

*The Rebel and the King*  
Revelation 4:11; Ephesians 2:1-3  
Reading: **Isaiah 55:6-7**

Bethany Baptist Church  
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*...pray...*

My *grandfather* died when I was **ten**.

I didn't really know him, but he seemed *nice enough*. *Thin & white haired & quiet*.

A *farmer & a store-keeper*. He liked *El Producto cigars & choc-covered cherries!*

After his *funeral*, I was playing w/ my cousins & I heard my *mother & the other women* talking about grandfather....*was he in heaven?*

They seemed pretty certain *he had made it* – he was *nice*, he had been *baptized*, he was even a *church deacon*.

Then they *compared notes* on some of the *other men* in our family. The results were *mixed*. *Not everyone* was as good as grandfather...

This just *confirmed* what *I'd suspected*.

At ten, my *religion* was pretty basic, but I *had one!* There was *God*, there was *me*; there was *heaven & there was hell*.

You *lived*. You *died*. God *judged* you. If you were *good enough*, you went to *heaven*. If you **weren't** good enough...let's just say you *should've tried harder!*

Honestly, most people have about that *same religion*. *Try harder*.

... We think God has this set of rules and if you *keep most* of them *most* of the time –*you're good to go*, because most of the time, you're *good enough*.

That's where most people live and die, hoping that they're *good to go*, because they're *good enough*.

But God says *you aren't!* *No man or woman or boy or girl is good enough*.

And God should know...He made *you* & He gave you the *rules*.

So *who* gets to go to heaven? Can you *know* that you're going, *in this life*, before it's *too late*?

The Bible says you *can* know! So...for the next *four weeks*...

**Don't you even *think* about *dying* before I tell you these *six truths* (the first 2 this morning)!**

- 1. God owns you.**
- 2. You disowned God.**
- 3. God judges sinners.**
- 4. Jesus died for sinners.**
- 5. Jesus lives again.**
- 6. You must choose.**

**Again, today's two truths: God is your *owner*, you are a *rebel*.**

**God owns you... but why do I say that? Let's start at the beginning:**

1. If you only had time to tell someone *one truth* about God, here is what you should say: the God of the Bible **created all things!**
  - a. And that's the *first truth* in the Bible. **Gen 1:1** – *In the beginning, God created all things.*
  - b. That truth is repeated from the *beginning* to the *end* of the Bible.
  - c. So let's turn to **Rev 4:11** (*don't read*). The Apostle John takes us to God's heavenly *throne-room*. *Throne. Floor like a sea of crystal. Lightning & thunder. Angelic creatures. Resurrected saints. Non-stop worship!*
  - d. What is their *song!?! (Read.) Worthy...worthy are You, our Lord & God, to receive glory & honor & power. God deserves the worship of men and angels...*
  - e. *Why?* Let's reduce **v.4** down to its simplest form: *You are worthy...because...You have created.*
    - i. *That's* why: God is worthy because God *created all things.*
    - ii. That's the *foundation* of understanding God & man from the *first* book in the Bible to the *last*.
  - f. Now let's think about what **Gen 1 & Rev 4** (etc.) tell us about God and *man...*about God and *you*.

2. Because God is the creator of *everything* that also means God is *your* creator.
  - a. Back to Gen1, but this time to v.27, we read *God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He create them.*
  - b. When the Bible teaches that God is your Creator, it means He made you *personally* and for a *purpose*.
  - c. E.g. God said to both the *Prophet Jeremiah* & the *Apostle Paul* that He had *set these men apart from their mothers' wombs* to pursue their ministries (Jer 1:5; Gal 1:15; also Psa 139).
  - d. More generally, we are *all* created to be *stewards/managers* of God's creation and we are created to *worship* Him, alone.
  
3. That leads to the *next truth* about you & God:
  - a. **If God *made* you (*personally, w/purpose*), then He *owns* you! If God *made* you He *owns* you...**
  - b. Turn w/ me to **Psa 24:1,2 (read): v.1** – the earth and its peoples (*all it contains*) belong to God. **Why? v.2** – **For He founded it...and established it.**
  
4. The teachings that God is the *creator* and *owner* of all things (people) lead to the truth that God is therefore the **judge** of all things. Abraham (Gen 18:25) called God the *just judge of all the earth*.
  
5. Let's pause to review.
  - a. Here's what we've said about God; He is *creator, owner,* and *judge* of all the earth.
  - b. Here's what we've said about *us*: we are *created by God (in God's image, personally, purposefully)* and *owned by God*.

6. Then these dynamics of *Creator/creation, owner/owned, judge/steward* brings us to *this*: you and I are *accountable* to God. He is *your* judge.

- a. Last weekend my sons & I put up a *tongue & groove ceiling*. I'd **never** done that before – I'd never used a *pneumatic nailer* before. The whole thing took *hours*!
  - i. A couple of times we had to *pull down a plank*, get a *fresh one*, and *start over*. Something had *gone wrong*!
  - ii. Who's going to *argue*? – it was *our* project, *our* planks, & *our* time!
  - iii. You *make* it, you *own* it ... you *judge* it!
- b. In the same way, God is **your** *judge* – you are *accountable* to Him.
  - i. His *standards* are clear. They are *inscribed* on your heart (conscience) & *proclaimed* in nature & *recorded* in the Bible & *revealed* (fulfilled) in Jesus Christ.
  - ii. Jesus' summed up God's *holy standards* with these *startling* words (Matt 5:48) – "*Therefore, you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*"

**God is your *Creator & Owner & Judge*. He owns you, therefore you are *accountable* to Him.**

**Man was created to be God's *image-bearer & steward & worshiper*, but man is a *rebel*!**

1. It started *early* & it started in the most *unlikely* of settings. Perhaps you know the story (Gen 3): the *Garden*, the first *man & woman*, **no sin**, only **one rule** to keep, & face-to-face *fellowship with God*. It couldn't have been *any better*!
  - a. But then our first parents listened to the *seductive voice* of the *Tempter*, and **fell**. They *defied* God & *deliberately* did the only thing God had forbidden!
  - b. The *spiritual DNA* of our entire human family was *marred* forever. Every one of us. **You**.
  - c. The Bible tells us that *God lovingly made us* in His own *image* & made us to serve as *stewards of His world*, and we *rebelled*.
  - d. So now we are all *rebels* by nature and *rebels* by action.
  
