

# CHRIST OVER ALL

Part 38 of Foundations 260. Revelation 12:1-17.

Peter Foxwell. The Cornerstone Church. November 16, 2025.

## Dismiss the Middle School

### NAMING THE CORNERSTONE CHURCH

When we launched the Cornerstone Church in 1997, we had many decisions to make, but the most pressing was what to call our new congregation.

I suggested The Bridge. But finally, Nan Walker said we should be The Cornerstone Church since we are built on Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone.<sup>1</sup> What a great name!

If we ever need to change our name, I will suggest we call ourselves The Church of Christ Our King.

Because he is.

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<sup>1</sup> CORNERSTONE: Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:11; 1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:4-7

# CHRIST OUR KING

The Book of Revelation reveals that Jesus Christ is the supreme ruler of the world.

*Revelation 1:5 (CSB) ... from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth.*

*Revelation 11:15 (CSB) The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.*

*Revelation 17:14 (CSB) the Lamb will conquer them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings.*

*Revelation 19:16 (CSB) he has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

**So, Christ is not only my king, or your king, or our king; he is THE KING of the universe. He is the supreme leader, ruler, and Lord of all things.**

**With that in mind, I'd like us to explore what it means for our lives that Jesus Christ is King.**

And that brings us to today's teaching passage, Revelation 12. We read it in last week's Foundations 260 readings.

## BEFORE WE READ REVELATION 12

**Revelation 12 contains a vision** of the current state of the world and the church. It uses dramatic images to spark our imagination.

**The passage reveals two conflicts.**

- First, the devil fought a battle in heaven and lost, and was cast down to earth. That happened when Jesus conquered him at the cross, rose from the dead, and ascended to his throne in heaven.
- Second, the devil is on earth, still fighting God by attacking God's people. But we are protected by God.

**It helps to know the cast of characters in the vision:**

- The woman is God's people.
- The dragon is the devil.
- The Son is the Messianic King who rules the nations, Jesus.

Now, let's read the passage.

# REVELATION 12

I've inserted some explanations<sup>2</sup> to help us understand what's going on.

## The Conflict Begins

Revelation 12:1-17 (CSB) A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head (REMINDS US OF JOSEPH'S VISION OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN GENESIS 37). 2 She was pregnant and cried out in labor and agony as she was about to give birth.

3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: There was a great fiery red dragon (SATAN, REVELATION 13:2,4) having seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven crowns (COUNTERFEIT CHRIST). 4 Its tail swept away a third of the stars (PAST ATTACKS ON GOD'S PEOPLE, ANTIOCHUS, DANIEL 8:10) in heaven and hurled them to the earth. And the dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she did give birth it might devour her child. 5 She gave birth to a Son, a male who is going to rule (SHEPHERD) all nations with an iron rod (GENESIS 3:15; PSALM 2:9). Her child was caught up to God and to his throne (CHRIST CONQUERED DEATH AND ASCENDED TO HEAVEN).

## God's Protection

6 The woman fled into the wilderness (IN BIBLICAL HISTORY, THIS IS WHERE GOD PROTECTS AND TESTS HIS PEOPLE - EXODUS, EXILE, JESUS), where she had a place prepared by God, to be nourished there for 1,260 days (SIGNIFIES THE PERIOD OF PERSECUTION, DANIEL 7:25).

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/revelation/>

## The War In Heaven and the Victory of Christ

7 Then war broke out in heaven: Michael (THE ARCHANGEL WHO CONTENTS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE, JUDE 9, DANIEL 10, 12) and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, 8 but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was thrown out (SATAN'S DECISIVE DEFEAT THROUGH CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION) — the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say,

The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come, (REVELATION 4:11; 5:12-13; 7:10; 11:15; 19:1) because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been thrown down. 11 They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; for they did not love their lives to the point of death. 12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great fury, because he knows his time is short.

## The War On Earth and God's Protection

13 When the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14 The woman was given two wings of a great eagle (GOD'S PROTECTION AND SALVATION, EXODUS 19:4; DEUTERONOMY 32:11-12; ISAIAH 40:31), so that she could fly from the serpent's presence to her place in the wilderness, where she was nourished for a time, times, and half a time. 15 From his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river (SYMBOLIZES SATAN'S LYING WORDS MEANT TO DECEIVE AND DESTROY THE CHURCH), flowing after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman. The earth opened its

mouth and swallowed up the river that the dragon had spewed from his mouth.  
17 So the dragon was furious with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring — those who keep the commands of God and hold firmly to the testimony about Jesus.

# AFFIRMING THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

**Revelation 12 assures us that**, despite Satanic opposition, we Christians are protected by God. And more than that, when our Savior Jesus Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, he defeated Satan and claimed supremacy over all things. The key verse is:

**Verse 10:** *“The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have **NOW** come ...”*

**He is Christ the King on earth, NOW.** Or as the apostle Paul writes,

*Ephesians 1:20-22 (CSB) He (God) exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens — 21 far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything ...*

**Christ’s present rule is not limited to the church or our personal spiritual life**, but extends everywhere and to everything, to every area of life, including government, education, science, family, and absolutely everything else.

