

Intro: We have looked at the Messianic titles of our Lord Jesus Christ: the Corner, the Nail, the Battle Bow, and now finally, the Ruler.

-The construction of the last clause of our text is rather peculiar in the original and therefore has led to conflicting translations and interpretations.

-The Hebrew word literally signifies "the Exactor", therefore the Ruler: "out of him shall come forth he that will rule all together: the Absolute Ruler."

-This describes Christ as what he is through his first advent and what he shall be on his second advent.

I. THIS RULER IS HOPED FOR.

A. The LIGHT OF SALVATION, the LIGHT OF THE PROMISE, the HOPE OF A NEW DAY shines.

1. The light of promise did not shine very brightly before or even after the captivity of God's people in Babylon.
2. The night was growing darker and darker. Because of sin, oppressed with enemies, the condition of God's people seems hopeless.
3. In themselves, they are doomed to darkness, condemnation, and destruction. So also of us in ourselves!
4. But God is the faithful covenant God and comes with his prophecy & promise in Isa. 60: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come."
5. While connected with the promised seed of David, yet more is needed, "Out of him shall come he that will rule all together."

B. Israel had many types of this ruler that would save:

1. Joseph is a mighty ruler in Egypt sent by God to prepare the way and save Jacob's household.
2. Moses is prepared by God to deliver God's people from Egypt and rule them according to God's law.
3. During the period of the Judges, many men were given to deliver and rule God's people, yet could not unite them.
4. God gives King David and Solomon to fight his battles and usher in a time of peace and prosperity.
5. Many other godly kings would follow, but being men, they could only bring about temporary reform and peace.

C. The good news: Arise, shine, for thy light is come...."

1. "You shall know that I am the Lord am thy Savior and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob (Isa. 60:17)."
2. "I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness (Isa. 60:17)."
3. The Lord is their light and glory in the person that he will give: who will defeat all their enemies, and will cause the Gentiles to come.
4. This salvation is personified in God's man who will as God's viceroy rule God's people. Hope is given in darkness.

II. THE RULER HAS COME AND ESTABLISHED HIS KINGDOM

A. A willing people in the day of his power (Ps. 110:3).

1. This is indeed a military power. Having met the formidable enemy we are disillusioned in our own strengths: no confidence in flesh.
2. Our only security rests in the Captain of our salvation, fixing our eyes on the victor's crown he holds before us.
3. God powerfully pulls his Son from the depths of hell and death's great domain and says, "Sit Thou at my right hand until...."
4. God declares Christ to be "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Rev. 19). He has dominion over hosts of heaven and entire creation.
5. Nations may rage, people imagine vain things but God has entrusted to Christ an absolute sway over them all: an everlasting kingdom.
6. What Ps. 110:3 saw in prophecy we experience in reality. The kingdom is a present reality into which believers have been translated.

B. Today is the day of Christ's power and rule.

1. Once we saw Christ in the flesh in the manger and cross humbled as a lowly servant, the poorest of the poor.
2. The Captain of our salvation marched through death, hell, and grave, arising the mighty Conqueror to ascend to the highest position.
3. He is now in heaven living and reigning as our Advocate and Savior, the Shepherd-King, drawing his sheep into his fold.
4. God gives to this ruler a willing people: a church militant, the army of God fighting the battle of faith against Christ's & our enemies.
5. A grand army, every soldier fully equipped and known for courage, grace flowing by Christ's Spirit, going forth conquering & to conquer.

C. The kingdom this Ruler has established.

1. It is **the kingdom established** by his death and resurrection: his enemies defeated.
2. It is a kingdom that grows and increases by the Spirit that Christ has poured out on Pentecost.
3. He gathers his church by his Word and Spirit: in the line of our generations, in missions, the nations gathered to Zion.
4. It is **a spiritual kingdom**: premills and postmills look for a future carnal kingdom on earth: a kingdom of Jews or Christianized nations.
5. Christ already has dominion over land and sea, earth's remotest regions are now his empire, nations are presently serving her king.
6. Christ rules in the hearts and lives of his elect people. By grace they believe on his, confess him, fight against sin, and live by his law.
7. It is **a victorious kingdom**: both individually and corporately. Against all the opposition of Satan, world and power of sin, elect are saved.
8. The corporate and institutional form of the kingdom is the true church.

III. THE RULER SHALL PERFECT HIS KINGDOM.

A. Our prayer: "Thy Kingdom Come."

1. We ask the Lord to reign in our hearts, so that we may submit ourselves more and more to his good and wise rule over us.
2. We ask the Lord to continue his rule over his church, preserving her and increasing her.
3. We are looking for the progress of the kingdom till the full perfection of his kingdom take place, wherein he shall be all in all!

B. Christ's rule and kingdom are triumphant.

1. The kingdom is heavenly and spiritual. It has for walls salvation, and for its praise (Isa. 60:18).
2. The kingdom is advanced by the still, small word of the gospel: those who were citizens of this world become members of God's house.
3. That kingdom is present in this world, but as an outpost in enemy-held territory: therefore militant, a goodly horse in battle.
4. But there will be a new heavens and new earth, the final home of God's people.
5. The first heaven was affected by sin as was the first earth. Both will be restored by Christ.
6. In that world, there will be perfect submission to Christ's rule. Our eyes wait for that promised redemption.
7. Our prayer is, "Come Lord Jesus, come quickly."