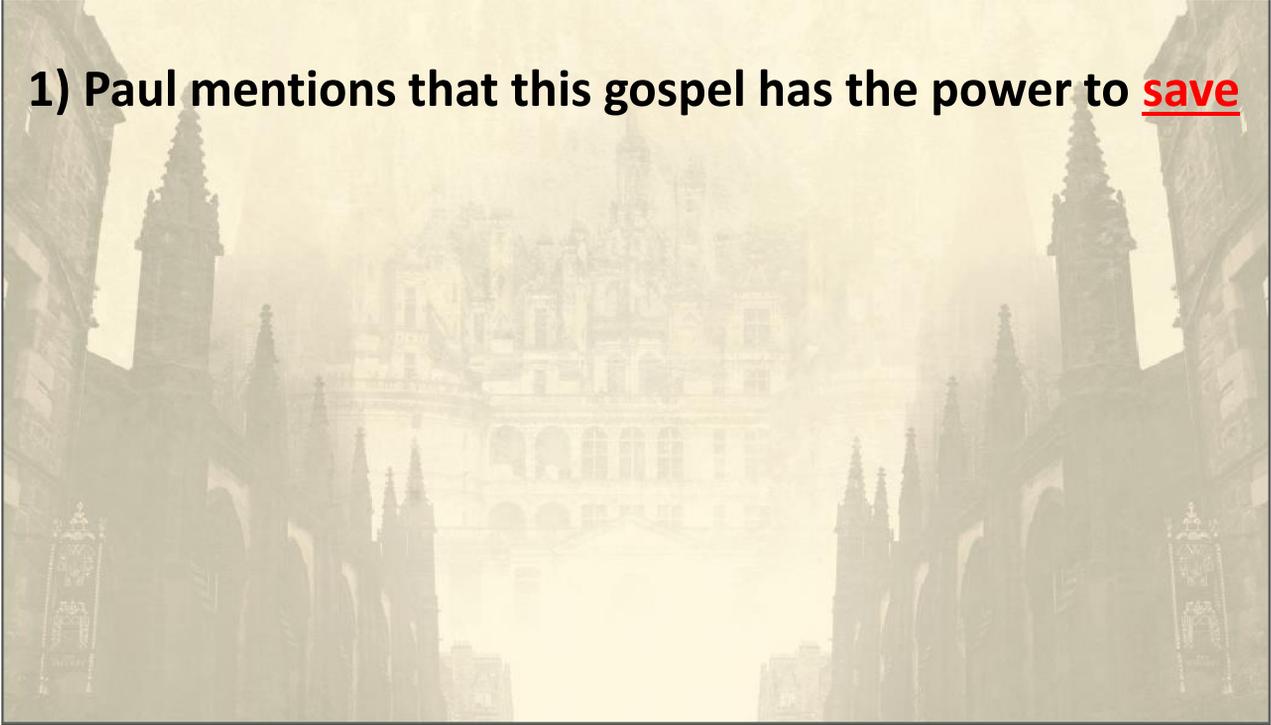
Does the Gospel – the good news of Jesus – compel us to confront systematic evil and injustice in our world?

Consider these facts regarding the time of Paul writing 1 Corinthians

- At around AD 55, the four Gospel accounts – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – had yet to be written
- There was no New Testament yet and only a handful of NT letters were actually in circulation
- The preaching of the gospel – and all apostolic teaching – was done primarily through oral tradition, creeds and confessions
- This text in chapter 15 is widely believed to be an early creed of the church

