

# The Old Paths

Volume 9, Issue 26

August 25, 2002

## “The Scepter Of The Lord”

Jarrod Jacobs

A scepter is an object unknown to those of us in the United States. A scepter is an object used by the monarch of a country. The Holman Bible Dictionary defines “scepter” as: “The official staff or baton of a king, symbolic of his authority .... Ancient Middle Eastern scepters were depicted in Scripture as the striking power of the king (Num. 24:17). As part of the royal regalia, the scepter was extended to a visitor or dignitary (Esth. 5:2) to signal approval of the visit and allow the person to approach the throne. Scepters were decorated elaborately with gold and precious stones. The shapes varied from wide short maces to long slender poles, usually with ornate heads. The type of scepter usually differed from one kingdom to the next.”

The term “scepter” is used several times in the Bible. As is mentioned above, sometimes the term meant a literal scepter or staff, and at other times, it was symbolic of the authority of the King. Our concern is with how the term “scepter” applies to the Lord. Let us think about this.

### **Some Old Testament Prophecies.**

In the Old Testament, we see the term “scepter” used for the first time in Genesis 49:10. In this chapter we find that Jacob was getting ready to die. In preparation for his death, he assembles his twelve sons together and conveys

several blessings upon them. As he comes to Judah, he says the following: “The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.” Here, we find the promise of Christ’s coming (Shiloh) through the physical lineage of Judah (Matt. 1:2-3; Lk. 3:33; Heb. 7:14).

Looking further, we read, “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre” (Ps. 45:6). Other versions say, “...A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom” (NAS). In other words, this ruling One is righteous in His judgments, not a wicked king by any means.

### **The New Testament Fulfillment Of Old Testament Prophecies.**

One passage that ought to jump out at us after reading Psalm 45:6 is Hebrews 1:8. There, the Holy Spirit shows that Christ is superior to the angels, and superior to all creation. We read, “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.” Therefore, the passages in the psalms had reference to Christ and His righteous rule!

Paul wrote to Timothy and said, “That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords” (I Tim. 6:14-15). John, in writing the book of Revelation said, “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the

Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (Rev. 17:14, 19:16). Yes, Christ rules today, and will do so “till he hath put all enemies under his feet....And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all” (I Cor. 15:25, 28).

The Bible makes it clear that Christ is our King, ruling with a scepter of righteousness. The Old Testament promised His rule, and the New Testament shows that He is ruling!

### **Christ Rules Today.**

Based on what we have learned, let us understand that the Lord reigns over us right now. Since this is true, our responsibility is to submit willingly to the Lord, our King. What Christ tells us to do, we do! Again, a country such as ours does not realize what it means to be ruled by a monarch. Nevertheless, in a monarchy, the King rules, and is obeyed without question, argument, or rebellion. Those who would disobey suffer the consequences.

In like manner, the Lord Jesus Christ, our King tells us to believe on Him or die in our sins (Jn. 8:24). Christ tells us to repent or perish (Lk. 13:3). Our King commands men to confess Him or be denied in the presence of the Father (Matt. 10:32-33). Jesus also has decreed that one must be baptized in order to be saved (Mk. 16:16). Our responsibility is to submit to this plan, and not fight against it!

Similarly, all of the New Testament stands as our instructions for living in this life (II Tim. 3:16-17). We are expected to do all things according to the authority of our King (Col. 3:17). Will we rebel, or will we gladly obey?

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk

## *A Sound Church Is ...*

Jarrood Jacobs

**S**ome time back, I received a question over the e-mail. The person asked the question, "What would be a sound church?" Below is my answer:

"A sound church is one that follows Christ's word as its only law and practice (Col. 3:17). A sound church is one that is devoted to only doing as the apostles did in worship (Acts 2:42, 20:7; Eph. 5:19). A sound church is one who disciplines those who walk disorderly (II Thess. 3:6). A sound church is one who will not just take "anyone" as a member there, but will test and ask questions, and allow them to ask questions (Acts 9:26-28). The truth has nothing to fear, you know. A sound church is one who knows the truth and will defend it, and will spread the truth (I Thess. 1:8; II Tim. 4:2; Jude 3). A sound church is one who will not be involved in unauthorized ways of handling the Lord's money such as: the support of orphan homes or benevolent societies from its treasury (Phil. 4:15-16; Jas. 1:27). A sound church is one that realizes "*the kingdom of God is not meat and drink*" (Rom. 14:17). Thus, it will not be like the denominations in support of "fun, food, and frolic" in order to "win" people to them. A sound church is one who remembers its first love (Rev. 2:4; Eph. 4:15). A sound church is one who reverences Christ (Acts 4:12). A sound church does not tolerate or coddle worldliness (II Cor. 6:17). A sound church wears the name of Christ (Acts 20:28; Rom. 16:16)."

What would you have said had you been asked this question? Based on what has been said already, do you belong to a sound church? Brethren, let us compare

this congregation with the Scriptures. Would God consider us to be a sound church?

We might also consider the fact that a sound church is properly organized, having no connections to a larger organization other than the local congregation! A sound church can be scripturally unorganized for a while (Clearly, when churches were started in the first century, there were not men qualified to be elders or deacons at first. Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5); but there comes a time when a congregation, in order to be sound, must be scripturally organized, having elders to oversee the local group, deacons to serve, and saints to do God's will, and be under the oversight of the elders (I Pet. 5:2-3; I Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9; Phil. 1:1).

Let us think about what we are doing to fulfill our duties to God, and make sure this a sound church in Owensboro! "What would be a sound church?" I think the answer is clear. The question is, are WE a sound church? Are WE a sound congregation meeting in Owensboro? "*Search the Scriptures*" and see!

"Truth is universal — that is the reason a person sometimes thinks the speaker is aiming every thing he says at him."

- R.L. Whiteside



***I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!***

Come and meet with the church at Southside.  
Our address is: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303.

### MEETING TIMES:

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** ————— **9:30 am**  
**Sunday Morning Worship** ————— **10:20 am**  
**Sunday Evening Worship** ————— **6:00 pm**  
**Wednesday Evening Bible Study** ————— **7:00 pm**

Don't forget the call-in radio program on **WBIO, FM 94.7**, Sunday afternoon from 12:30-1:00 pm. **Call: 683-5200** with your Bible question.

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**Website address:** [www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com) (Updated weekly!)

## *An Injustice Done To Men*

Jarrood Jacobs

**S**omeone once said, "*No greater injustice can be done to any person than to give them the impression that they are saved when, in fact, they are not.*" How true this is! Brethren, let us not be guilty of allowing our friends and neighbors to go through life having never heard the gospel! How terrible it would be to see our friends or neighbors stand before God and be sent to a devil's Hell all because we refused to tell them the truth! Are you one who does not give others the opportunity to hear the gospel preached? How many people have you invited to the worship services this week? This month? This year? Answer this question honestly, and it can show us where our priorities truly are!

What are we more interested in — a ball game or the worship to God Almighty? Are we more interested in knowing that some lost soul has obeyed the Lord and become a Christian or whether the bass are biting at the lake? Are we more interested in Bible study or reading the newspaper? Christ said, "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these (physical) things shall be added unto you*" (Matt. 6:33). Friends, after we pass on, what will be left? Where will you, your friends/neighbors spend eternity? And will this be because of or in spite of our efforts?

**Think about it!!**

**Use This Tool To Teach Others:**  
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