

Sermon #26

Christ or His Rival?

God is wonderful, awesome, majestic, amazing, loving,
gracious and kind.

He surpasses every other king that ever has been or ever will be.

He sent His Son, Jesus, to show us just what kind of King He is.

In Christ we see the perfect image and likeness of the great, eternal
King of kings and Lord of lords.

He is the way, the truth and the life.

Yet Christ has a rival—a very appealing rival.

This rival claims to be the King chosen by God to rule His people;

He claims to be the fulfillment of God's promise of a great, eternal
king whose throne and kingdom would rule God's people forever,
in justice and righteousness.

This rival king is extremely impressive:

He has great material wealth, hundreds of political allies
and is the wisest man on earth

He has hundreds of wives and mistresses and thousands
of slaves and servants.

He has raised the standard of living, built great projects
and kept the economy burning hot.

You would give everything you have to be one of his
concubines or friends.

You dream about being able to approach him and gain his favor.

As you walk into the king's elaborate throne room you are
immediately struck with awe at what you see:

a massive throne of gold overlaid with ivory.

The throne is raised to the height of six steps.

On the left side are six lions, one on each step.

On the right side are six lions, one on each step.

At the top of the steps, on the incredibly costly throne,
sits a majestically robed king.

As you watch, tribute is being brought to him.

You hear someone saying that the total amount for the year
is 666 talents of gold.

Six lions, six steps, six lions.

The great, wise, powerful earthly king on the elevated throne.
666 talents of gold.

You are impressed—really impressed.

That vision has really made its mark on you.

You are more than willing to bow down and serve this man—
the greatest and wisest and wealthiest king on earth.

Your church leaders also say that he is the one chosen by God to rule.

They teach and command you to honor and obey this king.

Anyone who refuses to do so will be put out of the church and
persecuted—maybe even put to death!

This rival king is Solomon, and anyone who has his same mindset.

He is the king that most of us secretly desire to either have or be.

There is a Solomon in each one of us, opposing Christ,
whether we realize it or not.

Solomon asked God to give him wisdom, which he defined as

“an understanding heart to judge Your people,
that I may discern between good and evil.”

I Kings 3:9

²⁹And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.

³⁰Thus Solomon’s wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹For he was wiser than all men . . . and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. ³²He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five.

³³Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the

hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. ³⁴And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon. I Kings 4:29-34

This sounds great, doesn't it?

But there are big problems with Solomon and his wisdom and accomplishments.

Solomon may have had wisdom,
but he didn't obey God or remain faithful to God.
Thus his wisdom ended up being his own judge,
and his kingdom fell apart soon after he died.

Solomon is not and never was the promised King;
he just thought he was.

And he managed to convince even the religious elite that
he was the Messiah.

But the true Messiah, the eternal King, is Jesus Christ,
the Son of God and Son of man.

Let's look at the **Solomon vs. Jesus handout** and look at the differences between the two.

{Read over it with the congregation or let them read and consider it for 5-10 minutes}

Jesus said, ¹“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. . . Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.” John 10:1,8-11

Jesus Christ is the door for the sheep. He is our good shepherd.
Compared to Him, even Solomon in all His wisdom and glory is simply a thief and a robber.

→ Please go to next page for the comparison chart →

“I AM the Lord your God, who brings you out of bondage.
If you are out, do not go back in, even for someone like Solomon.
Let Me be your King;
let Me be your Savior;
let Me be your Guide.
Truth is greater than wisdom; seek the truth.
I AM truth.
The truth will set you free, but wisdom will judge you.
Look to Me. Look at My Son the Christ and follow His example.
Choose Me and be like Me.
It is the Lamb, not the lion, that rules in My kingdom.
So be like Me and rejoice in My goodness: eternal life and love.
I know what is good and what isn't, and I will show you the way.
Put your faith in Me.”

→ Please go to next page for the comparison chart →

Characteristics of the king	The great earthly king: Solomon (mind of wisdom)	The Heavenly King: Jesus (mind of truth)
Who was his mother?	An adulteress and schemer	A virgin
Who was his father?	David, a man-king whose heart was devoted to God but who had been a warrior, murderer and adulterer	God, the true King of kings, who is pure wisdom and truth, love, goodness and mercy
How did he become king?	Through manipulation and scheming	Through obedience to God
How did he establish his throne?	Through murder, political alliances, church sanction, wisdom and slavery	Through righteousness: truth and love
Did he obey the law?	No	Yes
Did he fulfill the law?	No	Yes
Was his wisdom pure?	No	Yes
Did he exalt himself?	Yes	No
Who was he joined to?	Idolatrous wives and foreign kings	God, and those who love God
How did he violate and break the commands of God?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -married foreign wives -made covenants with foreigners -accumulated gold for himself -sent others to Egypt for horses -exalted himself above his brothers -worshipped other gods 	He didn't break God's law, but He was falsely accused of breaking a commandment because He healed people on the Sabbath

Characteristics of the king	The great earthly king: Solomon (mind of wisdom)	The great heavenly King: Jesus Christ (mind of truth)
How did he relate to his followers?	Exalted himself above them; built himself an exalted throne of gold and ivory; made them work to serve, feed and preserve him; used them	Humbled Himself and served them; gave His life that they might live; fed them truth to preserve and empower them; loved them
Who marveled and followed after him?	The whole world, along with the kings and queens of other nations	A small group of disciples
How did the masses of people treat him?	Praised and glorified him for his power, wisdom and wealth	Scorned Him for His truth and humility
What did the religious leaders do to him?	Supported him and his authority (Beast from the earth: Rev. 13:11-end)	Falsely accused him, rejected him, and had him crucified
Was he faithful to God?	No	Yes
Did his kingdom last?	No, it split apart after his death, and his wealth and accomplishments were eventually plundered and destroyed.	Yes; it came together after His death, and it still exists today in those who love Him.
Revelation symbolism	The beast from the sea and in the wilderness (Rev. 13, 17) 666 – Solomon’s gold and throne (I Kings 10:14-20)	The Lamb in heaven and the King of kings on the white horse (Rev. 17:14, 19:11-)

Exodus 23:31-33; Exodus 34:12-17; Deuteronomy 7:1-4; Deuteronomy 17:14-20; Deuteronomy 28:38; I Samuel 8:4-22; I Kings 2:1-4; I Kings 3:1-3; I Kings 3:9; I Kings 4:29-34; I Kings 8:18-21; I Kings 10, 11, 12