

Jesus the Revolutionary and his Kingdom
New Pilgrim Baptist Church Bible Study
Pastor Marcus Jerkins, PhD
3/20/24

Who might this be?

There was a man from Galilee. He led a group of people in order to establish the kingdom of God. He argued that only God would rule him and his people. He was willing to die for the kingdom of God so the people God could be free from oppression. Who is this person? []

The Revolutionaries of Israel

Revolutionaries came and went in Israel. They were tired of the colonial rule of Rome. Convinced of God's promises to one day free Israel from their oppressors (see Deut 28-30), they would often fight violently expecting God's aid. Those who thought of themselves as chosen for the task of leading Israel's liberation would do whatever it took to free Israel. Coins were printed in an effort to show the kingdom had come, Israel would be free when they fought in the 60s and 130s AD.

Israel's Bondage and Hope (2 Chron 36:15-22; Dan 9:20-27)

But the other question comes, how did Israel get into bondage. We know in 586 BC the Babylonian empire sacked the temple and completed their conquest of Judah. They were then overrun by the Persians who allowed Israel to go back to the land. But then the Hellenistic forces came and then the Romans came. But Scripture gives the cause as the sins of Israel. If the sins of Israel placed them in bondage under powers of other gods, demons, then breaking the power of sin and that of the devil was the solution. In so doing, this would not only change Israel's fate but that of the world.

Jesus the King (2 Sam 7:12-16; Ps 2:7-9; Mark 1:11-15)

-Jesus of Nazareth was born as a successor to the Davidic line. His role reestablished the rightful Jewish monarchy, according to Christian views (see Matt 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38).
-As such, Jesus was the Messiah, the anointed one, (*Christos* = Anointed/Chosen)
-The Messiah was to be known not only as the "son of David" but also known as the "Son of God."

Jesus the Revolutionary (Luke 4:16-21; Matt 12:28)

Jesus established his kingdom through casting out declaring the good news, casting out demons, and healing sicknesses. These were all signs of God's presence coming to the Israel and transforming the world. Jesus was revolutionizing what it meant to be a revolutionary, to overthrow oppression, and bring the kingdom of God to the world. His revolution would not be done through force of arms but through suffering love.

The Coming of Kingdom of God (Matt 27:45-55; 28:17-20)

The Kingdom (Gk.= *basilea*) of God meant more than just a country with territories in a normal political sense. Israel had lost its kingdom. Theirs was under the control of others for most of their existence as people. But God was about to establish his order, his control, his reign not only over Israel but over all of the world. The whole earth belongs to God. The point of Israel was to make that clear to everyone. But Israel failed in their mission through idolatry. Jesus came to not only rescue Israel and from their idolatry but every nation whom God had chosen. The revolution of life had to happen, death, itself, had to be defeated.