

JOHN 18:33-37

‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ Pilate asked. Jesus replied, ‘Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?’ Pilate answered, ‘Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?’ Jesus replied, ‘Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.’ ‘So you are a king then?’ said Pilate. ‘It is you who say it’ answered Jesus. ‘Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.’

COMMENTARY: This text begins the unfolding of the reality of Jesus' kingship. It is a kingship that can be difficult to see, for it is manifest in crucifixion rather than in political dominance. Today, Jesus' kingship can be difficult to see for the same reasons.

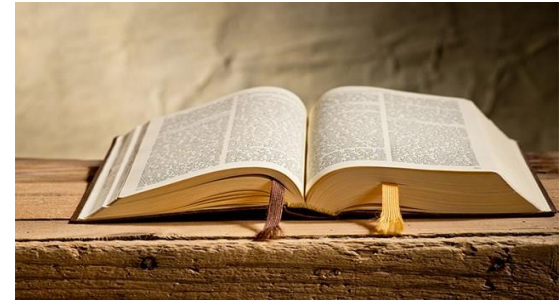
Jesus claims that his kingship is not of this world. If this is true then where is it? Teresa of Avila advises that if we really want to find it then “look within”.

You may find it helpful at this stage to discuss prayer, especially ‘the Jesus prayer’.

Also, if the kingdom is not of this world, how does it relate to our lives in the present moment?

Liturgy of The Word

24.11.24
CHRIST THE KING



The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;
the Lord has robed himself with might,
he has girded himself with power.

The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

The world you made firm, not to be moved;
your throne has stood firm from of old.
From all eternity, O Lord, you are.

The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Truly your decrees are to be trusted.
Holiness is fitting to your house,
O Lord, until the end of time.

DANIEL 7:13-14

I gazed into the visions of the night.
And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,
one like a son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.
On him was conferred sovereignty,
glory and kingship,
and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants.
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty
which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

COMMENTARY: Just prior to the selected text, Daniel who is witnessing a vision of the kingship of God, whereby God is referred to as “an ancient one” is now focussing on the eternal kingship that will be given to one like a son of man, meaning a human being. This kingdom will be open to all peoples.

In the gospels Jesus is sometimes surprised by the faith of people who are outsiders: *When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith” Matt 8:10*

REVELATION 1:5-8

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the First-Born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega’ says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

COMMENTARY: Revelation refers to an “unveiling,” of a worldview previously hidden from ordinary eyes; especially from the eyes of the oppressed people of Asia Minor. This book, Revelation, was written to an oppressed group of people who experienced a nightmare from Imperial rule.

In the text here we see the eternal nature of the kingdom of God emphasised, as well as the consequences of this for humanity. What God has done for us through Jesus, is perhaps the point to ponder with this reading.