

American Christian[s]... are drinking a cocktail that's a mix of the Protestant work ethic, the American dream, and the gospel. And we've intertwined them so completely that we can't tell them apart anymore. Our gospel has become a gospel of following your dreams and being good so God will make all your dreams come true... There's something wrong in a culture that preaches nothing is more sacred than your dream.

~Phil Vischer, American Filmmaker and Animator,
"It's Not About the Dream," WORLD magazine,
Sep 24, 2011, 57-58



Grow in our belief and worship of God

Grow in our belief and worship of God

See Jesus in Wisdom + Songs

Grow in our belief and worship of God

See Jesus in Wisdom + Songs

Grow in handling of God's word in O.T.



Summer Sermon Series

Psalm 3:title-4

A PSALM OF DAVID,

WHEN HE FLED FROM ABSALOM HIS SON.

¹ O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; ² many are saying of my soul, “There is no salvation for him in God.” Selah ³ But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. ⁴ I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah

Psalm 3:5–8

⁵ I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me. ⁶ I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. ⁷ Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. ⁸ Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people! Selah

Consider the bookends of Psalm 3

Return to the backstory which
gave rise to this psalm

Seek and find the true and better King

The bookends of Psalm 3

¹ O LORD, how many are my foes!

Many are rising against me;

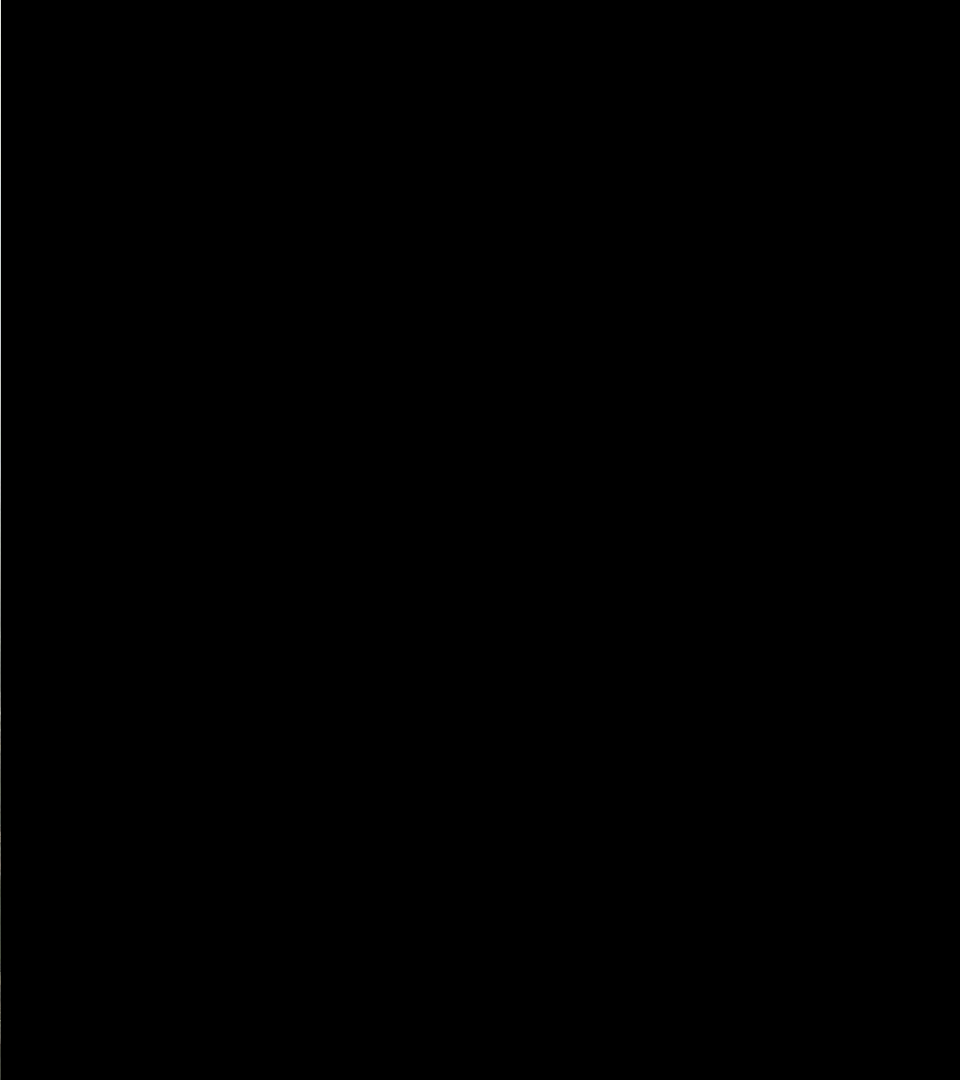
² many are saying of my soul,

“There is no salvation for him in God.” Selah

