



The Saviour King

Two thousand years ago, a King came into our world. God, clothed in humanity, came to the people whom He had created. At His birth Jesus startled the local ruler, though King Herod need not have panicked. Jesus had not come as a military power. Instead, His reign was going to be marked by different priorities. He said, 'I came not to be served, but to serve and to give My life as a ransom for many.'

The crown He wore was made of thorns. When He died everyone forsook Him. Crucified, Jesus was carrying on Himself the sin and rebellion of the world. He was paying the penalty for the guilt of His citizens, that we might be set free. He had come to establish a different kind of kingdom.

His body did not lie in state; He was buried in a borrowed garden tomb. But He did something that no earthly monarch can do: three days later He rose from the dead, and is now exalted in heaven. His throne lasts for ever. He rules in goodness and righteousness. Jesus Christ never abuses His power but does what is right to all, guiding each person who turns to Him. He forgives and receives anyone who is willing to renounce their own way and trust in Him as Lord and Saviour. The

Bible says there will come a day when every knee will bow before King Jesus. Every believer and non-believer will acknowledge Him. He is the King of kings.

Those in the Commonwealth are citizens over whom King Charles reigns, but Jesus invites people from every nation who 'are weary and heavy laden' to come to Him and belong in the kingdom of heaven. As well as singing 'God save the King', you and I need to pray 'God save me!' God promises to hear and answer those who truly ask for forgiveness. To know that we are citizens of the kingdom of heaven is the most assuring thing of all.

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During the coronation ceremony in 1953, the queen was presented with a Bible with the words:

Our gracious Queen: to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords.

Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God.



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GOD SAVE



THE KING

The coronation of King Charles III at Westminster Abbey reflects a new era of monarchy following the 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

The last time Britain held a coronation ceremony was on a very rainy 2 June 1953. The 27-year-old Queen Elizabeth was crowned sixteen months after she had become queen. Four-year-old Prince Charles received a special handwritten invitation to the spectacle.



In his mind, for most of his life, King Charles III has been preparing for his coronation. No British prince has ever waited longer. The moment the Queen

died, the throne passed immediately and without ceremony to the heir, Charles, the former Prince of Wales.

But the symbolic high point of the accession will be the coronation on 6 May 2023, when Charles is formally crowned. Pageantry, tradition, religion and ceremony combine to create a spectacular occasion.

For over 950 years coronations have been held in Westminster Abbey – William the Conqueror being the first monarch to be crowned there in 1066, whilst Charles will be the fortieth. Alongside him will be Camilla, Queen Consort. They will be crowned and anointed with oil, having both

travelled there in the magnificent Gold State Coach.

The Symbolism

Two crowns will be used by the monarch. At the climax of the ceremony, which is presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the king will sit on King Edward's Chair, following the pattern of almost every monarch since the fourteenth century.



St Edward's Crown, hand-crafted in solid gold with a cross at its centre, will be placed on Charles' head. This

is the only time that the crown, dating from 1661, is worn by the monarch (not least because it weighs a hefty 2.23kg – almost 5lbs).

The Imperial State Crown is the 'working crown' used for state openings of Parliament. Weighing

less than half that of St Edward's, this crown is adorned with 2,868 diamonds, as well as rubies, pearls, emeralds and sapphires.

King Charles will hold two sceptres. The first is the Sovereign's Sceptre, a three foot-long golden staff based on a shepherd's crook, with a cross on top symbolising the power of kingship under God's own rule. The second is called the Rod of Equity and Mercy, to remind the new sovereign to show compassion and kindness to his people.

The king will be given the Sovereign's Orb, a hollow golden sphere with a cross at its top. The orb is a reminder that above this new king reigns a greater King, whose kingdom covers the entire globe.



The golden Coronation Ring, inlaid with diamonds, rubies and sapphires for the colours of England and Scotland, is worn by the monarch to show his 'marriage' to the nation.

The Service

The coronation oath will be taken in front of Heads of State and representatives of the Houses of Parliament and the Church of England, as well as the watching world, as Charles III is confirmed Head of the Commonwealth – an association of 56 independent countries and 2.5 billion people. For fourteen of these countries, as well as the UK, the king is Head of State.

Music, readings and the ritual of anointing the new monarch, using oils of orange flowers, roses, cinnamon, musk and ambergris, are each part of the elaborate ceremony.

The Song

*'God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King!
God save the King...'*

Finally, the gathered congregation will sing the National Anthem, dating back to 1745. It speaks of two kings: our new king, Charles III, and Almighty God, the King of kings. In many ways our monarch is a rock to the nation, but he, like everyone else, needs his own Rock, on whom he can always rely. Hence the words, 'God save the King'.

Those words point to two kingdoms: the one over which King Charles reigns, and the one under which he serves. These two kingdoms are very different. We do not yet know the length of King Charles' reign, but this second kingdom will never end.