

Raised to Reign

Acts 13:13-52

Main Point: *God raised the Lord Jesus to reign as king, deliverer, and bestower of eternal life.*

Introduction:

Why did God raise the Lord Jesus from the dead? Most Christians will answer by saying: to prove He was God! Yes, and amen! But there is a deeper reason, a more biblical reason: that the Lord Jesus may reign as our king. Now there are some theologians and pastors who make the claim that Jesus is not reigning as king right now, but only as a priest (making intercession). Others have claimed that He won't reign as king until the future – either a millennial kingdom or the new age to come. He is king in heaven, but not on earth.

Some will say that Satan is king of the earth, but not the Lord Jesus... To all of these claims, Luke tells us something very different. As we have shown you throughout this series, the resurrection of the Lord Jesus inaugurates the promised kingdom of God, which the prophets foretold. Let us pray...

Orienting the Text: Where we are in the story

A brief reminder on where we are in the story of Acts so far. After the Lord Jesus is resurrected back to life, He appears to his disciples and other followers for 40 days, teaching them about the kingdom of God. They ask the burning question that any faithful first century Jew would ask (one that many are still asking today): is now the time that you are restoring the kingdom to Israel? Jesus answers the question by redirecting them to the wider purposes God has for them: they will receive power of the promised Holy Spirit, and when they do, they will be witnesses of Jesus's kingship for not only Israel, but for Samaritans, and eventually the ends of the earth (Gentile people). And so, Luke has taken us on a geographical journey, from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria (Philip), and now to Gentiles. What began with the conversion of a single Gentile under Peter (Cornelius) has now become a full-blown mission with the church in Antioch, and the sending out of Paul & Barnabas.

Let's turn to Acts 13... Last week we saw how the Apostles were traveling along the Roman roads from city to city preaching the gospel of Jesus. Their pattern was to start in the synagogue first, and then to the general Greek population.

Exposition of Acts 13:13-52

Let's pick up where we left off last week...

Paul and Barnabas arrive in Antioch of Psidia

Acts 13:13-15 - Lest we become confused with the Antioch they had just left; this Antioch is a region in the mountains of northern Turkey. As was their practice, P & B go to the synagogue in the hopes of reaching Jewish worshippers with the gospel of Jesus. Now it was common practice that after the reading of the Law/Prophets, guest teachers would be invited to offer a word of encouragement based on the scriptural reading just given.

So, Paul has quite a long word, as you can see. However, while I will move through the text quickly in order to make the most of our time, I want you to see how Paul emphasizes exaltation of Israel, with Jesus, and the raising up of king David with the resurrection of Jesus. Second, I also want us to pay attention to the Old Testament scriptures Paul refers to in his explication of Jesus's identity. Remember, the Old Testament was the bible of these early believers, and they found in Israel's book prophetic promises which God made to His people, promises that P & B believed were being fulfilled in the present day through Jesus. Lets read on...

Acts 13:16-25 -

Interestingly enough, in the Old Testament God is the one who most often is referred to as Savior; however, the way in which Messiah is described in the Old Testament and other Jewish literature suggests that a future Messiah would indeed be the ruling king who would save and deliver the people from their enemies and restore

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Israel's greatness. But here, Paul makes a direct link between God's promise for a future Davidic king, and a future savior.

Acts 13:26-33a - Paul rehearses the horrific and unjust circumstances surrounding Jesus's crucifixion. But Jesus does not stay! Instead He is risen again. Now Paul shows how Jesus, as Messiah-Lord, is grounded in the scripture.

Acts 13:33b - Now Psalm 2 has a promise: that the Son of God, this Davidic ruler, would be installed on the holy hill of Zion (near the temple) and receive the Gentile nations as his own inheritance.

Psalm 2:8

Jesus is raised to reign as King and Lord

Acts 13:34-35 - Now look at this. Here Paul quotes from two texts: Isa. 55:3 and Psalm 16. In Isaiah 55, the prophet celebrates the fact that God will enable the people to return from exile, and He will become their king. He will become their king through a future Messiah-type figure. In Isa. 53, this figure called the Servant, will offer himself as atoning sacrifice on behalf of the people.

Isa. 53:4-6 - This servant's sacrifice would open the way for the people to be restored, and experience God's presence again, as He dwells among them as their king. Well, in Isa. 55, the prophet announces that the people will receive the promises of an everlasting kingdom through Davidic figure, who suffers on their behalf in order to deliver and cleanse them to be in God's presence.

Jesus is raised to deliver/save people from their sins

Paul pairs this text with Psalm 16. He quotes this text: Psalm 16:10

Now, if you read the next verse, it gives you the significance of why this is so important: Psalm 16:11

Jesus is raised to overcome death and grant people everlasting life in God's presence

So, we have a king who is a ruler, a deliverer, and an overcomer. Now Paul goes on to apply this:

Acts 13:36-39 - This word freed can also be translated as "justified". To be justified, biblically speaking, is to be counted as righteous or "in the right". As if a judge declares you in the right, or not guilty, thereby setting you free from any condemnation or penalty of the law. Paul says, this Jesus, the Messiah, who rules, delivers, and overcomes, enables both Jews and Gentiles to be freed/justified, from that which the Law of Moses never could. This leads to an important question: what exactly did the law of Moses promise to the people? I want to sum up in one word: *eternal life in God's presence*. I'll give you one example:

Deuteronomy...

Now Paul goes on to warn them to not turn away from this good news!

Acts 13:40-52

The Apostles (church) is called to carry on the work of Jesus in the world through the power of the Spirit

Main Point:

God raised the Lord Jesus to reign as king, deliverer, and bestower of eternal life

Application: Enjoying the Benefits of the Reign of King Jesus

What are the benefits King Jesus offers?

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1. gracious governance
2. once-for-all deliverance
3. eternal life

How do we enjoy these benefits, practically speaking?

1. You have a king! (you can't control circumstances, but you can *trust*)
2. You have a savior! (you can't fix yourself, but you can *follow*)
3. You have eternal life! (you can't predict the future, but you can *hope*)

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Exposition of Acts 13:13-52

Acts 13:13-33

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Acts 13:34-35

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Jesus is raised to overcome death and grant people everlasting life in God's presence

Application: The Benefits of King Jesus

How do we enjoy the benefits of King Jesus's reign?

4. You have a king! (you can't control circumstances, but you can *trust*)
5. You have a savior! (you can't fix yourself, but you can *follow*)
6. You have eternal life! (you can't predict the future, but you can *hope*)

Questions for Small Group:

- 1) What OT scriptures does Paul use to explain the reign of Jesus? Why is this important?
- 2) Why does the resurrection of Jesus matter so much to Paul? Why should it matter to us as today?
- 3) Which "benefit" of Jesus's reign (king, savior, eternal life) are you needing to be most reminded of right now in your life?