The bookends of Psalm 3

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Return to the backstory

“O LORD, how many are my foes!”

2 Samuel 15:1-2, 4, 6

¹ After this Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. ² And Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way of the gate...⁴ Then Absalom would say, “Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice” ...So Absalom stole the hearts of the people of Israel.

Return to the backstory

“O LORD, how many are my foes!”

2 Samuel 15:13–14, 30

¹³ And a messenger came to David, saying, “The hearts of the people of Israel have gone after Absalom.” ¹⁴ Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, “Arise, and let us flee” ...David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered.

Return to the backstory

“...you break the teeth of the wicked...”

2 Samuel 18:6–7, 9

⁶ So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. ⁷ And the men of Israel (Absalom's army) were defeated there by the servants of David, and the loss there was great on that day, twenty thousand men...⁹ Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak...

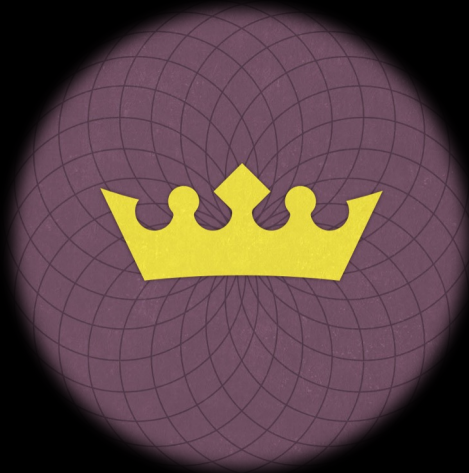
Return to the backstory

“...you break the teeth of the wicked...”

2 Samuel 18:9, 14-15

...and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on...And Joab took three javelins in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak.

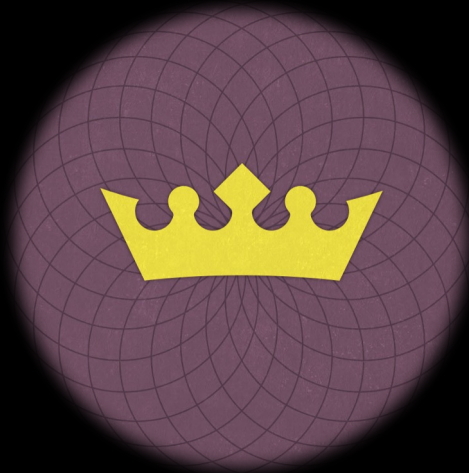
The limitations of other approaches



Kingdom of
God

(seek justice!)

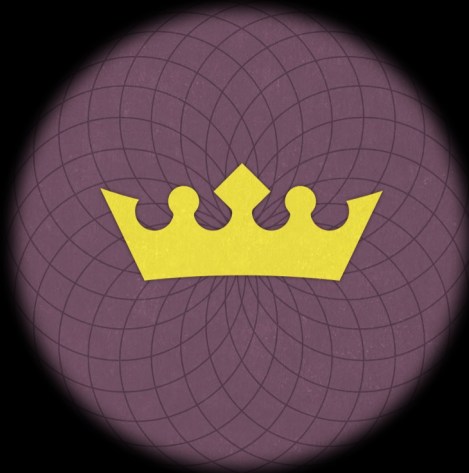
The limitations of other approaches



Kingdom of
God
(seek justice!)