¹ Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

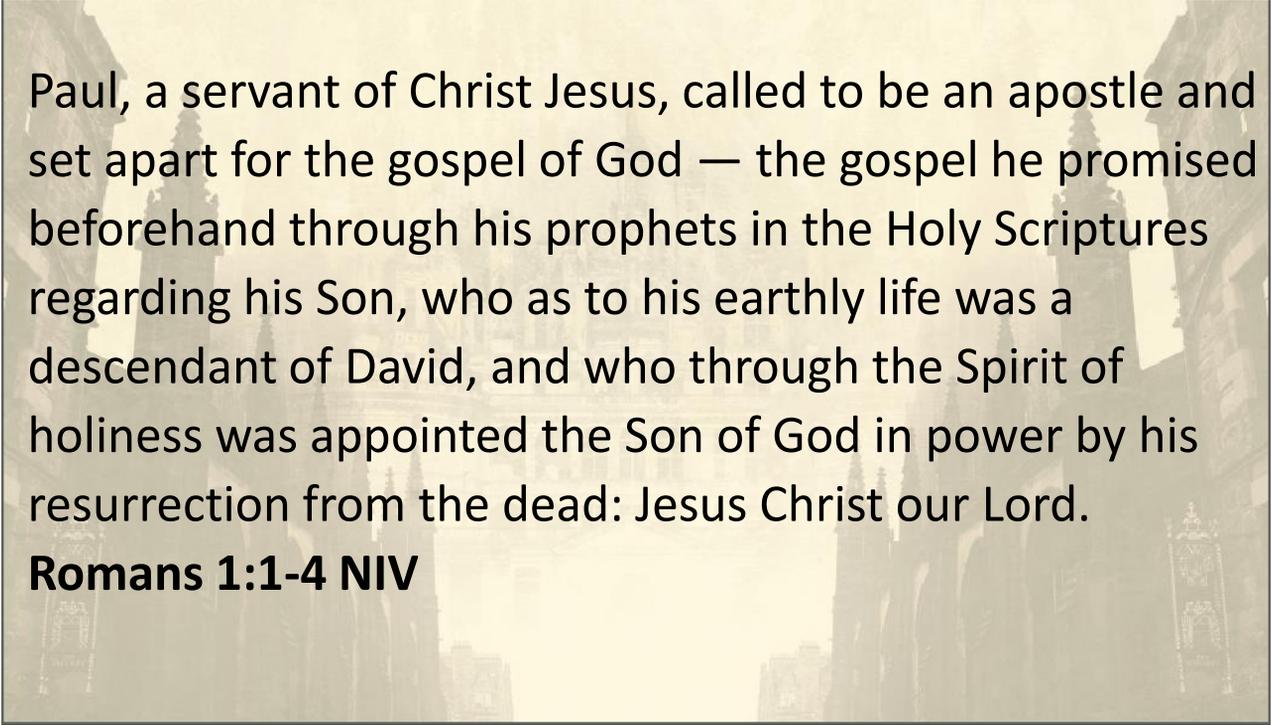
³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. **1 Corinthians 15:1-5 NIV**