2. The Bible calls your rebellion *sin*. "*Sin*" was an *archer's (soldier's)* word. It meant to "*miss the target*." The *target* is what God requires of you – what He'll hold you *accountable* for (e.g. **10 Commandments**, or "*you shall be perfect as your heavenly...*").
  - a. The Bible says we *all* miss God's mark! "*For all have...*"
  - b. Sometimes you *miss* it thru *open rebellion*. You *willfully* break His laws. → Telling a *lie* to avoid blame is a clear example. *Cheating* on a test or *shoplifting* are other examples.
  - c. Often you sin by *playing god* yourself. You make your own *rules*; you set your own *standards*. Excusing your *immorality* because *everyone else* is doing it. ... Or maybe you just *bury* your head in the sand & *pretend* none of this matters...at least not *today*.

3. I've said a couple of times that *everyone sins*. Therefore, everyone stands *guilty* under God's judgment. Am I *exaggerating*? Are you really in *peril*? Let's see what God says about that. → **turn w/ me to Eph 2:1-3.**
- a. **V.1** says you were *spiritually dead* in your *sins*. What can dead people do – *nothing*! You can't do *anything* to meet God's standards.
  - b. **V.2** reveals that you were *under the sway* of Satan, *walking according to the world*.
  - c. Which leads to **this sad picture** (3): you were *children of wrath*, i.e. *under God's judgment*.
  - d. In a very clear and comprehensive way, the apostle says there is only **one** kind of person in the world (v.3 – *all*). There is only **one** kind of person in the world – *dead to God, pursuing the world, under wrath!* The *wrath* of a *Holy Judge*.
  - e. And if something doesn't *change*, that's *me, you ...all of us*.
4. Maybe you're still skeptical. "**I'm not such a bad person!**" "*I go to church!*" "*I work hard!*" "*I'm reforming my bad habits!*" "*Hey – I'm a lot better than some people I could tell you about!*"
- a. Jesus taught that the *human heart* has a *dangerous tendency*: to look at God's Law only on the *surface* & **not** admit that the truth judges you from the *inside, out* – from the *heart* to the *hand* – from *motive* to *action*. Let me *explain* what I mean...
  - b. The *first* part of the Ten Commandments deal with your relationship to *God*. Do you worship God the way He *deserves* to be worshipped? Here's a *test*: have you ever *spoken His name* in a *profane* or *careless* way?

- c. God's commandments also have a lot to say about your *relationships & personal morals*. → Do you ***honor your parents***? Here's *another* test: Ever been *slow/sloppy* on obeying their directions? *Made fun* of your mother's worry & concern. Ever *sworn* at your father under your breath?
  - d. Do you ***lie***? How about *bending* or *editing* the truth to smooth your way? **Jesus** said just let your "***yes be yes & your no be no***"
  - e. Are you a ***fornicator or adulterer***? **No!?!** Do you ***lust*** in your *imaginations*? Are you *impure* about where/what you *look*?
  - f. Do you ***covet***? → "*Consuming desire for something you can't have* (possession, position, power, status, etc.)." Remember the *Rich Young Ruler*? "*All these things I've kept from my youth up!*" Jesus: "*One thing you lack – sell all you possess & come, follow Me.*" The Rich Young Ruler went away *grieving*, because He owned much... He refused to *seek & follow* God on *God's terms*, because he cared more for what he *possessed*. He was *covetous*.
5. Please *drop* your defenses for just a moment & let me *press* these truths into your *mind & heart*:
- a. "*You shall be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.*"
  - b. Yet... "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"

**God is your *Creator & Owner & Judge*.**

**Unbeliever - you are a *rebel*. You aren't following God the way He commands & deserves.**

**What does a King do with a *rebel*? What will God do with you? I want to *explore* that with you next Sunday morning.**

**I've gotten lot of *visual feedback* in the *past half-hour!***

Many of you have *gladly agreed* with all of this – because it reminds you that Christ has *rescued* you from your sins.

But some of you are *uneasy, worried, self-distracted*; not everyone is *comfortable* yet...

Does all of this make you *squirm*? Then *you* are the *very one* I want to talk to this morning!

God has the *answer* for your need. He lovingly *sent* His Son Jesus to *die* to *bear the punishment* deserved by sinners. ***By you...***

God *raised* Jesus from the dead & He's *alive today* to offer you *forgiveness & eternal life*.

**Your part** is to *believe* that He died for you, to *turn* to Him & to *trust/follow* Him as your Savior & Lord. **His part** is to *accept* you & give you a new *heart/life*. And *He will!*

*You must choose: your way or His.* Please stop *putting Him off*. He is a *loving Savior* - please *follow Christ*.

*...pray...*

**Response:**

**Christian:** Is there someone sitting in your pew who needs the Savior? *Pray for her/him.*

**W/o Christ?** Can I *meet* w/you? **Email? Call? Text?**

Let's talk about your *soul*, while you *still have time*.

*"There Is a Redeemer"*

**LORD's Supper (Matt 26:26-30)**