A King’s Coronation

With the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8th, Prince Charles took his place as the new Monarch of Great Britain. He was proclaimed King Charles III upon the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth. As you might expect, there will be a coronation ceremony for King Charles III at some later date to be determined.

According to Wikipedia, a coronation is, “is the act of placement or bestowal of a crown upon a monarch's head. The term also generally refers not only to the physical crowning but to the whole ceremony wherein the act of crowning occurs, along with the presentation of other items of regalia, marking the formal investiture of a monarch with regal power.”

The ceremony will undoubtedly be filled with all the pomp and circumstance one might expect for such an occasion. I did a little reading on the subject to provide some background on a monarchy and how one becomes a king. I’ll focus primarily on the British Monarchy as they are first and foremost and more well-known than most others.

We already know that the coronation of King Charles will take place sometime in the coming months. Typically, the coronations follow a period of mourning for the departed monarch and for the huge amount of preparation needed for the

ceremony. Various representatives from Parliament, Prime Ministers, Church and State, leading citizens and foreign dignitaries will attend.

During the ceremony, the new Sovereign takes the coronation oath. The form and wording have varied over the centuries, but have been primarily the same since 1626. After receiving the orb and scepters, ceremonial robe, the Archbishop of Canterbury places St Edward's Crown on the Sovereign's head. Afterwards, homage is paid by the archbishop and senior peers, Holy Communion is celebrated. Maybe they'll be having it at Passover? Doubtful. The new King is then anointed, blessed and consecrated by the archbishop, while the Sovereign is seated in King Edward's chair.

An interesting fact is there are presently 43 active monarchies in the world. Most, as in Great Britain, are commonwealths. Other forms include, constitutional Monarchies, Muslim, East and Southeast Asian monarchies and "others" to include the Vatican which is classified as "an absolute" monarchy. I wasn't aware the Jesus or God had passed away and left this responsibility to the guy with the fish hat. While most monarchies are reduced to a ceremonial role, they still have considerable political influence, especially the Vatican.

So how does one become a king? Well to keep it short, you're either born into the lineage or you marry into it. What of the kings of Biblical Israel? The prophet

Daniel says it best in **Daniel 2:20-21**- "Daniel answered and said, "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding." It is God Who establishes kingdoms and their kings.

In 1 Samuel we see the Prophet Samuel anointing Saul to become Israel's first king. **1 Samuel 10:1**- "And Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, "*Is it* not because the LORD has anointed you for a prince over His inheritance?" The anointing with oil still occurs in modern coronations. (Western-style coronations have often included anointing the monarch with holy oil.)

There is no mention of Saul being crowned at that time but upon his death a crown he had been wearing was presented to King David. **2 Samuel 1:10**- "And I stood over him and killed him because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown upon his head, and *the* bracelet on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord."

Job 12:17-21- "He leads counselors away stripped, and makes the judges fools. He loosens the bonds of kings, and binds their loins with a girdle. He leads princes

away stripped, and overthrows the mighty. He silences the lips of trusted ones, and takes away the understanding of the elders. He pours contempt upon princes, and unties the belt of the mighty."

We know that God does not change (**Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8**) so these principles hold true today. Even though we still have evil in the world and around us, God is still sovereign. He will use any circumstance for His will.

Genesis 50:20- "But as for you, you thought evil against me, *but* God meant it for good to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save a great many people alive."

God will use whomever He chooses to put in power for His purpose. He will use those around the king to influence them as well.

Proverbs 21:1- "The king's heart *is* in the hand of the LORD *as* the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He will."

We see numerous accounts in the Old Testament where God can manipulate a ruler for His purpose. **Ezra 6:22**- "And *they* kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had made them joyful, and had *turned the heart of the king of Assyria* to them to make their hands strong in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel."