1) Paul mentions that this gospel has the power to save

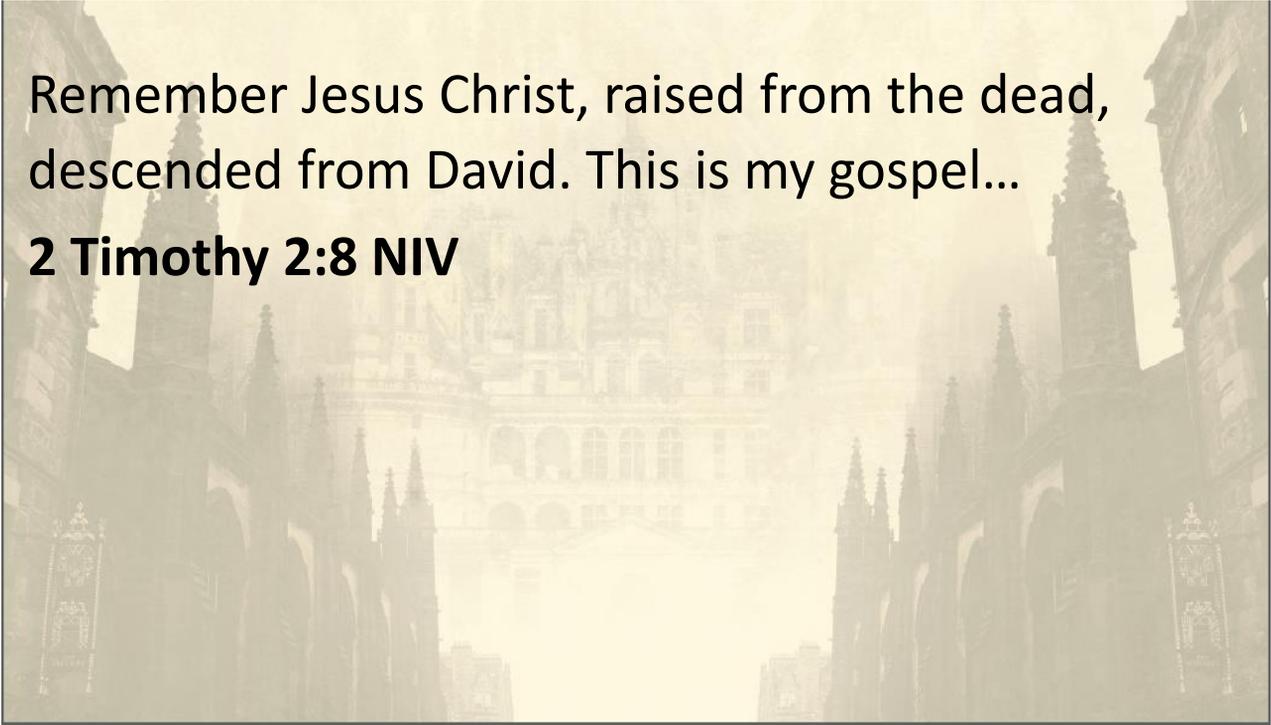
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2) Paul ties the gospel to certain events in Jesus' life, foretold by the Scriptures



Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 1:1-4 NIV



Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel...

2 Timothy 2:8 NIV

³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." **Luke 1:31-33 NIV**

- 1) Paul mentions that this gospel has the power to save
- 2) Paul ties the gospel to certain events in Jesus' life, foretold by the Scriptures
- 3) Paul ties the gospel to Jesus being King and bringing a Kingdom that will never end

“The Gospel is the story of Jesus of Nazareth told as the climax of the long story of Israel, which in turn is the story of how the one true God is rescuing the world.”

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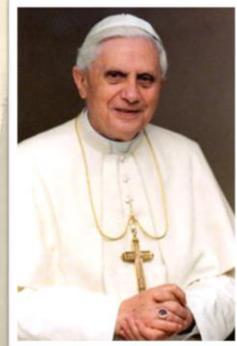
Scot McKnight, Professor/Theologian

(author of “The King Jesus Gospel”)



