

Avinu Malkeinu

Our Father, Our King

**God has a culture - one that is found in
the pages of the Bible from Genesis to
Revelation.**

**It is important that we see the Bible as
a Kingship document.**

**It is the constitution of the Kingdom
itself. How we perceive God as King,
an actual King established with
purposeful intent from the beginning,
will change how we relate to Him.**

**The modern world, and especially
Americans, have been raised with an
aversion to authority and
especially towards absolute authority.**

We no longer have earthly Kings, in most areas of the world, with the authority over our life and death – but we do have an eternal King with the ultimate authority over our life and death.

In the ancient world, even five hundred years ago, to be the subject of a King meant that you took for granted **the rights of that King to make laws and to command absolute obedience** from his subjects.

By using the language of kings, within the format of the contractual language and prerogatives of the kings of the earth, God was making one unmistakable and undeniable claim: “I am not only your God, I am your King.”

Psalm 22:27-29

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

28 For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

Psalm 22:27-29

**29 All the prosperous of the earth eat
and worship; before him shall bow all
who go down to the dust, even the one
who could not keep himself alive.**

Psalm 5:1-3

1 Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning. 2 Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.

3 O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.

We really miss a lot of what the Bible teaches us when we do not properly understand what it is to have a King, and to be the representative or servant of a King.

1 Samuel 8:6-8

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.**”

1 Samuel 8:6-8

8 According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you.

1 Samuel 8:18-20

18 And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.” 19 But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, “No! But there shall be a king over us,

1 Samuel 8:18-20

20 that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

How did the kings of the ancient Near East (Egypt and Mesopotamia) communicate with each other and with the subjects with whom they were in covenant?

**The Suzerain-vassal treaty covenants -
These documents have revealed
amazing parallels to the manner in
which the first five books of the Bible
were written.**

Suzerain King

A Suzerain king is quite literally a “king of kings;” he is the greater king with authority over a number of lesser kings, known as his vassals.

Suzerain King

These vassal kings rule smaller territories under the ultimate dominion of the Suzerain.

**Scripture's first obvious reference to a
Suzerain king is in Genesis 14: 4-9:
Twelve years they served
Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth
year they rebelled.**

When Abraham boldly told the king of Sodom that he had lifted his hand to the LORD, the most high God, calling Him **the possessor of Heaven and earth**, he was declaring that YHVH was not only his God but also His King.

**When God placed Adam in the garden,
and gave him dominion over everything
within it, He made Adam a vassal king
upon the Earth.**

This was the original plan in the Garden, renewed again at Mt Sinai with the blood of animals, and then finalized with the righteous blood of Yeshua.

God has revealed Himself to be a God entirely different from all others. He has also shown Himself to be an entirely different sort of King than His people had ever known.

He is an intimate King, making covenant with each and every individual descendant of Jacob, holding all accountable to the same laws, and caring for the sick, poor, widowed, orphaned and oppressed.

He is a King who values love and loyalty above all else, and He is a King who keeps His promises.

**In a true Kingdom, no one but the King
has the right to make laws.**

**When we take the Land that He gave to
Abraham and give it to someone else,
we make a public declaration of war
against His right to rule His own
Kingdom as the great Suzerain King.**

Anyone who doubts the biblically established ownership of the Land given to Abraham's seed is in full-blown rebellion and is calling God a liar.

**This is entirely about the rights of God
and His legitimacy as King.**

When we reject His Kingdom, we strip Him of any real-world authority, we deny Him the right to rule over His people and we relegate Him to a mere “king in theory.”

**We do not respect His unconditional
land grant to the seed of Abraham.
We do not respect His rights to set the
laws for all of His people.
We do not respect His rights to bless
and curse us according to that
covenant.**

**We are in covenant with the great
Suzerain King of the universe. When
we came into that Covenant, our lives
stopped being about us and our rights.**

**Our citizenship is granted by the
grace-filled patronage of the Son on
behalf of His Father, the King.**

**To be in good standing in the Kingdom
of God we must recognize His Son.**

**A kingdom, any kingdom, is known by
the conduct of its citizens.**

We have been conditioned to want a King who has no ability to rule us – but a King without laws is a King without dominion, authority, or power.

Is God the Father your King in any real way if He has no right to enact boundaries on your behavior and govern you as a member of His own Kingdom?

When we, as former Gentiles (now citizens of God's Kingdom of Israel), say the law does not apply to us but only to the Jews, we are in effect saying that He is their King, but He is not ours.

Faith in Yeshua, and covenanting with God through Him, is what makes us citizens in His Kingdom; but adherence to the righteous and just laws of the Kingdom is what determines whether or not we are considered good citizens.

In God's Kingdom, laws, delivered to Moses by the mouth of God Himself, were given to establish perfect peace, justice and righteousness. To change these laws would be in violation of the law itself and according to the Apostle John that would qualify as sin.

Deuteronomy 4:2

**You must not add to the word that I am
commanding you or take away from it
—in order to keep the mitzvot of
Adonai your God that I am
commanding you.**

**If God the Father is the King of kings,
then He must, by definition, have rule
over a real domain.**

**We are citizens of the Kingdom of
Heaven, legitimate citizens of an
absolutely real Kingdom.**

**Becoming a citizen isn't the sum
totality of what is expected of us. This
is true with regards to citizenship of an
earthly country and citizenship in the
Kingdom of God.**

Good citizenship is what we owe our King. We made a choice to come into His Kingdom through Yeshua, our patron; no one forced us into this Covenant, we wanted it. Now we should want to be good neighbors - to honor His character in sight of the world.

**Of course, there is a level beyond that!
There is a big difference between being
a good citizen and actually loving our
neighbors with the love of Messiah. A
good citizen obeys the laws of their
country, but a truly good neighbor is
willing to suffer loss, even die to self,
for the sake of another.**

We owe it to Him to become citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven – not in the future, but now – establishing His dominion across the face of the earth.

Shema
(2nd Verse)

***Baruch shem k'vod malchuto l'olam
va'ed.***

**Blessed is the name of His glorious
kingdom for all eternity.**

Other Prayers and Blessings

*Baruch ata Ad-nai Eloheinu melech
ha-olam...*

**Blessed are you, O L-rd our G-d, King
of the Universe...**

Song Lyrics

Tyler Dawn Rosenquist
King, Kingdom, Citizen: His Reign &
Our Identity (Covenant Life) (Volume 2)

