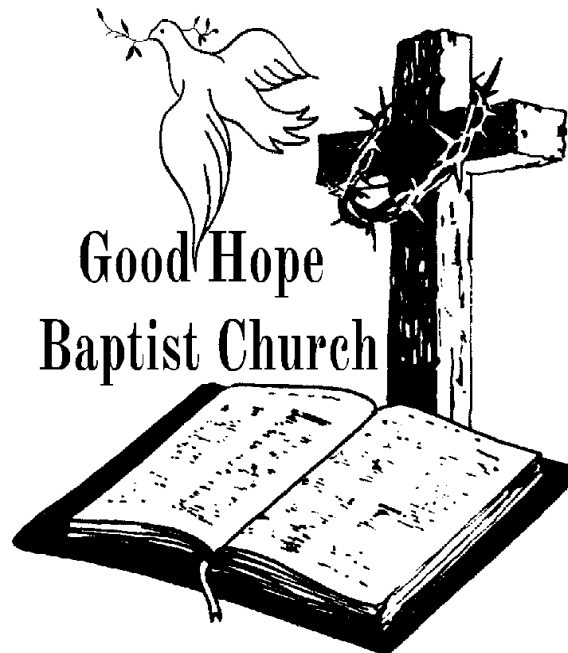


# There Is A King

Judges 17:6; Acts 16:31



Living Together In The Love Of God

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**FOCAL Read Together** Judges 17:6 <sup>(KJV)</sup> In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Acts 16:31 <sup>(KJV)</sup> .... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

One of the saddest statements found in the Bible is found in the Book of Judges. The statement is actually found *twice* - once in **Judges 17:6** and again in **Judges 21:25**. The statement is:

**"In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes."**

There was supposed to be a King in Israel. The Bible tells us that God called Israel to Himself, and set her apart from all other nations by *not* assigning her a king. The Lord told Israel:

**Deuteronomy 7:7-8 <sup>(KJV)</sup> The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.**

Israel was supposed to have a King, and that King was to be the Lord our God. The Lord told His people through the Prophet Isaiah:

**Isaiah 44:6** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.**

The **LORD, Eternal God, is the King of Israel**. He is the **Redeemer**. He is the **first and the last, the Alpha and Omega**. In the Book of Revelation we read we see that this **first and the last is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ**. Jesus said:

**Revelation 22:13** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **I {Jesus} am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.**

Jesus Christ is the Lord, the king of Israel. He is **King of Kings and Lord of Lords (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16)** to His people. God saved Israel and brought that nation out of Egypt. He put them in a Promised Land and told them that - as long as they followed Him - they would be undefeatable.

But Israel stopped following the Lord, and the nation fell. The **Book of Judges was written around 1000 BC**. If you follow God's Old Testament people from the writing of Judges all the way to the Book of Acts you will cover over a thousand years of human history. In that whole span of time you'll see one thing over and over again.

When God's people magnify their Lord as their King and obey Him, they are blessed and their communities

are blessed. But when God's people make the decision that **there is no King in Israel, but every man does that which is right in his own eyes**", then God's people ceased to have an effect on their society.

When we come to the New Testament we see something different. Israel failed for over a thousand years to follow the Lord God. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ:

**John 1:11** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **... came unto his own, and his own received him not.**

God came from Heaven and took on humanity through the virgin Mary. He came as Messiah - as Christ - for His people. But when Jesus came to Israel to redeem this nation they wouldn't have Him. **He came unto His own - the Jews - but His own received Him not**. Israel rejected the Messiah. But the Bible says:

**John 1:12-13** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

I love the **"buts"** of Scripture. Israel rejected Christ, so the Lord began calling Gentiles to salvation. Jesus said:

**John 10:16** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **... other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**

That introduction brings us to **Acts chapter 16**. What's going on in Acts 16? As I said before, Jesus Christ came from Heaven to this earth to save Israel. **He came unto His own**. But Beloved, there was **no King in Israel**. For over a thousand years Israel had followed a cycle of disobedience where they refused to follow the God Who saved them while *blending in with the world*. **Israel as a nation rejected the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior**. But God had made a decision to build His Church not just of Jews, but of Gentiles as well. The Bible says:

**Galatians 3:26-29 (KJV) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

Jesus Christ built His Church across ethnic lines. Whoever believed on Him became a part of His Church and a part of His Kingdom.