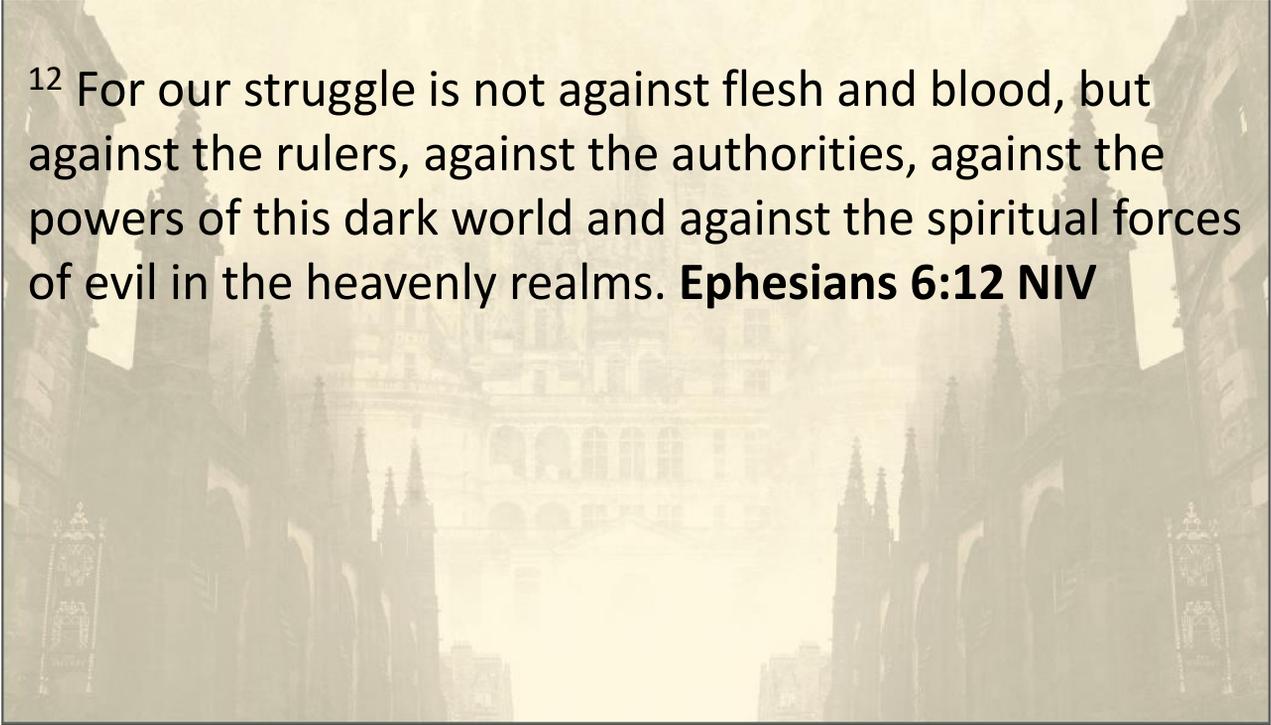
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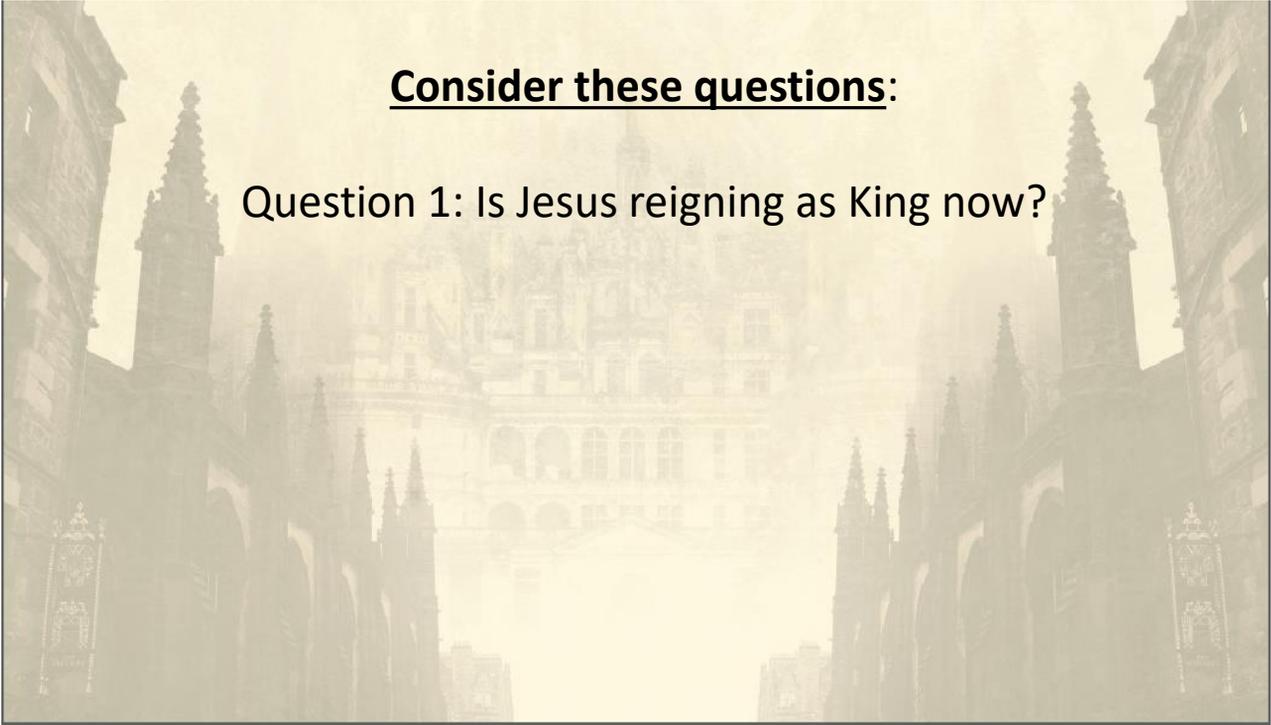


