

Kingdom Family *focus*

410-778-4208~ WWW.NEWFREEDOMCHURCH.CHURCH~ DECEMBER 2021
DAVID PATTERSON, SENIOR PASTOR

Church Events

Sunday Morning Services
worship - 10 am
sermon - 1030 am

Sunday Evening Services
December 12th
6:30 pm

Men's Meeting
December 14th
7:00 pm
Doug Cornelius' House

Timothy Study
December 1st & December 8th
6:30 pm

Membership Class
December 5th
6:30 PM

Christmas Parade
December 3rd
Contact Victoria or Pastor Tim
For more information & to
participate

Christmas Dinner
December 15th
6:30 pm
Register by December 5th
on the App

How Many Kings?

By Mike O'Neill

With the celebration of the birth of Christ fast approaching, I cannot help but to think of Christmas music. Now I do not get particularly thrilled when my two favorite Christian radio stations start playing Christmas music the day after Thanksgiving. I do however, look forward to one song that in my opinion should be played year round, "How Many Kings?". This song was released back in 2008 by a band named Downhere. The song writers, Marc Martel and Jason Germain really did a great job in articulating the prophecy, incarnation, and birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. A lot of other Christmas songs do this as well, but it is the chorus of "How Many Kings?" that sets itself apart for me. The writers pose five questions that stir my soul.

1. How many kings stepped down from their thrones?
2. How many lords have abandoned their homes?
3. How many greats became the least for me?
4. How many gods have poured out their hearts?
5. How many fathers gave up their sons for me?

I am going to take a look at each question they ask and address the truth about Christ in each one individually.

1. **How many kings have stepped down from their thrones?** John 6:38 says, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent Me". This is so hard to fathom. Seated at the right hand of the Father, enjoying all of the splendors of heaven. To have never known sickness, fatigue or to have been tempted and tried. Leaving all of this behind to become fully man, fully God, fully equal to God but not considering His equality something to be used to His own advantage (Php 2:6). How time must have stood still, from Holy Spirit Conception, to death on the cross. In both 2 Peter 3:8 and Psalm 90:4 it relates that one day is a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day. It must have felt like thousands of years in this case.
2. **How many Lords have abandoned their homes?** Not many without being forced out by a warring faction or an entire army. Jesus left willing just as stated in John 6:38, "For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me."
3. **How many greats have become the least for me?** Hebrews 12:2 says, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Christ, the Name Above All Names, The King of All Kings, humbled Himself, bore the sin and shame of all humanity. What completely blows me away is not just the fact that Christ endured the cross. It is the fact that while despising the shame, He saw joy in the cross, in defeating sin and death for us! He saw our future beyond the cross.



How Many Kings? Continued

4. **How many god's have poured our their hearts?** Romans 5:5 says, “And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us”. When I think of pouring out, I see a rush, a flood. That is how I envision God’s love. Like a downpour, drenching and soaking us to our souls. Even knowing our brokenness and sinful nature, He still pours out His love and His Spirit on believers.

5. **How many fathers gave up their sons for me?** John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life”. I have a heart for humanity but I can honestly say that I would not give up my only begotten son nor my stepson for the world. Furthermore, I would not give up my daughters begotten or not, not even my little mutt Riley. However, thankfully, God does not have my heart.

When I think of Christmas, I just not cannot merely see a babe in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes. What I see is the Father’s love, greater than anything we can imagine. The King who stepped down from His throne into time, abandoning heaven. The greatest becomes the least just to pour out His love upon a fallen people.

How Many Kings?

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life”

John 3:16

CALLED TO WORSHIP

The First to Worship in Bethlehem

By Jeanne Corso

As a child, my family and I did not attend church, read the Bible or pray together. Holidays like Christmas and Easter strictly belonged to Hallmark, and the representatives of those important days in history, were Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. As a believer now, I realize how empty and meaningless that all was. But, every year in the Decembers of my youth, an old pile of vinyl Christmas records would find their way to our living room, where we had a small record player. I fondly remember laying on the floor in that corner for many hours, listening and singing aloud to the traditional Christmas carols over and over. "Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord". "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing". Those songs were all a call to worship, glorify, and honor the newborn King. Even in my young, impressionable, and unfamiliar heart, I knew there was something powerful about the birth of that baby over 2,000 years ago. Something in my young spirit had been stirred and felt a longing I had never experienced before – a call to worship Jesus.

The first to worship the Christ Child at his birth were angels and shepherds, and most certainly, Mary and Joseph, as well. Knowing they had just delivered the Messiah, "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, they must have been overjoyed and in awe of this precious little savior! And on that glorious night, just as the Star appeared over that humble manger, an angel of God appeared to the shepherds in the nearby fields. Luke described the scene in his Gospel, Luke 2:8-12: "Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

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The Worship of Jesus began in that moment in radiance and exuberance! Luke goes on to describe this moment of Glory in the highest, in 2:13-14: "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

When the Shepherds witnessed this phenomenon, they couldn't contain themselves. They were being called to go and worship this King. They were stirred to worship someone who they did not know and whose very life was a holy miracle. The Son of God had just been born! The Bible says the shepherds "came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger" (Luke 2:16). The shepherds knew this was a big deal and did not hesitate to follow the call to go and find Him to worship Him; but also, to share this great news with everyone else!! That was the same faith I knew as a child when I listened to those Christmas carols and sang my out-of-tune heart out.

The Magi were also called to find the Messiah and worship Him. They were called to follow the Star, and after enduring a 2-1/2 year journey, they found the Most High and brought gifts to Him. Matthew described it this way in chapter 2:10-11, "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh". They were called to worship, even though they weren't sure that is what it was at first. Like the Magi, I had a long journey searching for my Savior. And like the Magi, I was searching for what was prophesied, back in the time when the kings reigned in Judah. In his book, Isaiah prophesied "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace". (Isaiah 9:6). And like the Magi, I was led until the Christ Child was born in me and I met the One about whom I sang, and now I give Him all of my treasures. As we approach the recognized anniversary of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, let us worship our King, Emmanuel – God with us. Answer the call to worship Him, and you will be fulfilled. May God show you His favor and shine down His countenance on you this blessed Christmas!

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".

Isaiah 9:6

