

John 1:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

Analysis

Nathanael's confession escalates remarkably: 'Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.' From skeptic to worshiper in moments—this is the transforming power of encountering Christ. 'Son of God' transcends messianic title to assert divine sonship; 'King of Israel' acknowledges royal authority. Nathanael's confession combines priestly and kingly elements, recognizing Jesus as the complete fulfillment of Israel's hopes.

Historical Context

This confession anticipates later declarations—Peter's at Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16:16), Martha's before Lazarus' tomb (John 11:27). Each grows from personal encounter with Christ. The combination of titles—Rabbi, Son of God, King of Israel—shows progressive revelation as Jesus reveals Himself. Full understanding would await resurrection.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What encounter with Christ has most dramatically transformed your understanding of who He is?
2. How do the titles 'Son of God' and 'King of Israel' capture different aspects of Christ's identity?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη	Ναθαναήλ	καὶ	λέγει	αὐτῷ	Ῥαββί	σὺ	εἶ	ό
answered	Nathanael	and	sait	unto him	Rabbi	thou	art	G3588
G611	G3482	G2532	G3004	G846	G4461	G4771	G1488	
νιὸς	τοῦ	θεοῦ	σὺ	εἶ	ό	βασιλεὺς	τοῦ	Ἰσραὴλ
the Son	of God	thou	art	G3588		the King	G3588	of Israel
G5207	G2316	G4771	G1488		G935		G2474	

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 9:9 (Kingdom): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Zephaniah 3:15 (Kingdom): The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.

Matthew 2:2 (Kingdom): Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Matthew 27:42 (Kingdom): He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

John 1:34 (References God): And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Matthew 21:5 (Kingdom): Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

Matthew 27:11 (Kingdom): And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

John 1:38 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

Luke 19:38 (Kingdom): Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

Isaiah 9:7 (Kingdom): Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

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