²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

1 Corinthians 15:20-25 NIV

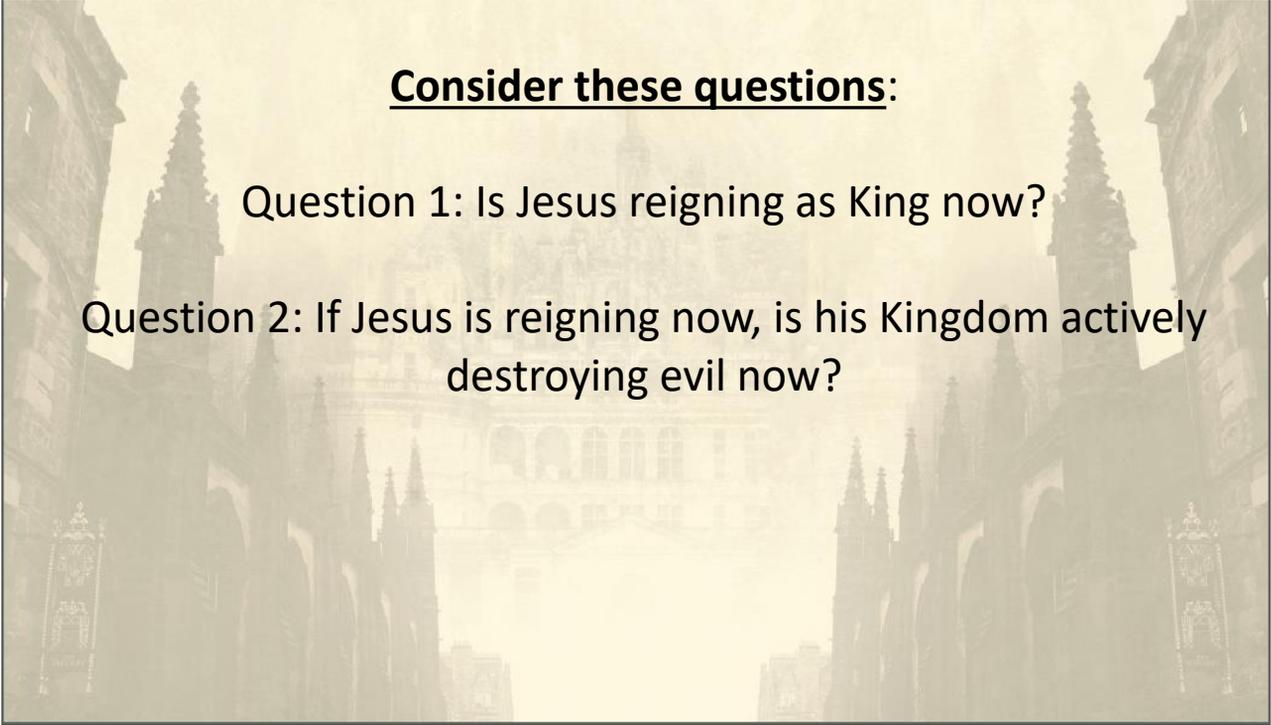


¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **Ephesians 6:12 NIV**



Consider these questions:

