**“Reign”**

#

Psalm 110

 Christmas Eve

Christmas Peace be yours from God our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord.

Earthly kingdoms come and go. They rise and fall according to the whims of **human** momentum. Ironically, when they are **most in decline** is while momentum pushes towards some greater sense of privilege.

Opulence has been earth’s display of kingship since kingship began. Palaces, castles, and the extent of gold plating or marble, gardens and yards and, even enslaved or hired servants and protocol and pomp mark and guard the Caste System of royalty over and against the proletariat … “common” folk. From Buckingham Palace (and the palace of Saudi Arabia’s ruler) to Vanderbilt’s Biltmore, or the White House or Mar-a-Lago or Michael Jackson’s Neverland or Elvis’ Graceland, **friends** of a (quote) “king” or “queen” is as close as one can get to royalty, protected as “royalty” for a time. Ultimately, “royalty” is, though, only humans **considered it** for a while. Behind all the special treatments, a king or queen puts on their pants one leg at a time just like the rest of us. They sneeze and cough … they belch and yawn when sleepy … they chew their food before swallowing … and they get sick and proceed towards a death for their sins.

**3**

It's been that way, among human kings, since the beginning. In 1st Samuel, chapter 8, God warned Israel about kings like **as with other cultures**. The most historically commended by God, David, connived and stole a man’s wife, killed the man, covered it up, and then didn’t even know he’d done anything wrong.

**2**

**What if a different kind of king would arise? What if a king worthy of the task ushered in a forever Good kingdom of divine origin?**

I’ve watched (and enjoyed) the TV series, “The Crown”, where the “Crown” (and monarchy / the office itself) was positioned as so much bigger by miles than the person, so thought that good. And it acknowledged that the “Crown” reported to God, so that too, good. But Elizabeth was a young girl, overwhelmed by the task, almost enslaved by it, and it clearly was not something any mere human ought or could undertake. There’s many pushing to end the idea of a British monarchy. It’s already considered an **unsuccessful (and unsustainable) institution**. And who (historically) could disagree?

One “different” would have to be **extremely different**. It’d have to be “out-of-this-world” different, which is the reason for Christmas and all of 4,000 years that ran-up to it. Something “out-of-this-world” different would arrive on this earth. This **One** embedded yet of and **from a throne-room not imagined for splendor in human idea**. As a matter of fact, **human splendor would be insignificant to such a real King beyond earth**. If One would intersect with humanity to bring an eternal kingdom unconcerned with sight to reign, He’d be probably born in the unexpected place of an animal’s barn then laid in a feed trough.

**1**

And **THAT** **God’s own Son was**. King David called Him rightly **his Lord**. Psalm 110 is considered the Christmas Psalm because it’s quoted by the Christmas King and His followers as **of Him**, describing and predicting Him before He even ever came, physically, to Bethlehem. History would account Him like this:

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no **place for them in the inn**.

And in the same region there were **shepherds** out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who **is Christ the Lord**. And this will be a sign for you: **you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger**.’ 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 among those with whom he is pleased!’**

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘**Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us**.’ And **they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger**. And **when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child**. And all who heard it **wondered at what the shepherds told them**. But **Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart**. And **the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them**.

Only a **real King (divine, as in the Son of God Himself)** would be worthy to arrive without earthly pomp … yet, certainly, with Heaven’s note.

**IT WAS GOD’S “MIGHTY SCEPTER” WHO HAD COME TO ZION**

**(like Psalm had 110 predicted)**.

There is a verse at the end of Psalm 110 (it’s a Psalm of only 7 verses), and that verse describes the “**humiliation**” of God in Christ Jesus with, then, a notice of the “**glorification**” **of His forever kingdom**: “He (this divine King) will **drink from the brook by the way**”, and **that’s the miracle that is Emmanuel** (that God was made to be “with us” in every human “way”, “walking a”, though, “perfect walk though tempted in all ways as we are, yet without sin”, “drinking” from the suffering and death of sin, however, to make a substitutional and sufficient sacrifice for the wages of what we and humanity’s done to ourselves in selfish ambitions and rebellions against divinity and every neglect and wrong turn and seemingly unforgiveable decision ever man (we’ve) made. He was recognized by the grateful as Emmanuel (Jesus by name / “God saves”) because He (God’s Son “through whom all things were created”) **SAVED** by, for us, drinking-in suffering and Holy death. ….

What is **neat** is that the divine sacrifice from Heaven’s throne became **holdable … in a mother’s arms**. He ventured through the humanly natural means of a birth canal to be, then, cleaned up and nursed to grow, be viewable by shepherds and wise men and (by the way) **any bothering to look or hear about it** from the time it took Him to get to a cross. ….

As holdable as He’d made Himself to be, what He did was make, also, **humans holdable by His arms which He now still has raised from death and, now again, reigning from Heaven**. Tonight’s not the end of the story / just an obvious event in the will of the Holy Godhead executed through a historical delivery in a stable … in a town … in a region upon this planet. ….

You will likely open gifts this night or tomorrow. Each will have as a **source (an origination point)** not a store, really, or a person’s pocket book or an idea thought up by humanity. **Gifts extend … always … from** **THE GIFT OF EMMANUEL** **to the world that needed (and still does) a** **KING LIKE THE LORD JESUS**. Born with no need for human momentum, **God’s will and love** gifted you **what occurred, remembered his night, and all that would come of it**. The King reigns **of Whose His Kingdom** **the Bethlehem baby begins**. May that beginning’s remembrance this night be the beginning (or continuation and growth) of **our** **forever-loving of that**. Merry Christmas … in His (+Jesus’) name. Amen.