It was King Artaxerxes, who favored Ezra and gave him authority to rule in a godly manner. **Ezra 7:25-28**- "And now you, Ezra, after the wisdom of your God

that *is* in your hand, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are beyond the River, all who know the laws of your God; and you teach them who do not know. And whoever will not do the law of your God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether *it is* to death, or to exile, or to confiscation of goods, or imprisonment." Blessed *be* the LORD, the God of our fathers, who has put *such a thing* as this into the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, And has extended mercy unto me before the king and his counselors and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was made strong as the hand of the LORD my God *was* upon me, and I gathered out of Israel chief men to go up with me." Ezra knew it was the Hand of God.

Another story of tragedy to triumph is the story of Joseph. We know that his jealous brothers sold him into slavery and he later rose to be second in command over all of Egypt. God used the evil in his brothers' hearts to throw him into the pit to die. A lot of bad things happened to this innocent man in sequence during the course of his life, but God allowed these things to transpire to bring about His Divine purpose. **(Genesis 37-50)**. The evil put Joseph in a position of doing a lot of good. Joseph made sure the bountiful grain harvests of the seven years of plenty would be stored for the coming seven-year famine that would overwhelm the region. Joseph acknowledged his brothers' actions were evil but as he said in

Genesis 50:20, "*but* God meant it for good to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save a great many people alive."

Daniel interpreted the dream for King Nebuchadnezzar. **Daniel 2:36-38**- "This *is* the dream. And we will tell the interpretation before the king. You, O king, *are* a king of kings, for the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wherever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heaven, He has given *them* into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all. You are this head of gold."

Daniel 4:17- "This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones, so that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He will, and sets up over it the basest of men."

Kings and Rulers are always chosen by God. Joshua succeeded Moses, Saul was chosen by God, David was chosen by God and Solomon was to succeed David. God never asked to see a resume or qualifications from anyone. It was God's decision and no one else.

There isn't a lot of mention of fanfare or huge coronations in the Bible. Most all of those God chose to rule were abased, humble or of low esteem.

1 Corinthians 1:26-28- "For you see your calling, brethren, that *there are* not many who are wise according to the flesh, not many who are powerful, not many who are high-born *among you*. Rather, God has chosen the foolish things of the world, so that He might put to shame those who are wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world so that He might put to shame the strong things. And the low-born of the world, and the despised has God chosen—*even* the things that are counted as nothing—in order that He might bring to nothing the things that are;"

It is quite apparent, God places leaders, kings, and prophets where He wills. The Old Testament Books of Jeremiah 1 and Isaiah 1 give support to this. It is the will of a Sovereign God that places and removes those in power as He sees fit or deems necessary. Those placed in power may not be the best but are exactly what the people deserve. How about the moral condition of our nation? Do you really think that if this nation's moral compass wasn't bent and we maintained the biblical standards of our forefathers we'd really be in such a state of decline? **Proverbs 29:2**- "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people mourn."

We know that in the New Testament, Jesus Himself told Pontius Pilate he would have no authority unless it had been given from above. **John 19:10-11**- "Then

Pilate said to Him, “Why don’t You speak to me? Don’t You know that I have authority to crucify You, and authority to release You?” Jesus answered, “You would not have any authority against Me if it were not given to you from above. For this reason, the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

Even Pontius Pilate was placed in charge by God. Pilate was used by God in His overall plan of salvation.

Romans 13:1-5- “Let everyone be subject to the higher authorities because there is no authority except from God; and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God; So then, the one who sets himself against the authority is resisting the ordinance of God; and those who resist shall receive judgment to themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good *works*, but to evil works. Do you desire not to be afraid of the authority? *Then* practice good, and you will have praise from it; For he is a servant of God to you for good. But if you are practicing evil, have fear! For he does not wear the sword in vain because he is a servant of God, an avenger for wrath to the one who is practicing evil. Consequently, *it is* necessary to be subject *to authority*, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience.”

We’ve read that God was actively working out His purpose in those mentioned in the Old Testament and His desire that the Nation of Israel would become established as a great nation. There weren’t any coronations, or elections, nobody

voted one way or the other. God's will prevailed and no amount of tinkering with voting machines will sway any outcome. It is the will of God.