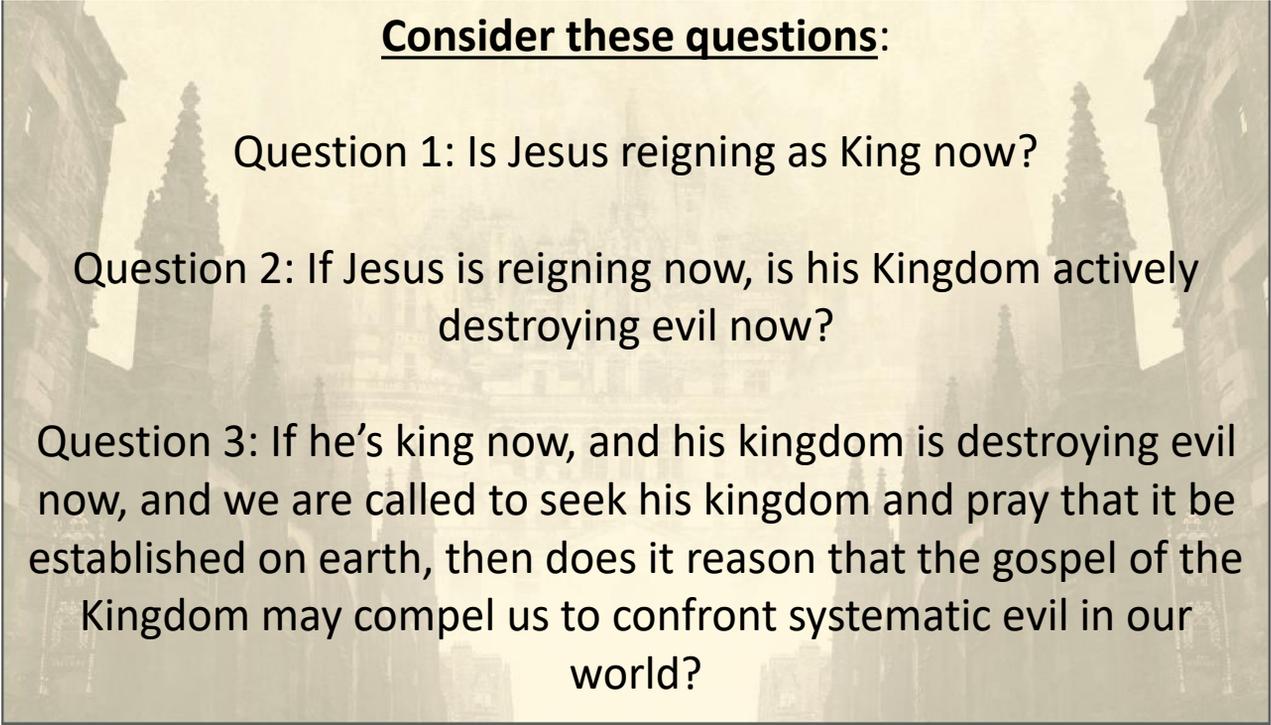
Question 1: Is Jesus reigning as King now?



Consider these questions:

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Question 2: If Jesus is reigning now, is his Kingdom actively destroying evil now?



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Question 1: Is Jesus reigning as King now?

Question 2: If Jesus is reigning now, is his Kingdom actively destroying evil now?

Question 3: If he's king now, and his kingdom is destroying evil now, and we are called to seek his kingdom and pray that it be established on earth, then does it reason that the gospel of the Kingdom may compel us to confront systematic evil in our world?

