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JESUS, OUR KING

In Mark 8:27-33 Jesus asked the twelve disciples (NKJV), ***“Who do men say that I am?”*** They responded with John the Baptist (who had recently died), Elijah (reincarnated), or any number of the various prophets. Only Peter responded in verse 29 with, ***“You are the Christ,”*** the Anointed One. To Peter and the others, this meant Jesus was the Anointed Messiah who would cast off Roman rule and establish Israel to be a free and independent nation with Jesus ruling in Jerusalem as an earthly king.

In verse 31, Jesus began to tell them that he would be utterly rejected by the Jewish leaders, then tortured, and killed. They could not accept this. Impulsive Peter took Jesus aside and began to vigorously rebuke him for speaking such blasphemy. Jesus then looked at all the other apostles and publicly rebuked Peter in verse 33. He said to Peter, ***“Get behind Me, Satan!”*** “Peter, (my paraphrase) you are thinking only as a man. You have no idea of God’s plan. You are letting Satan influence your natural mind. You do not have the mind of the things of God (Holy Spirit).”

Jesus was not trying to be mean to Peter or to humiliate him. He was illustrating how Satan could put erroneous thoughts into our mind. Jesus later taught them that the Holy Spirit (The Comforter; John 14:26 and 16:13) would open their understanding to the deeper spiritual truths. The Holy Spirit would put right thoughts and understanding into their minds.

The rebuke aimed at Satan in Mark 8:33 also showed them the power and authority over Satan that the Holy Spirit would give them through the name of Jesus.

It is a power and authority which we still have to this day. That power fell upon (immersed like a waterfall) every believer in the upper room at Pentecost and for those that received it after the initial outpouring. This power is still available today as it was back then. It has never ceased, because Jesus is still the same, ***“yesterday (the past), today (current times) and for ever (eternity).”*** (Hebrews 11:8.)

Jesus is our eternal King of Kings, and the King above all kings forever.