



DECEMBER 2023: MONTH OF

THE KING AND KINGDOM REPOSITIONING

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Where is the king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him. Mt. 2.2.

Any close observer of the events in our world in the last couple of years and especially since October 7, 2023, cannot fail to recognize that we have entered into a special phase of world history. The land in which the King of the Jews was born over two millennia ago is hot in the news again. Armies of different nations are gathering. Several years before He was born it was prophesied that 'a child would be born and a Son would be given to us whose name would among others include: Wonderful, Counsellor and the Prince of Peace'. The same prophecy by Isaiah (9.6-7) announced that 'the government would be on his shoulders. And of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end'.

World history over the last two millennia has confirmed that this child who the wise men (magi or astrologers) from the east (modern day Iran) came to visit in the Middle East was not an ordinary king. The fact that the peoples of the western world embraced the Person and Principles of this newly born 'king' enabled these nations to come out of endless wars and grinding poverty to become trailblazers of progress in the arts, science, technology, human and international relations is also significant. The Judeo-Christian heritage that brought these nations peace at home and respect and admiration abroad have been copied by most nations across the globe. Unfortunately, with wealth comes pride and this has made these western nations to distance themselves from their spiritual and moral roots. The consequences as with ancient Israel herself has been dire.

The kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ was troublesome to both Jewish and their Roman rulers of His time. The Roman Governor's (Pilate) main question to Him was --Are you the king of the Jews? (Jn 18.37). Both Pilate and the then Jewish king, Herod, understood that whoever rules the Jews rule the world. The masthead on His Cross read--The King of the Jews -- in bold letters in the 3 main languages of the then classical world--Latin, Greek and Hebrews.

This 'king' taught His followers to pray to God: Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Mt.6.10). After His death and

resurrection, He mandated His disciples to go into the whole world as 'kings and priests'. He called them to occupy the gates or leadership of every society they find themselves because by His death on the Cross He had received all powers in heaven and on earth from His Father (Mt 28: 18-20; Lk. 19.13; Rev 5.10-12). . In spite of opposition from the Jewish and Roman establishment of the time and also from other powerful movements such as Islam, secularism, communism and socialism and those tied to the Jezebel spirit of abortion and multidimensional sexual perversions, this global movement has almost 3 billion of the world's population today. It has the largest following among the world's religions.

Christ's followers are mandated to worship Him, just like the visiting magi from ancient Persia, with their best gifts of time, talent, treasures and testimonies of His greatness and glory in their lives. They are also to lead and raise leaders as He taught and showed them: with a clear vision of actualizing God's kingdom of peace, prosperity, power and purity. And also, by serving those they lead, submitting to the Father, sacrifice and setting example and interceding for their followers and colleagues. (Mt. 20.25-28; Jn.10.4; Lk. 22: 24-32). Unfortunately, many of His followers are still glued by fear and tradition to pursuing basic mundane needs of what to eat, drink and wear rather than His counsel to seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness (Mt. 6.33).

Those who focus on their calling as leaders by following Him and His principles discover that the Father is indeed able to meet all their needs as He promised. The above explains the resilience of the Christian gospel over two millennia. In this month as we celebrate the King, we are reminded to respond like the wise men from the east to put all else aside and worship Him with our lives and gifts. And he always leaves the best to the last.

**WELCOME TO THE MONTH OF
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**Dele Olowu
Amsterdam, November 30, 2023**