People are saved by believing **on the Lord Jesus Christ**. When we come to Acts 16 we see the Apostle Paul - God's emissary to the Gentiles - preaching that glorious Gospel - **believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**. Through the preaching of this Gospel Christ has built a Church that has stood every attack of Satan for over *two thousand years* now. When any person does as Paul said:

**Focal Acts 16:31 (KJV) .... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**

then you have a promise from God that *not only will you be saved*, but also **thy house**.

**Word Study** Listen Beloved, "**thy house**" is the Greek **OIKOS** which means **your community**.

When we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ it doesn't just effect us - it effects our world. It effects our children, our grandchildren, our spouses, our friends, our relatives, our neighborhoods. **Our faith is the spark that ignites our light**. We are to be the Light of the world, and as we believe we light the world. Jesus said:

**Matthew 5:14-16 (KJV) Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Let's take a look the Gospel message that Paul preached, and see how it lit his world!

### **1. We Who Are Saved Have Believed On The Lord Jesus CHRIST**

**Focal Acts 16:31 (KJV) .... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ ...**

**Word Study** To be saved is to believe on the Lord Jesus CHRIST. What does that mean, CHRIST?

**Christ** is actually a Greek word **CHRISTOS** that was *transliterated* into English rather than *translated*. You see, the word "**Christ**" if translated means "**the Anointed One, the Chosen One, the Messiah**".

From the very beginning of the Bible God promised to send a Messiah, a Redeemer Who would restore us to Himself. The Old Testament contains many *prophecies about a Messiah Whom God would send* to deliver Israel, while saving other nations as well. The prophecies of the Messiah were very specific. Just a few of them were:

**1** The Messiah would enter this life, being born in Bethlehem.

**Micah 5:2** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; One will come from you to be ruler over Israel for Me. His origin is from antiquity, from eternity.

**2** The Messiah would be rejected by those He came to save.

**Isaiah 53:3** <sup>(KJV)</sup> He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**3** The Messiah would be punished for our sins, to make restitution for us before God the Father.

**Isaiah 53:5-7** <sup>(KJV)</sup> he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

**4** The Messiah would die with criminals, but be buried in a rich man's tomb.

**Isaiah 53:9** <sup>(KJV)</sup> And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

**5** When the Messiah paid for our sins, He would be forsaken of God.

**Psalms 22:1** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from my deliverance and from my words of groaning?

**Matthew 27:46** <sup>(KJV)</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

One commentary noted that the Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled **108 prophecies** found in the Old Testament concerning the Messiah. <sup>1</sup> The fulfilled prophecies convinced the early Church that Jesus is THE CHRIST. The Apostle Paul preached that you must believe on the Lord Jesus CHRIST to be saved, that JESUS ALONE is the Messiah, the only Way unto God!

In the Roman world it was considered acceptable to worship many gods and goddesses. The Romans didn't care if you preached about Jesus, just as long as you allowed for *other gods*. You could go out preaching **"Faith in Jesus Christ saves .... but there's validity in Buddha as well"**. Or you could say, **"Jesus is one god among many gods, He is one way unto salvation ... but your way is fine as well!"** If Paul had preached this type of gospel then he would have never been arrested.

But Paul preached **"Believe on the Lord Jesus CHRIST"**. Jesus is the Messiah. He is the One and only One the Scripture speaks of. Faith in Him is the only way to be saved. What happened when Paul and his friend Silas preached this? Look at the context:

**Context Acts 16:20-21 (KJV) ... These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, 21 And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.**

**"They teach customs which are unlawful for Romans to receive"**. Paul and Silas went against the common law. They weren't *politically correct*, and they suffered for it. We read that:

**Context Acts 16:22-24 (KJV) And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. 23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: 24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.**

It is not popular to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ - but dear friends, you have not been saved if you believe that Jesus is but *one of many paths unto Heaven*. The Bible does not present such a Gospel.

