

August 10/11, 2024  
"King and Kingdom"  
Pastor Aaron Buer



## **SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.**

### **2024 Challenge:** Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

**August:** Read Jeremiah to see how people, situations and events point to Jesus

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## Day 1 [John 17:20-23](#) | Politics and Unity

**"That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."** John 17:21

Jesus stepped into a politically charged world. The Roman Empire occupied and ruled Israel. The Jewish people were divided in their approach. Some cozied up to the Romans, while others attempted to overthrow their rule. Jesus, the God-man, arrives and begins to talk about his own kingdom. But his kingdom is different. It's a spiritual kingdom focused on restoring a relationship with God. It will dramatically change the world, not with political power, but by changing hearts.

Over the next four weeks, we're in a sermon series called "Politics and Unity." We'll be taking lessons from Jesus and the early Christians on how to act during our politically charged season. How we act matters because Jesus cares about his church and how we treat each other. As the series begins, there are some hopes we have for the series. First, that no matter how you plan to vote in this election, Ada Bible is a place for you. You are welcome and wanted in our church. Second, that we'd see politics through the lens of Jesus and not Jesus through the lens of our politics. Third, that we'd become more genuinely curious about why Jesus followers have different political views. Fourth, that we would invite God to challenge and change us through this series. Fifth, that this series would bond us together as a church during this political season.

**TODAY:** Begin the week by asking God to challenge and change you through this series. Thank him for his love, and ask him to open your heart to what he has for you through this series.

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Jeremiah 14-15](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jesus is our Savior.

## Day 2 [John 18:33-36](#) | Jesus is King

**Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"**  
John 18:33

Jesus is on trial for sedition. It's a capital offense. His life is on the line. The Roman governor wants to know whether or not the charges that he claims to be a king are true. Jesus says his kingdom is not of this world. But Jesus doesn't deny being a king. He's not simply a spiritual guru. He's not just a religious guide. He isn't some kind of gifted faith healer. He's a king with real authority. The God of the universe.

If Jesus is king, that means we should submit to him in every area of our life. Our faith and our politics can't be separate. To embrace Jesus is to choose him as king. It's to let him be king over our politics. That means we are willing to obey Jesus even if it means rejecting part of our political party's platform. It means Jesus is king over

how we talk with people who disagree with our politics. If Jesus is king, it means we will be okay if our political party loses the election. If Jesus is king of everything, it means we submit our politics to him as king.

**TODAY:** Invite Jesus to be king over your politics. Invite him to help you discern where your politics are right and where they are wrong. Ask Jesus to help you have the right posture when you discuss politics with someone you may disagree with. Tell Jesus you trust him and know he is still king no matter how the election turns out.

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Jeremiah 16-18](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how through Jesus our names are written in heaven ([Luke 10:20](#)) and not in the dust and how he declares he is the living water ([John 4:10](#)).

## Day 3 [Matthew 22:37-39](#) | Countercultural

**And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”** Matthew 22:39

The early church viewed Jesus as king over everything and Jesus’s kingdom as their primary citizenship. This view radically altered how they lived. They were countercultural. They took Jesus’s command to love your neighbor as yourself seriously. The early church was multiethnic and strove to be unified across racial lines. They prioritized the poor and suffering, taking care of widows and orphans. They valued the sanctity of human life, rescuing exposed babies from the trash heaps. They were sexually countercultural, believing sex is a gift from God to be enjoyed only in a marriage relationship between a man and a woman.

The countercultural views of the early church aren’t just for the first century. These are biblical values that don’t map perfectly onto one political party. No political party can claim to embody all of Jesus’s values. As Jesus followers, we’re called to care about these things and work to be countercultural as well. Our first citizenship is to Jesus’s kingdom. It doesn’t mean we don’t vote. However, it likely requires a nuanced approach to politics that acknowledges neither party has all the answers. As Jesus followers, our allegiance is to Jesus, not a political party.

**TODAY:** Confess to God that it can be easy to place our politics over our allegiance to Jesus. Write “Jesus is king” on a sticky note and place it somewhere you’ll see it regularly. Or, change your lock screen for the remainder of the political season. Choose something to remind you that Jesus is king and that he doesn’t belong to either political party.

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Jeremiah 19-20](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.

## Day 4 [John 18:36-37](#) | The Kingdom

**Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”** John 18:36

Jesus’s kingdom is not like the kingdoms Pilate is used to. It isn’t about a country, or ethnic group and it doesn’t have borders. Jesus’s kingdom is a spiritual kingdom that transforms the physical world. As the good news of Jesus spread, it had a transforming impact. The countercultural beliefs of the early church completely transformed the ethical values of the world. The kingdom of Jesus brings life, a return to the life people were created to live.

Jesus’s kingdom isn’t a country. The United States isn’t the kingdom of God. Our hope isn’t in a country but in a person—Jesus. We see and feel the kingdom of God wherever Jesus is king. That’s one reason many Christians care about politics. They want our policies to align with what they believe is true and right. As we interact with the world around us, whether it is how we vote, where we volunteer, what causes we donate to or the way we

treat our friends, we can transform the world. When we place Jesus first and try to make him king over all of life, it will first transform us. Then, God begins to use us to transform the world.

**TODAY:** Open your journal and write “God’s Kingdom” at the top. Think about how God has given you an opportunity to transform the world. It may be at home, at work, with friends, at church, at a local nonprofit or through your generosity. Jot down ways you could intentionally lean into those spaces. Ask God to give you wisdom as you discern your next steps.

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Jeremiah 21-23](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jesus is the King who rules with wisdom, the righteous Branch of David.

## Day 5 [John 18:38-40](#) | Jesus or Barabbas

**They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.** John 18:40

The crowd in front of Pilate has a choice to make. The choice is between a political revolutionary and the very God who created them—and they choose Barabbas. They reject Jesus. He isn’t giving them what they want. He talks about a kingdom, but he doesn’t seem interested in overthrowing Rome. The Jews are focused on political freedom when true life is right in front of them.

It’s a mistake people have made for thousands of years. It’s a mistake that’s easy for us to make. When faced with a choice between Jesus and something else, we often choose the other thing. They put their hopes in a political leader, and we can do that as well. Our culture tells us that everything hangs on the next election, and we believe it. But that’s not true. Everything hangs on the cross. And that’s done. Jesus has already won. He’s the king. He’s the only person who can carry the weight of our hope. Our culture is asking us to make the same choice those first-century Jews did. It tells us to choose a political leader or party over Jesus. We have to recognize it as a lie and choose Jesus. Only Jesus can promise to do away with pain, sadness and death. Only he can make all things new ([Revelation 21:1-5](#)).

**TODAY:** Return to the weekend service and the worship song “[Hope has a Name](#)” as a reminder that our true hope is found in Jesus.

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Jeremiah 24-25](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.