

NEW TESTAMENT 1

UNIT SEVEN: WHAT IT MEANS FOR JESUS TO BE KING

The Background Setting

- THE SINFULNESS OF SIN
 - Sin is serious both in itself and in its consequences.
 - John the Baptist calls on people to repent, and describes the Messiah's ministry in terms of forgiveness as well as judgement.
 - Jesus continually demands repentance, affirming that there is nothing but condemnation for those who remain in their sins.
 - The consequences of sin are awful; sin brings with it the judgement of God.
- THE SANCTITY OF SUFFERING
 - For the Gospel writers, suffering is part of the cost of discipleship.
 - The Gospel writers have much to say about Jesus' suffering.
 - Jesus' suffering is the God-designed means of bringing blessing to mankind.

THE SUFFERING AND DEATH OF THE KING

- THE FIRST PASSION PREDICTION (Mark 8:31-33)
 - The fulfilment of prophecy proves that it is what God had planned.
 - It is not an accident but rather it is what God determined from the beginning – that the Messiah must suffer.
 - Jesus knew that he must suffer death and after three days be raised from the dead.
 - This was not compatible with the disciples' expectations and Peter *rebukes* Jesus.
 - In reply Jesus rebukes Peter, rejecting the temptation implicit in his words.
 - Without the suffering, God's will would not be done.
- CONFIRMATION OF THE PREDICTION (Mk 9:2-29)
 - Three incidents confirm the truth of what Jesus has been saying about his future.
 - The transfiguration reveals Jesus' identity to the disciples – he is the Messiah.
 - This serves the disciples by strengthening their commitment.
 - On the way down the mountain Jesus tells the disciples to remain silent about what they have seen.
 - Jesus' true glory comes through suffering, a fact which will not be seen until after he has been raised.

- The disciples ask about the prophecy that Elijah must return.
- Jesus announces that Elijah has already come in the shape of John the Baptist.
- Jesus heals the demon-possessed boy – another confrontation with demons.
- Jesus will enter glory only through confrontation with the demonic and the suffering which that entails.
- THE SECOND PASSION PREDICTION (MK 9:30-32)
 - Jesus again tells his disciples about his destiny.
 - He speaks of being *betrayed into the hands of men*.
 - This refers to both the actual handing over by Judas and to the fulfilment of God's will – this is the action of God.
- THE THIRD PASSION PREDICTION (Mark 10:32-34)
 - Jesus resolutely strides ahead towards Jerusalem.
 - His followers may not understand but they are aware of impending danger.
 - This time there is more detail – the Son of Man will be delivered over to the Gentiles, who will humiliate and kill him.

The Necessity of Jesus' Death

- The Gospel writers express Jesus' death as God's will.
- The word *must* does not just mean that it is the best way – there are no other options.
- Jesus himself saw the necessity of his death from the beginning.
- Jesus knew what role he had to fulfil.
- When he was tempted, Jesus rejected the possibility of worldly success.
- Jesus recognised that his death was part of his messianic calling.