He makes the appointments according to His will. **Ephesians 1:4-5**- "According as He has personally chosen us for Himself before *the* foundation of *the* world in order that we might be holy and blameless before Him in love; Having predestinated us for sonship to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will,"

There is one coronation I want to mention. A coronation unlike anything ever witnessed in history. The most significant and important coronation to ever occur. Our Savior Jesus Christ was born into the lineage **(Matthew 1:1-16)**. His coronation was unlike any ceremonial crown of gold, anointing oil, fancy robes, or scepters, He bore the brunt of man's evil and sins. He did not receive the heralding that will be given to King Charles III on his upcoming event.

He was anointed with spit. He wore a scarlet robe; they jammed a crown of thorns upon His head. Any scepter was a club used to strike Him with.

Matthew 26:67- "Then they spit in His face and hit Him with their fists; and some struck *Him* with rods,"

Mark 10:34- "And they shall mock Him, and shall scourge Him, and shall spit on Him, and shall kill Him; and on the third day He shall rise again."

Mark 14:65- “Then some began to spit on Him, and to cover His face and strike Him with their fists, saying to Him, “Prophesy!” And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands.”

Matthew 27:28-30- “And they stripped Him *and* put a scarlet cloak around Him. And after platting a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head, and a rod in His right hand; and bowing *on* their knees before Him, they mocked Him, and *kept on* saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” Then, after spitting on Him, they took the rod and struck *Him* on the head.”

Mark 15:17-19- “And they put a purple robe on Him; and after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on Him; And they began to salute Him, and kept on saying, “Hail, King of the Jews! Then they struck His head with a rod, and spit on Him; and kneeling down, they bowed in worship to Him.”

John 19:2-5- “And after platting a crown of thorns, the soldiers put it on His head; and they threw a purple cloak over Him, And kept on saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him with the palms of their hands. Then Pilate went out again and said to them, “Behold, I bring Him out to you, so that you may know that I do not find any fault in Him.” Then Jesus went out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak; and he said to them, “Behold the Man!”

Even before our Lord Jesus was given this “royal treatment”, He was beaten and scourged to near beyond recognition.

Matthew 27:26- “Then he released Barabbas to them; but after scourging Jesus, he delivered *Him* up so that He might be crucified.”

Mark 15:15- “So Pilate, willing to do whatever would satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them. And after he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him up to be crucified.”

John 19:1- “Then Pilate therefore took Jesus and scourged Him.”

But Jesus knew ahead of time what He would face and have to endure to fulfill God’s plan of salvation.

Isaiah 53:3-5- “*He is* despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from Him, He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our infirmities, and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He *was* wounded for our transgressions; *He was* crushed for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace *was* upon Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed.”

His earthly coronation was finished with three nails and a cross. His Words are His oath and they will echo for eternity. “Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”- **Luke 23:34**

His thrown is at the Right Hand of God the Father **(Mark 16:19, Luke 22:69, 1 Peter 3:22)**.

While our Lord and Savior was not afforded all of the splendor associated with the coronation of a King, He’s coming back as the KING of KINGS and the LORD of LORDS.

God has given Jesus His new attire suitable for the King of kings.

Revelation 19:11-16- “And I saw heaven open; and behold, a white horse; and He Who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He does judge and make war. And His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns; *and* He had a name written that no one knows except Him. And *He was* clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is The Word of God. And the armies in heaven were following Him on white horses; *and* they were clothed in fine linen, white and pure. And out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He shall shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury and the wrath of the Almighty God. And on *His* garment and on His thigh He has a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Philippians 2:9-11- “Therefore, God has also highly exalted Him and bestowed upon Him a name which *is* above every name; That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *beings* in heaven and on earth and under the earth, And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord to *the* glory of God *the* Father.” **(Romans 14:11)** When this event comes to pass, unlike King Charles III or any earthly king, ***all*** of humanity will bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen.

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