

Hosanna; John 12:12-13

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- I. King
 - a. We genuinely don't understand the idea of a monarchy
 - i. Even the closest one to us (England) is not a true monarchy
 - ii. They have a parliament and a Prime Minister that works with the King (Queen) to govern the country
 - b. We must go back to Rome in the first century to understand this idea of a king (Caesar)
 - i. Caesar's rule was absolute
 - ii. He installed the senate and even openly defied their 'authority'
 - iii. Julius Caesar was assassinated because he defied the senate's authority and crossed the Rubicon with an army
 - iv. The senate would deify Caesars after their death. They declared Augustus (Julius' son) to be the 'son of a god'
 - v. The authority of Caesar had no boundaries

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- c. One who rules as possessor of the highest office in a political realm, *king*, generally of a male ruler who has unquestioned authority ¹
 - i. Americans don't give this kind of power to anyone, even our governmental branches have checks and balances on each other (supposedly)
 - ii. Can you imagine giving this 'unquestioned authority' to any person you know? (NO!)
 - iii. "Unlimited power is apt to corrupt the mind of those who possess it" William Pitt the Elder, Earl of Chatham, British Prime Minister from 1766-1788 in a speech to the UK House of Lords in 1770
 - iv. "Absolute power corrupts the best natures" Alphonse Marie Louis de Prat de Lamartine (a French Republican poet and politician) in an essay, *France and England: A Vision of the Future*, published in London in 1848
 - v. "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely" Lord Acton (historian and moralist) in a letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton in 1887
 - vi. Even those whom we (the people) give limited authority to act (or vote) on our behalf become corrupt by that power
 - vii. It is easy to see why we don't desire any monarchy to rule over us
- d. We have a King!
 - i. After God gives Israel the promised land, he also gives them judges to rule keep the peace and justice
 - ii. But Israel looks around and wants to be like the other nations

¹ William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 169.

- iii. 1 Samuel 8:4–7 (ESV) ⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵ and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.” ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD. ⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.
- iv. God always intended for Him to be their King (our King), yet they (humanity) rejected Him
- v. This is why singing these hymns (and understanding them) is so important for those of us who have given our devotion, our very selves, to God
- e. “Hosanna You’re my King. I worship and I sing. I lift your holy name upon high”

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II. Hosanna

a. a shout of praise

- i. An appeal that became a liturgical formula [*part of worship*]; it was familiar to everyone in Israel. In the course of time an acclamation ²
- ii. John 12:12–13 (ESV) ¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”
- iii. All Israel understood what they were doing and saying as Jesus comes into Jerusalem – they were worshiping Him as the Messiah, the long-awaited Christ (King)
- iv. They were willing (at that time) to give Him unquestioned authority, calling Him ‘King’ and proclaiming ‘hosanna’
- v. I’m sure we did (do) the same thing at (and for some time, after) our immersion into the Body of Christ
- vi. Just a short time later, the Israelites have turned against Him at the urging of the religious elite, the chief priests
- vii. John 19:6 (ESV) ⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.”
- viii. John 19:14–16 (ESV) ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” ¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” ¹⁶ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus,

b. How quickly we forget

² Ibid, 1106.

- i. The same people that had been shouting praise and worshiping Jesus as King, Messiah are now shouting “crucify Him”
- ii. Is this us after a few years?
- iii. Do we put aside the Messiah at the urging of our society and our nation’s leaders?
- iv. This (again) is why we sing these hymns – to remind us of our Great God and Savior, Jesus
- v. “I worship and adore, sing praise forever more. Hosanna you’re my King forever more”

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III. Jesus is Lord

- a. Acts 2:36 (ESV) ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
- b. We must give Jesus absolute and unconditional authority in our lives!

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- c. Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
- d. When we sing “Hosanna” we remind ourselves just who our King is and that He is worthy of shouts of praise!