

---

# IS JESUS KING?

Rev. Dr. James M. Coleman

---

The Jews faced this question and answered "Let Him be crucified," and while their decision sent Jesus to the cross, it left the Jews without a country. Rome answered in the same way, and we have only the ruins of her Forum to show her ancient glory. Shall modern nations follow the same course and meet the same fate as Judea and Rome?

What will the United States do with Jesus who is called the Christ? History shows that while the answer may be delayed it cannot be evaded, and as the answer is for or against the Christ, will the nation live or die. Will this Republic meet the conditions of life?

This is a question which vitally concerns every citizen and therefore concerns you. Getting right on questions of money and tariffs and trusts is of less account than getting right with God.

What claim has Jesus Christ to be our king? Will you read this message before you decide what your duty is to Him?

## JESUS CHRIST A KING

When Jesus was brought before Pilate on the charge of treason, the Roman judge said to Him, "Art thou the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "Askest thou this question from the Roman or the Jewish point of view?" Pilate retorted scornfully, "Am I a Jew?" "Thine own people have turned your case over to me and I am trying your case as a Roman Governor." With that explanation Jesus said to him, "My throne does not depend on soldiers for its support. I am come to rule in the hearts of men and therefore am no rival of the Caesars. As proof of this I forbade my servants to defend me from arrest. My kingdom does not get its character nor its strength from earthly sources."

Then Pilate asked, "Art thou a king in the sense you have stated?" Jesus replied, "Thou hast rightly judged. I am a king. For this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world that I might bear witness to the truth." If in that hour when He was facing death, Jesus rightly stated the purpose of His coming to this world, we can not think that He will regard lightly a denial of His claim.

## AUTHORITY OVER MEN

In the great commission which Jesus gave to His disciples for the conquest of the world He declared, "All authority is given to me in heaven and on earth." This statement has no conditions attached, no limitations. It does not refer to some future possibility, but to a present fact. Men use authority in family, in church, in government, and in business. Whence does it come? Jesus Christ declares that it comes from Him. That is either a sublime truth which makes each man using authority in business, or politics, or in the family, a steward, who must give account of his stewardship to God, or else it is the baseless claim of an impostor.

Paul supports the claim of Jesus when he writes to the Romans, "There is no authority but of God", and also in his letter to Timothy where he calls Jesus Christ "the King of kings and the Lord of lords." The Old Testament furnishes many instances of the claims of Jesus such as that expressed in the second Psalm, "Now therefore be wise, O ye kings; be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve Jehovah.

Many men have denied His authority. Does that make His claim void?

## DECLARATION OF PROPHECY

In the revelation which was made to John while an exile on Patmos he heard a great voice which announced, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ." That meant the realization of the end which Jesus Christ came to earth to secure, since it proclaimed Him king; it is the answer to the Christian's prayer, "Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." Unless the truth of the Bible, the prayers of Christians and the work of Christ shall all fail, Jesus Christ will and must be recognized as king. This is to be the consummation of history, the realization of prophecy. He would be king not that He may lead armies, or command armored fleets, not that He may sit on a throne at Washington, or Jerusalem. He is to rule in spirit, and His will is to be the social law, so that men may be obedient to their king in every field of human action.

Above the duty of the citizen to Legislature and Congress, above that owed to President and Court and Country, is the obligation to be loyal to Jesus Christ. This is the supreme individual and national issue.

## AMERICA AND CHRIST

Do the American people believe in Jesus Christ? Are they willing to follow him? The war has shown that our people would not withhold their sons, or their wealth, when country and humanity called for sacrifice. Are they ready to make a like sacrifice for the Christ? What is the answer? Is there anywhere, nineteen centuries after the supreme sacrifice of Calvary, a Christian community, or city, or nation? We are not Mohammedan, or Buddhist, or Confucian, but we are not evangelically Christian. By the grace of God the demon of alcohol is being cast out, but sexual vices are demoralizing the home, greed rules in the market, a tidal wave of profanity defiles the common speech, and the Lord's Day, set apart to keep in memory the resurrection of our Saviour, and to learn the way of life, is becoming a German holiday. For these sins, that are sapping the vitality of American life, there is one sovereign cure—the Christ—Christ in the whole life of the individual and the city and the nation. Our hope is in a social transformation through the Holy Spirit.

## NEUTRALITY IMPOSSIBLE

When the great war began in 1914, and for some time after, we tried to keep out of the strife, but the issues were too great and the world too small, therefore our policy of neutrality failed.

Our fathers took a neutral attitude in the great campaign which Jesus Christ is carrying on for the conquest of the world and that policy has failed. When they framed our Magna Charta, the Federal Constitution, they ignored Jesus Christ. As between Jesus and the gods of the heathen they made no choice. This land was to be absolutely neutral on that one great issue which Jesus came into the world to force home on the conscience of men, His Kingship. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me." Neutrality fails.

Neither may we remain divided on this supreme issue. Lincoln said, "We cannot remain half slave and half free," and the land is free. Sam Jones said, "We cannot remain half drunk and half sober," and we are getting sober. Jesus said, "A house divided against itself can not stand," and this is on the way to proof. We cannot keep Jesus in the heart, in the church and in the

home and bar him from the market and the forum. With the applications for divorce in some of our large cities equalling one-third the number of marriages, we read in startling figures the menace to the home. Either Mammon and lust will disintegrate the church and the home, or else the church, by the grace of God, will make faith in Jesus Christ the dominant influence in every day life. "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve."

## CHRIST IN THE HEART THEN IN THE LAW

Alexander Hamilton defined the Constitution as "A declaration of the principles by which we have chosen to be governed." The Constitution is the law that all the people make, it is made up of the principles of administration, and it is in the Constitution that a regenerated nation will finally write its confession of faith in the people's King, Jesus Christ. First must he be enthroned in the whole life of the people and then—and only then—shall that new faith in our Lord find expression in the institutions and laws of our country.

America First—for Christ, then the world for Christ.

What the cause of missions lacks today to give it driving force is the example of a people following Jesus Christ.

## SHALL AMERICA FURNISH THE EXAMPLE?

In the mind of millions our Republic is the land of promise and our institutions are the model by which they seek to plan their own.

This nation is as a city set on a hill which all may see; if our citizens would accept Jesus Christ as the Lord of life, nations would be born in a day.

---

"Grace to you and peace . . . from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth".

---

## WITNESS COMMITTEE

Appointed by the R. P. Synod  
Millvale R 4 - Pittsburgh, Pa.