

My Kingdom is Not of This World (Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year B)

Daniel 7:13-14—The Coming of the Son of Man

1. Daniel: prophet during the Babylonian Exile (ca. 587 B.C.)
2. Son of Man:
 - a. “One like a son of man”: heavenly being who appears human? (cf. Dan 7:13)
 - b. Divine: comes with “the clouds of heaven” (divine transport)?
3. Ancient of Days: God seated on his throne (cf. Dan 7:9)
4. Kingdom:
 - a. Heavenly: “clouds of heaven” (7:13)
 - b. Universal: “all peoples, nations, and languages” (7:14; cf. Moses)
 - c. Everlasting: “everlasting dominion... shall not pass away” (7:14; cf. David)

Psalm 93—The Lord is King

1. The LORD (Hebrew *Yhwh*) “reigns” as King (v. 1)
2. Everlasting Kingdom: “throne” is “from of old,” from “everlasting” (v. 2)

Revelation 1:5-8—The Coming of Jesus Christ

1. Jesus Christ: “ruler of kings on earth” (1:5)
2. Kingdom: he is “coming with the clouds” (1:7; cf. Dan 7:13-14)

John 18:33-37—“My Kingdom is Not of This World”

1. Praetorium: Jesus Before Pilate (18:33)
2. Pilate’s Interrogation (18:33-35)
 - a. “Are you the king of the Jews?”
 - b. “Am I a Jew?”
 - c. “What have you done?”
3. Jesus’ Response: (18:36)
 - a. Nature: “My kingdom (Greek *basileia*) is not of this world” (18:36)
 - b. Worldly Kingdom: “My servants would fight...” (18:36)
 - c. Origin: “My kingdom (Greek *basileia*) is not from the world” (18:36)
4. Jesus’ Mission (18:37)
 - a. Affirmation: “You say I am a king” (18:37)
 - b. Mission: “to bear witness (Greek *martyreō*) to the truth” (18:37)
- [5. Pilate’s Question: “What is truth?” (18:38) (‘Patron Saint’ of Relativism!)]

The Living Tradition

Indeed, his kingdom is here until the end of time, and until the harvest comes will contain weeds... And this could not happen if the kingdom were not here. But even so, it is not *from here*, for it is in exile in the world. Christ says to his kingdom, “You are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world” (John 15:19)... [E]veryone who is reborn

in Christ becomes the kingdom that is no longer of the world. For God has snatched us from the powers of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. (Augustine, *Tractates on the Gospel of John*, 115.2; trans. in J. C. Elowsky, p. 290)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (34th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B)

1. What does Daniel see in his vision? Who is the Ancient of Days? Who is the “one like a Son of Man”? Is he human, or heavenly?

2. Is Pilate right or wrong to think that the “kingdom” of Jesus is a threat to the Roman empire?

3. What does Jesus mean when he says that his “kingdom” is not “of this world”? What is Jesus’ kingdom?

For Further Study

1. Joel C. Elowsky, ed. *John 1-10*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament IVa. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2006. An excellent collection of passages from the Church Fathers on the Gospel of John. Regarding Jesus’ statements on the kingdom, see pp. 288-92.