

Seeking My King & His Kingdom

Lesson #13 - The Mediatorial Kingdom In Old Testament History

Why should we consider a study of the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ?

Dan. 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the Greatness Of The Kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.

Men have overlooked the Greatness Of This Kingdom, its richness and complexity, its vast sweep through history and its outreach into the eternal state.

It is Christ's time of manifestation and His time of revelation.

"Christ, in all of His glory, will institute His reign of righteousness and peace. During the Millennial Kingdom, the unveiled glory of Christ will shine forth in all of its fullness."

1. The Millennial Kingdom is a part of God's overall plan for mankind and creation. This Kingdom is the grand, central theme of Scripture.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ is the King eternal and the Divine Center of this Kingdom.
3. It is in this Kingdom that the Father's eternal purpose in the incarnate Son will be certainly and completely fulfilled.
2. The Bible, specifically the New Testament, places great emphasis on the future and preparing for eternity. We should live today in light of eternity.
3. How I live now reveals my heart's view of God and His sovereign authority.
4. How I live now will have a major impact on my role in Christ's Millennial Kingdom.
5. One of God's purposes for saving me is to conform me to the image of His Son who is to be the firstborn among many brothers. [Rom. 8:29]
6. Jesus Christ is my sure and certain hope. We shall reign with Him and worship Him forever.

Biblical references to the Kingdom of God almost seem contradictory.

1. It seems the Kingdom has always existed.

Psalms 10:16 The LORD is king forever and ever;

2. It seems it has a definite historical beginning among men.

Dan. 2:44 During the reigns of those kings, the God Of Heaven Will Set Up A Kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor its sovereignty left in the hands of another people.

It will shatter and crush all of these kingdoms, and it will stand forever.

3. The Kingdom seems universal in its scope, outside of which there is no created thing.

Ps. 103:19 The LORD has established His throne in heaven and His kingdom rules over all.

4. The Kingdom is revealed as a local rule established on earth.

Isa. 24:23 Then the moon will be embarrassed and the sun ashamed,

for the LORD of the Heavenly Armies will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem;

and in the presence of its elders there will be glory."

5. The Kingdom sometimes appears as the rule of God directly - with no intermediary standing between God and man.

Ps. 59:13 Go ahead and destroy them in anger!

Wipe them out, and they will know to the ends of the earth that God rules over Jacob.

6. Sometimes it appears the Kingdom is pictured as the rule of God through a mediator who serves as channel between God and man.

Ps. 2:4-6 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. In his anger He rebukes them, and in His wrath He terrifies them. "I have set my king on Zion, my holy mountain."

7. Often the Bible describes the Kingdom as something totally future.

Zech. 14:9 The LORD will be king over all the earth At That Time.

There will be one LORD, and His name the only one.

8. Other texts the Kingdom is said to be a present reality.

Ps. 29:10 The LORD sat enthroned over the flood, and the LORD sits as king forever.

9. Kingdom of God is set forth as an unconditioned rule arising out of God's sovereign nature

Dan. 4:34-35 When that period of time was over, I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven and my sanity returned to me. I blessed the Most High, praising and honoring the one who lives forever: For His sovereignty is eternal, and His kingdom continues from generation to generation.

All who live on the earth are nothing compared to Him. He does what He wishes with the heavenly armies and with those who live on earth.

No one can hold back His power or say to Him, 'What did you do?'

10. At times the Kingdom appears as a Kingdom based on a covenant made by God with man.

Ps. 89:27-29 "Indeed, I myself made him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

²⁸ I will show my gracious love toward him forever, since my covenant is securely established with him. I will establish his dynasty forever and his throne as long as heaven endures.

Scholars refer to these differences as:

1. Passages which refer to the natural Kingdom of God over the Universe
2. Passages which refer to the future reign of the Messiah as predicted in Scripture
3. There seems to be a Kingdom Over The Earth and a kingdom On Earth.

The concept of a kingdom should constitute 3 essential elements:

1. A ruler with adequate authority and power
2. A realm of subjects to be ruled
3. The actual exercise of the function of rulership

Kingdom ON Earth or Kingdom from Heaven = Mediatorial Kingdom

1. The rule of God through a divinely chosen representative who not only speaks and acts for God but also represents the people before God
2. A rule with reference to the earth
3. It has as its mediatorial ruler a member of the human race.

During our study of The Kingdom ON Earth [Mediatorial], we will investigate:

1. The rise and development of the Mediatorial Rule of God as it appears imperfectly in Old Testament History
2. Its future form as predicted in Old Testament prophecy
3. Its character as announced by our Lord and His disciples during the Gospel records
4. Its place in the history of the apostolic period in Acts
5. The mystery form in which it appears in the present Church age
6. Its visible and established form in the Millennial Age
7. Its final mergence in and complete identification with the Universal and Everlasting Kingdom of God

The Mediatorial Kingdom:

A. It is clear from Scripture that God has been trying to set up a "visible" Kingdom on this earth since the creation of man, to whom He gave dominion.

However it was to be exercised under the direction of God.

Gen. 1:27-28 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and Have Dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

That dominion was lost by the "Fall" and Satan set himself up as the "Prince of this world."

The dominion has been restored judicially in the Last Adam. The dominion will be realized on earth in the final age of human history [Millennium] and reaches out endlessly beyond history.

There we behold a throne which John explains: "the throne of God and of the Lamb." [Rev. 22:3]

B. From Eden To The Flood - Age of Conscience ~1656 Years

Gen. 6:3 My spirit shall not always strive with man.