Peter preached:

**Acts 4:10-12 (KJV) Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

Salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone. He alone is

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.lamblion.com/articles/articles\\_bible6.php](http://www.lamblion.com/articles/articles_bible6.php)

Messiah. He alone is the Savior. He alone is the only Way unto God. He alone - though all the world stand against us - He alone!

## 2. We Who Are Saved Have Believed On The Lord JESUS Christ

**Focal** Acts 16:31 <sup>(KJV)</sup> .... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ ...

**Word Study** Let's focus on that second name in our Gospel, the Lord JESUS Christ. The name "Jesus" means "God is salvation". This wasn't just a name that Mary and Joseph came up with as they looked through the "Big Baby Book of Names".

When Joseph found out that his bride to be (Mary) was pregnant, he was about to quietly divorce her. But God sent an angel to him with the command:

**Matthew 1:20-21** <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Jesus wasn't a mistake of human passion. His name means "God is salvation". The text goes on to say:

**Matthew 1:22-23** <sup>(KJV)</sup> Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet <sup>{Isaiah 7:14}</sup>, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall

be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The name **Jesus** means that God loved us enough that He would come from Heaven to earth, from a higher place to this lower place, to give Himself for us. The name **Jesus** tells us that **God loves us in a very personal way**. The Scripture says:

**Hebrews 2:9** <sup>(KJV)</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

**1** When we see Jesus, we see that our God sent no third party to fulfill our needs and pay for our sins. He did it HIMSELF. He came to this earth *for me and for you*. He lowered Himself so He could **taste death for every man**. He was beaten in my place. He went to that Cross in my place. And He rose from the Grave in my place, promising that all *He is, so shall I be if I believe in Him*.

**Hebrews 2:10** <sup>(KJV)</sup> For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

**2** When we see Jesus, we who are saved see an Older

**Brother Who doesn't beat up on us, but gives us a hand up.** We see Someone Who has said "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

**Hebrews 2:12-14 (KJV)** Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. 13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. 14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

**3** When we see Jesus, we know that the power of the Devil and death is destroyed. Jesus walked out of that borrowed tomb three days after He was killed, and ascended unto Heaven. He lives, and so I shall live!

**Because Paul and Silas believed on the Lord JESUS Christ they were able to do something unheard of. Beaten, mauled, chained down in the guts of a dungeon they sang praises unto God!**

We read:

**Context** Acts 16:25-26 (KJV) And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

When God's people believe in the Lord JESUS Christ then they stop worrying about the things of this life, and begin to live for God! They become lights in the midst of darkness. They are people who are relevant in their community, lights in the midst of darkness, bringing change *by the way they behave!*

### **3. We Who Are Saved Have Believed On The LORD Jesus Christ**

I know that I have been going a while, but we're almost done. The Bible says:

**John 3:16 (KJV)** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Who is the **Him** that we are to believe in? It says that if we believe in HIM we will not perish. Who is that? We saw earlier:

**John 1:12 (KJV)** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

What is **HIS NAME**, the Name that saves. Going back to our focal text we see:

**Focal** Acts 16:31 (KJV) .... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ ...

**He is the Lord Jesus Christ. You will find this as the**

Name of our Savior *eighty two times in the New Testament*. You cannot receive Jesus as Savior and not receive Him as Lord. You cannot receive Him as Messiah and not receive Him as both Master and Mediator.

The reason that many local Churches have had so little impact on their communities is because - like ancient Israel - **"there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes"**. There are many Churches in America filled with people who have accepted a part Gospel and a part Savior, but who are wholly damned! If you are saved then you are saved by believing on the LORD JESUS CHRIST. What did our Savior say?

**John 10:26-28** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**

Those who have believed in Jesus **follow Him. They obey the Word of God.** Christianity is not a cafeteria line where we pick and choose what we will do. Jesus said:

**John 14:15** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **If ye love me, keep my commandments.**

and again,

**John 14:21-24** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. .... 23 ... If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. 24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.**

Our Lord Jesus tied salvation to our willingness to accept Him as Lord. Now let's look at a *practical application of this*. **Peter and Silas** are locked in an inner dungeon. There is the smell of death everywhere. Maggots are crawling about, flies everywhere, excrement and stench prevail.

