

# **The King Has Come What If It's True? – Part 1**

**Life Church St. Louis February 14, 2026  
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv**

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## **Introduction**

Isaiah 40:3 (ESV) A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

Daniel 7:14 (ESV) And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away

Malachi 3:1 (ESV) "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple."

## **1. Recognize the Promised King**

Mark 1:1-2 (ESV) The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,"

Mark 1:3-4 (ESV) "the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 1:5-6 (ESV) And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

## **2. Submit to the Affirmed King**

Mark 1:7-8 (ESV) And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie." "I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Mark 1:9-10 (ESV) In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

Mark 1:11 (ESV) And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

## **3. Respond to the Victorious King**

Mark 1:12-13 (ESV) The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Mark 1:14 (ESV) Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,

Mark 1:15 (ESV) and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

# **The King Has Come Study Guide**

## **What If It's True? – Part 1**

**Life Church St. Louis February 15, 2026**  
**Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv**

### **Introduction**

1. What would change in your life if it were absolutely true that Jesus is the promised King who has come?
2. How does the prophecy about preparing the way challenge us to recognize who the Lord truly is (Isaiah 40:3)?
3. What does the promise of an everlasting dominion reveal about the kind of King the Messiah would be (Daniel 7:14)?
4. How does the promise of a coming messenger build anticipation for the Lord's arrival (Malachi 3:1)?

### **1. Recognize the Promised King**

1. What does Mark's declaration about the gospel reveal about the identity of Jesus (Mark 1:1–2)?
2. How does John's call to prepare the way through repentance shape our understanding of readiness for the Lord (Mark 1:3–4)?
3. What do the crowds' confession of sins and baptism teach us about spiritual hunger and humility (Mark 1:5–6)?
4. What specific distractions or sins might be preventing you from fully welcoming the King's rule in your daily life?

### **2. Submit to the Affirmed King**

1. What does John's humility and promise of Spirit baptism teach us about the greatness of Jesus (Mark 1:7–8)?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus was baptized and that the Spirit descended upon Him (Mark 1:9–10)?
3. How does the Father's declaration from heaven confirm who Jesus is and why we must submit to Him (Mark 1:11)?
4. In what ways do you need to follow Jesus' example more closely in obedience, baptism, or dependence on the Holy Spirit?

### **3. Respond to the Victorious King**

1. What does Jesus' victory over temptation in the wilderness show us about His faithfulness and authority (Mark 1:12–13)?
2. How does the beginning of Jesus' public ministry demonstrate the urgency of God's message (Mark 1:14)?
3. What do Jesus' commands to repent and believe reveal about the proper response to the nearness of God's kingdom (Mark 1:15)?
4. How can you remain faithful and responsive to the King during seasons of testing or spiritual wilderness?

### **Conclusion**

1. Where in your life do you need to more fully recognize, submit to, or respond to Jesus as your King?
2. What step of repentance or renewed belief is the Holy Spirit prompting you to take today?