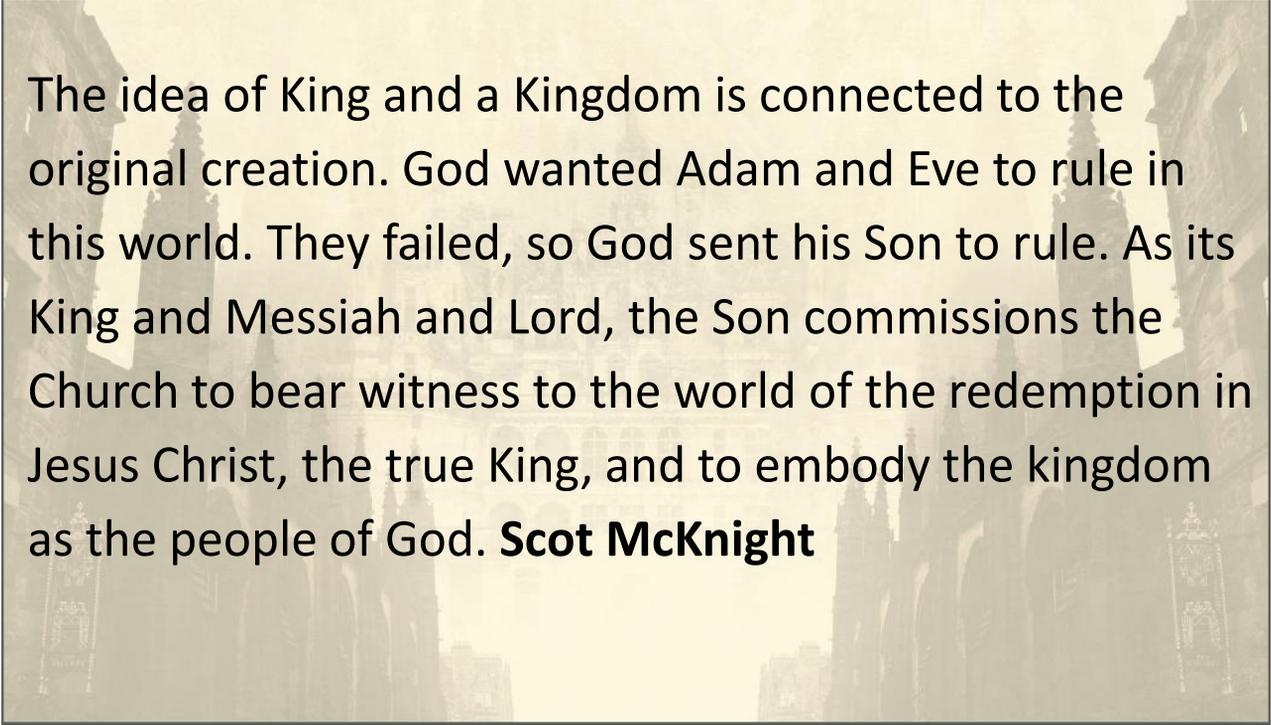
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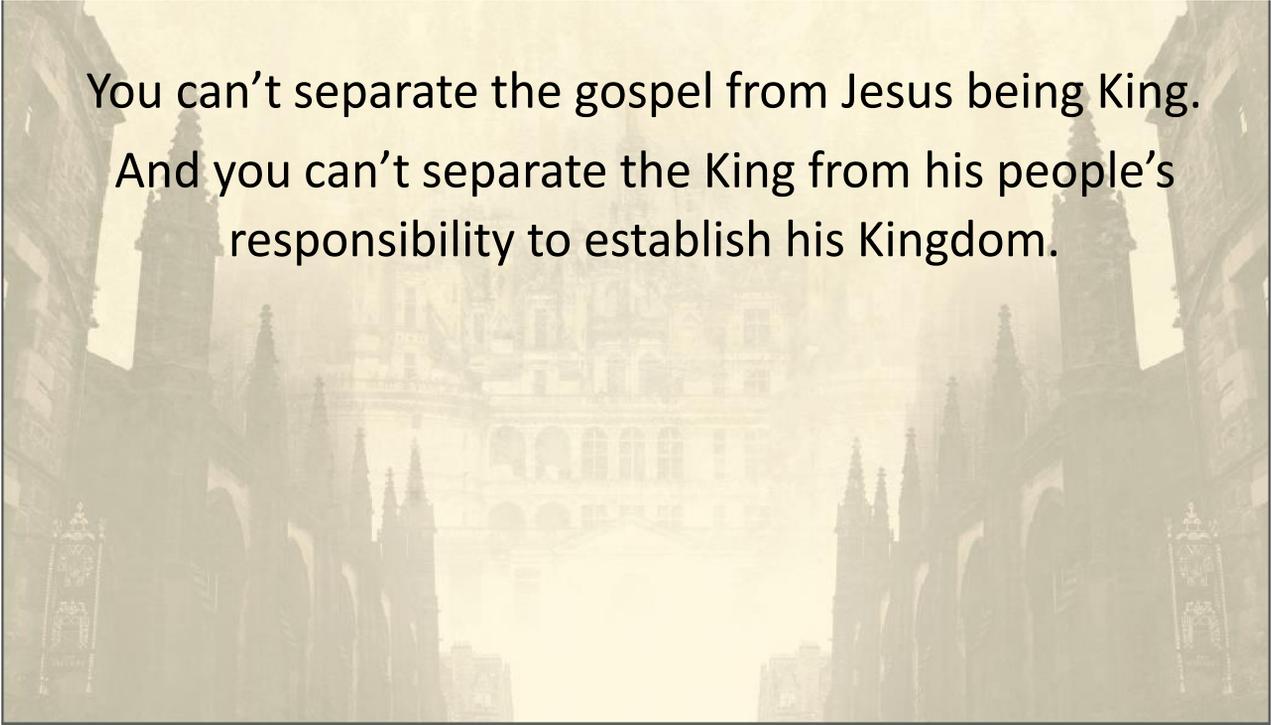


¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,
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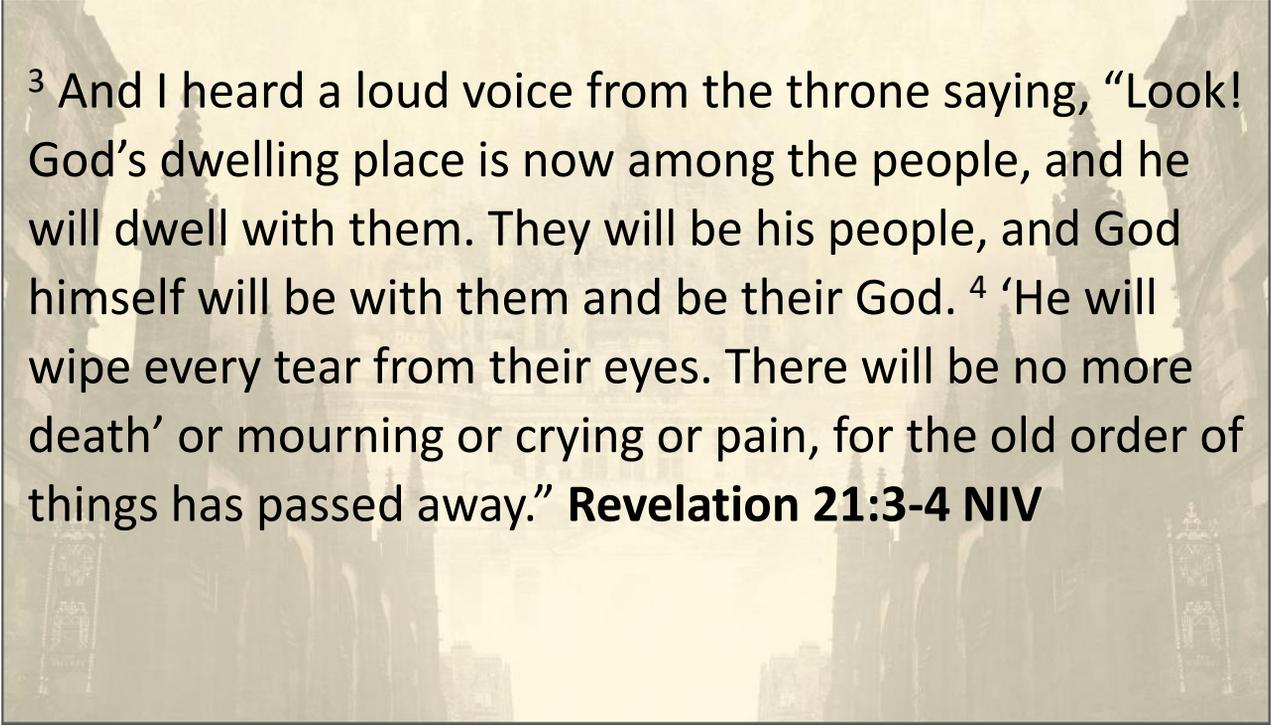
Luke 4:18-19 NIV



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You can't separate the gospel from Jesus being King.
And you can't separate the King from his people's responsibility to establish his Kingdom.



³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” **Revelation 21:3-4 NIV**



The gospel compels us to confront systematic evil in our world and society.