**Peter and Silas curse their captors and their location, and murmur against God for putting them in this terrible situation.** Is that what they do? No. **They pray and sing praises unto God! They worship the Lord Jesus Christ Who has saved them!**

I don't care how bad your life or my life gets. If we have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, He is our Master, our Mediator, and our Messiah. He is there with me as I suffer, and praying for me as I go through the dungeons of life. What happens next? We read:

**Context** Acts 16:26 <sup>(KJV)</sup> **And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors**

**were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.**

Oh my goodness! An opportunity to escape! Don't you just know that there was a stampede to the doors to get out of that place? Is that what happened? Well, that's what the **keeper of the prison** thought. We read:

**Context Acts 16:27 (KJV) ... the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.**

Why was this man going to kill himself? Because a Roman guard who failed in his duty was tortured and killed - often in a much worse way than those who were prisoners. This guard figured, **"If I have to die, better that it be by my hand - I will suffer less!"**. He pulled out his sword to kill himself when he got the shock of his life:

**Context Acts 16:28-30 (KJV) Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. 29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**

Neither Paul, nor Silas, nor any of the prisoners tried to leave that terrible place. The LORD Jesus Christ told them, **"Stay put - I have a few more souls to save. That Roman guard, he'll come. Just follow Me!"**

The Bible tells us that the guard fell down before Paul

and Silas. They told him,

**Focal Acts 16:31 (KJV) .... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**

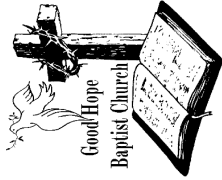
Did it happen as they said? Yes, it did. The Bible tells us that their genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ opened more than just this prison door. **Paul and Silas ...**

**Context Acts 16:32-34 (KJV) ... spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.**

**Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ makes a difference.** If you want to be saved you must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. You are called by God to receive Him as Master, Mediator, and Messiah. To stand up for Him and His Word. **To do the things that He tells you to do.**

Please do not assume you are saved if you will not obey the Lord Jesus Christ. There is a King One King Who rules the hearts and minds of His people, and that King is Jesus!

May God touch your hearts with His Word!



4038 Graham Sherron Road  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Living Together In The Love Of God

**FOCAL Read Together** Judges 17:6 <sup>(KJV)</sup> In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Acts 16:31 <sup>(KJV)</sup> .... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Isaiah 44:6; Revelation 22:13; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16; John 1:11; John 1:12-13; John 10:16; Galatians 3:26-29; Acts 16:31; Matthew 5:14-16

When God's people magnify their Lord as their King and obey Him, they are blessed and their communities are blessed. But when God's people make the decision that **there is no King in Israel, but every man does that which is right in his own eyes"**, then God's people ceased to have an effect on their society.

**1. We Who Are Saved Have Believed  
On The Lord Jesus CHRIST**

Acts 16:31; Acts 16:20-21; Acts 16:22-24

**1** The Messiah would \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Micah 5:2

**2** The Messiah would \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 53:3

**3** The Messiah would \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 53:5-7

**4** The Messiah would \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 53:9

**5** When the Messiah paid for our sins, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Psalms 22:1; Matthew 27:46

**2. We Who Are Saved Have Believed  
On The Lord JESUS Christ**

Acts 16:31; Matthew 1:20-21; Matthew 1:22-23;  
Hebrews 2:9; Acts 16:25-26

**1** When we see Jesus \_\_\_\_\_  
Hebrews 2:10

**2** When we see Jesus \_\_\_\_\_  
Hebrews 13:5

**3** When we see Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

**3. We Who Are Saved Have Believed  
On The LORD Jesus Christ**

John 3:16; John 1:12; Acts 16:31; John 10:26-28;  
John 14:15; John 14:21-24; Acts 16:26; Acts 16:27;  
Acts 16:28-30; Acts 16:31; Acts 16:32-34

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