

John 17 – The Greatest Prayer. (6) Christ Jesus glorified at the Father's right hand. (refs for Bible study 7/12/17).

Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son also may glorify you. v1

And now, O Father, glorify me together with yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was. v5

When everything seems to be out of control in this world, what we need is a fresh glimpse of King Jesus! He is now seated, glorified at the Father's right-hand, where he intercedes for us, and where he reigns, Eph.1v20-23. (After his ascension Jesus sent the Spirit, Jn.14v16-17, Ac.2v33, Jn.7v39, who also intercedes for us, Rm.8v26.)

King and Priest: Is he King or is he Priest? Answer: both! The OT prepares us for this. Kings came from the tribe of Judah, and priests from the tribe of Levi. No-one was permitted to hold both offices. When King Uzziah tried to usurp the work of priest God struck him with leprosy. So he could no longer be king or priest, 2Chr.26v16-23. Yet Ps.110 speaks of one who is uniquely both King and Priest, Ps.110v1, Hb.1v13, Ac.2v34-35, Ps.110v4.

King over all: Paul has this psalm in mind in Eph.1v20-23. He tells us that Christ is reigning as King far above all things, and for all time. Now the kingdom of God on earth is invisible – it's his reign in the hearts and lives of his people. But his rule is far greater in scope than that. He rules over all things earthly *and* heavenly, Mt.28v18. He has unlimited power and unparalleled honour. Therefore, whatever our situation, we need not fear!

King and Saviour: In Bible times those who were good kings were regarded as the saviour of their people, so it is quite logical for Isaiah to tell his compatriots: '*The LORD is our King, he will save us*', Is.33v22. Eph.1v22-23 tells us that Christ's kingly rule is for the benefit of his redeemed people, the church of which he is head. He saves his people, Ac.5v31. His headship is like that of head to the body – a caring, living, intimate relationship. As the glorified God-Man he rules with absolute power, yet all human sympathy. We ought never to say 'no-one understands me'!

The King and his glory: We have seen that Jesus' prayer that the Father would glorify him was answered in stages: through his cross, resurrection, ascension, and then at the Father's right-hand where he continues as our Priest and King. He is glorified as our King, and he ever reigns over all things as head of the church. He continues to be glorified by the salvation of his people, Jn.17v2-3. And as a consequence should be glorified in our lives, 2Cor.3v18, Is.11v9, 1Cor.10v31.

- Let us be sure, that in all things and at all times, we make his glory our aim.
- Let us thank him that he ever uttered this prayer, and that the prayer has been and is being answered.