Law/
Commands
(just do it)

The limitations of other approaches



Kingdom of
God
(seek justice!)



Law/
Commands
(just do it)



Morality
(just love!)

From beginning to end, the Holy Scriptures testify that the predicament of fallen humanity is so serious, so grave, so irremediable from within, that nothing short of divine intervention can rectify it.

Fleming Rutledge,
American Episcopal priest, author, and preacher,
The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ



“Privilege the text”

~Dr. Abraham Kuruvilla,
Indian-American, Author/Researcher/Doctor
Professor of Preaching at DTS



BE CURIOUS



Seek and find the true and better King

Barefoot: In the Bible being barefoot means more than simply having no shoes on one's feet.

Humiliation. Bare feet symbolize one's inner state, serving as an image of spiritual poverty. This association stems from the custom of humiliating and despoiling the vanquished (2 Chron 28:15). Making the prisoners go barefoot served the practical purpose of preventing escape and of providing loot for the victors.

Seek and find the true and better King

This routine practice allows the word “stripped” to imply being stripped of both clothes and shoes (Job 12:17, 19; Mic 1:8). The prophets wandered about barefooted, vividly acting out the inevitable fate of those destined for captivity (Is 20:2–4; Mic 1:8).

Leland Ryken et al., *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 74.

Seek and find the true and better King

Absalom

A self-appointed king

Appears to seek justice on
behalf of the people

Leads his army into battle

“Provided himself with
chariot, horses, 50 men”

“Suspended between heaven
and earth...pierced”

Peace follows his death

Seek and find the true and better King

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A self-appointed king

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and earth...pierced”

Peace follows his death

David

God's appointed king

Denies(?) justice to
his people

Hides away

“weeping as he went, barefoot
and with his head covered”

The king returned to his
throne

First act: forgives a betrayer

The bookends of Psalm 3

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² many are saying of my soul,
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⁸ Salvation belongs to the LORD;
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Seek and find the true and better King

Psalm 3:3–6

³ But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. ⁴ I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah

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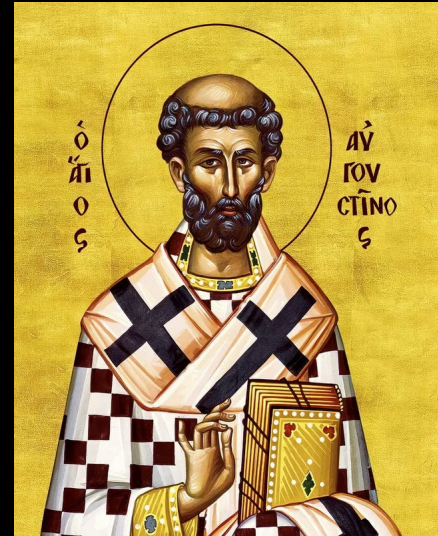
Seek and find the true and better King

The Bible also uses sleep as a metaphor for the death of the righteous. “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Cor 15:20). In Christ, death is nothing more than a nap from which the righteous will awaken to endless day.

Leland Ryken et al., *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*
(Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 799.

About His resurrection also the oracles of the Psalms are by no means silent. For what else is it that is sung in His person in the 3rd Psalm, “I laid me down and took a sleep, [and] I awaked, for the Lord shall sustain me?” Is there perchance any one so stupid as to believe that the prophet chose to point it out to us as something great that He had slept and risen up, unless that sleep had been death, and that awaking the resurrection, which behoved to be thus prophesied concerning Christ?

~St. Augustine,
Theologian and Philosopher,
Bishop in North Africa (modern-day Algeria)



Happy
Monday



Do you see the limitations of viewing God's Word as simply an example to imitate or a law to follow?

Is Jesus in his sleeping (i.e. death) and his waking again (i.e. resurrection) your hope when feeling under attack?

Is Jesus more precious to you today as the True and Better King?