Abraham Kuyper (1837–1920) was a Christian theologian and prime minister of the Netherlands who dramatically shaped his nation. He famously said:

*“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’”<sup>3</sup>*

**Everything is under the ultimate, sovereign, leadership of Christ.**

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<sup>3</sup> **Abraham Kuyper: A Centennial Reader**, edited by James D. Bratt (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998), page 488.

# RESPONDING TO THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

**Now, we need to ask, so what?** What are the practical implications of the supremacy of Christ over all things?

There is so much we could discuss, but I want us to focus on one word: **INFLUENCE.**

In the online world, an influencer is someone with so many followers that whatever they wear, eat, use, or do influences many people to do the same.

**King Jesus wants us to be his influencers**, representing him to the world. And that has two results:

- We will influence people to follow King Jesus as God and Savior - that's called *making disciples*. We share the gospel worldwide.
- We will influence people to adopt Kingdom values because that's what's best for the world. That's called *culture building*. **(Examples: Media, Education, healthy Christian community).**

**Following King Jesus is not only a private matter.** Each of us has a sphere of influence, whether at home, at work, in the church, or in the community.

**Think of it like this.** Take a look at the slide on the screen. The biggest circle is the supremacy of Christ over all things. Then, each of the smaller concentric circles represents the various places where we have influence: self, home, work, community, world.

The supremacy of Christ over all things means that we should project his sovereignty into every circle (every place or person) where we have influence. We should live Christ, speak Christ, and spread Christ.



# WE'RE IN A BATTLE, BUT JESUS ALREADY WON

**We should never lose sight of why** the Book of Revelation was written. Persecuted Christians needed reasons to prevail.

And the best reason to stand firm in the faith without compromise is the supremacy of Christ over all things. He's in charge.

**There is a battle raging between the devil and God's people,** but Christ already won. Therefore, stand firm in the faith and be an influencer.

- Circumstances are not supreme.
- Critics are not supreme.
- Hardships are not supreme.
- Our weariness is not supreme.
- Governments are not supreme.
- The devil is not supreme.
- The status quo (the way things are or appear to be) is not supreme.

Because:

*... the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come, (Revelation 12:10, CSB).*

**Christ is supreme.** He sustains us. He protects us. He strengthens us to prevail. And he has put us here, in this place, at this time, to be influencers. So, keep on influencing. Keep on making disciples. Keep on advocating for Kingdom values.

Christ is King. Never forget it.

## ADDENDUM: OLD ENDING

Here are three examples:

1. **The supremacy of Christ influences our worldview:** The world is not random, our lives are not a happy accident, and history is not chaotic. No, Jesus Christ is sovereign across every sphere of life—no area of existence lies outside his Lordship.

Abraham Kuyper (1837–1920) was a Christian theologian and prime minister of the Netherlands who dramatically shaped his nation. He said in a speech that:

*“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’”*<sup>4</sup>

This is reality: Everything is under the ultimate leadership of Christ. His rule is not limited to the church, but extends to all things, including government, education, science, medicine, the arts, family, and whatever.

2. **The supremacy of Christ shapes our worship:** If we envision Christ accurately - as grand, glorious, and majestic as he truly is - we will have no trouble making him the sole object of our **ultimate** allegiance or worship. That puts everything else in life in its proper place, so that we worship only Jesus, not self, family, money, government, or anything else.

Think of the supremacy of Christ like this:

- **He is supreme over creation.** He upholds the universe, every atom, and every breath we take (Colossians 1:16-20; Hebrews 1:3). And he is the reason for our lives. Therefore, worship him.

- **He is supreme over redemption:** The supreme Christ is the only one who can save sinners from the dominion of sin, death, and the devil. He will ultimately bring everything in the universe together as one (Ephesians 1:9-10; Colossians 1:17-19). Therefore, worship Christ.
- **He is supreme over the end of all things.** First, he will judge everyone (Acts 10:42; John 5:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:1, 5; Revelation 20:11-15). Then, second, he will bring the universe to worship God (1 Corinthians 15:23-28; Ephesians 3:10-11; Philippians 2:5-11).

So, since Christ is supreme in every way, worship only King Jesus.

3. **The supremacy of Christ transforms our parenting:** Our priority is not to raise good citizens, great athletes, excellent students, or obedient children. These are good things, but they are not the best thing. Since Jesus is King, the best thing is to raise children *“in the training and instruction of the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:4).

That’s the priority, and we want to help you with that. So, check out the book table for great resources. Also, if you’re interested in joining a small group for young parents, let me know.

# SMALL GROUP GUIDE

## Review

- Review Peter's November 16<sup>th</sup> teaching and study guide. For more resources, visit [www.famousgod.com/small-groups](http://www.famousgod.com/small-groups).
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

## Discuss

- How does Christ's universal supremacy influence your thinking about or involvement in your community, the public square, politics, work, sports, the arts, leisure, and your purpose in life?
- How might Christ's supremacy influence parents' long-term goals for their children? How can families make "training and instruction in the Lord" the main priority over other ambitions like sports, academics, or personal achievements?
- Revelation 12 describes spiritual conflict between God's people and the devil. In light of Christ's victory and reign, how would you advise someone who feels spiritually oppressed?
- Do you affirm that Christ is King, the ruler of the world, and your Lord? What holds people back from embracing this truth fully in their hearts and actions?

## Prayer Focus

- Pray for group members and the Cornerstone family to submit to King Jesus and continue to be influencers, making disciples and building a Kingdom culture.