

## THE KING'S RING

Ancient kings used signet rings to indicate their authority, ownership and honor. Each ring had an emblem unique to the king which he would use to seal documents with soft wax to certify that it was genuine. At times he would give custody of the ring to someone highly favored so that they could transact business and enforce decrees in his name. There are several examples of this in the Bible.

*So Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.' Then Pharaoh took his **signet ring** from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. - Genesis 41:41-42 NIV*

*The king took off his **signet ring**, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai who **used his authority in the name of the king.** - Esther 8:2, 10  
(Esther 3:8-15 shows the devious plans and orders that Haman gave to exterminate the Jews)*

Wicked Jezebel wrote letters in Ahab's name, and placed his **seal** upon them. -1 Kings 21:8. Their sordid story of greed and murder over a land deal is told in I Kings 21.

Daniel suffered for his faith and king Darius reluctantly used his authority to throw him in the lion's den at the urging of the administrators and rulers under him.

*So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lion's den. The king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!' A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king **sealed** it with his own **signet ring** and with the rings of the nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.*

God protected Daniel from the vicious lions and revealed to Darius that the God of Daniel was the one with utmost authority.

Jesus told a parable about a wayward son and a loving father which is usually told as the story of the **prodigal son**. The prodigal left home with high hopes and lots of money but ended up in a pigpen and broke. The pleasures of sin are only for a season, but then the wages of living a self indulgent life pay dividends of emptiness, shame and pain. When the young man reached the end of his resources, he came to his senses and decided to return humbly to his father and become his servant. However, his father ran out to greet him and treated him like he was royalty. He had his servants put the best robe on him and **placed a ring on his finger** and sandals on his feet.

The robe displaced the prodigal's shame with dignity and honor as a highly honored member of the household. Slaves, servants and conquered enemies normally walked barefoot but this son was fitted with sandals. What about the ring? The master of a

household and a king would only give their signature (signet) ring to someone they trusted with responsibility. It gave the bearer the **power of attorney and authority** to operate in the name of the king or master.

In the Gospels and in the Book of Acts we see the apostles and disciples of Jesus operating with keys of authority which Jesus first gave to Peter in Matthew 16:19. Jesus said that it was through these keys that his church would be built (16:18). The doors to various people groups and nations was opened using those keys of authority.

**I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven. - Matthew 16:19 AMP**

To bind or loose is the authority to forbid and permit, which is what kings have the authority to do. However, believers in Jesus are not to usurp the authority of Jesus or his kingdom purposes, or use them for their own wishes or benefit. (Peter did this right after Jesus gave him the keys! - Matthew 16:21-23)

We were like the prodigal son, and Jesus came to do the same thing for us. We were rebels who had lived only for ourselves and were dressed in filthy rags, but he has given us robes of righteousness. He has also given us his signet ring, that is, the **authority to carry out kingdom business** in his name. We can open and close doors and we can forbid certain things and permit other things. Jesus is not just a history lesson for believers; he is our mentor and example of what can be done. Observe what he rebuked, resisted, cast out, healed, cursed, blessed, honored, rewarded, forgave and loved.

eg. Jesus cursed a fig tree and it died from the roots. We can curse cancer and tell it to die from the roots. God told me one time to curse a strip club in Florida and it closed down. For five years the building remained empty and weeds grew up around the place. (the building was on main business road). I have seen evil spirits come out of people when commanded in the name of Jesus.

For several decades I have been given keys to several houses in which I acted as either caretaker or even house sitter. I did not own these houses, but the owners entrusted me with the keys to them and I kept them on my key ring. While the owners were away, I had access to enter their house at my pleasure. Jesus is no longer on earth, but while He is away we are his kingdom agents.

Jesus has given us a **signet ring**, it is the privilege of using his **great name** to approach God the Father, to deal with enemy forces and also to pronounce blessings upon people and situations. Thank God for the King's Ring!

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