1. Adam's sin and the loss of his proper dominion left the race without any external divinely mediated controls.

2. God seemed determined to leave it that way.

Only twice is there any record of divine intervention in human affairs.

a. Gen. 5:24 Enoch was translated from the earth to be forever in the presence of God.

b. Gen. 4:14, 16 Cain was shut out of the "presence of the LORD" as manifested upon the earth.

c. This period ends with almost total moral corruption and the earth "filled with violence."

d. Sinful man needs a kingdom of God on earth which is spiritual and moral in nature.

C. From the Flood To Babel - Human Government ~429 Years

Rom. 13:1 The powers that be are ordained of God.

Following the Flood, two important events:

1. God promised He would never again smite every living thing [Gen. 8:21] by the waters of a flood [Gen. 9:11]. His rainbow was a solemn pledge between man and God that He would keep the covenant. [Gen. 9:12-17]

2. God instituted human government to set up a control upon the lawless impulses of men.
 - a. Gen. 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God made he man.
3. We now have an institution by which God will now mediate His government over the nations through human rulers who, whether they acknowledge Him or not, are "ordained of God" as "ministers" of His.

D. Confusion of Tongues - Gen. 11:9 The LORD did there confound the language of all the earth.

1. The Table of Nations is given in Genesis 10.

We see the birth of nations, building of cities and the founding of empires.

2. God is opposed to a central world government.
3. 1st recorded urge of sinful men toward the "one world" government.

E. From Abraham to the Exodus- ~430 Years

Gen. 17:6 - Kings shall come out of thee.

1. God turned away from "man" in the collective sense and called out one particular man through whom His divine will is to be accomplished on earth. [Gen. 12:1-4]

F. The Sojourn In Egypt - Acts 7:17 - The people grew and multiplied in Egypt.

1. The sojourn in Egypt, under God, became a providential means of disciplinary training.
 - a. They were brought in contact with a high and well-organized civilization
 - b. A great leader was raised up who was educated in all the wisdom of Egypt.
 - c. Sufficient oppression was permitted to weld the tribes into a nation in preparation for the theocratic kingdom that would soon be established.

The Establishment of The Mediatorial Kingdom

1. Moses is the prophetic mediator through whom God's deed is accomplished.
2. God's theocratic kingdom began with Moses, continued under Joshua and the judges.
3. It reached its highest degree of extension and prosperity under Saul, David & Solomon.
4. It declined after Solomon and the division of the tribes and ended with the departure of the Visible Presence at the Captivity.

Supernatural Preparation For The Mediatorial Kingdom

Deut. 4:34 Or has any god ever taken for himself one nation out from another nation with testings, signs, wonders, wars, awesome power, and magnificent, terrifying deeds as the LORD your God did in Egypt before your eyes?

"You have been shown this in order to know that 'the LORD is God' and there is no one like Him.

1. It was necessary to signalize the appearance of this Kingdom on earth by means of a series of great supernatural acts which were designed to:

Compel belief and which could not be misinterpreted by any of the parties involved.

- a. Parties: Moses, the mediatorial leader; children of Israel, the chosen nation; Egypt and the other Gentile nations.

Recall: John believed it was a visible earthly Kingdom that was to be established in his day.

Listen to the question he sent his disciples while he is in prison to ask Jesus -

"Art Thou He that should come or do we look for another?" [Matt. 11:3]

Take special note of Jesus' answer: Matt. 11:4-5 Jesus answered and said to them,

"Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them."

Jesus answered John's question by a number of miracles of healing, which are the "signs" of the Messianic Kingdom and were proofs of Christ's Messiah ship.

Isa. 35:1-10 The Future Glory Of Zion

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

⁶ Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing.

Supernatural Acts:

1. Ex. 3:1-10 Extraordinary theophany at the Burning Bush

a. Call of Moses who was to be the first of a long line of mediatorial rulers in Israel

b. Miracle occurred at Horeb = the mountain of God = identified with Mt. Sinai

c. Burning fire points to the judging activity of God: a matter of Fatherly chastening as Israel passed through the furnace of affliction in Egypt; would eventually fall on Pharaoh and his hosts in retributive justice

d. God names Himself as "I AM THAT I AM." [Ex. 3:14]

e. God reaffirms His covenant relation with Israel.

Ex. 3:6 Then he said, "I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Moses is invested with divine authority to:

- Command the elders of Israel
- Sound the trumpet of judgment before Pharaoh
- To deliver the nation from the oppression of Egypt
- To lead them into the Promised Land where God would rule over them in mercy and justice

2. Second demonstration of God's miraculous power was intended for the nation of Israel.

a. 3 miracles performed in the sight of the people so Israel would believe that God commissioned Moses to deliver them from bondage and lead them to the Promised Land of the coming kingdom. [Ex. 4:5]

- Rod becomes a serpent [Ex. 4:1-9]
- Hand healed of leprosy
- Water turned into blood

3. Third demonstration of God's miraculous power was intended for Egypt and the surrounding Gentile nations.

Note: Moses issued a simple request to Pharaoh to let Israel leave Egypt to worship their God.

Pharaoh's response: Ex. 5:2 "Who is the LORD that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go."

a. Egypt and the other nations needed to be convinced of 3 facts.

- Absolute sovereignty of Jehovah over other alleged gods
- The choice of Israel as the favored nation of Jehovah above all other nations
- The divine authority of Moses as the accredited mediator of Jehovah's word and will

b. It consisted of 12 separate acts of power. Since a kingdom of God was about to be established in history, it was essential that sinful men should be given historic evidence that Jehovah is the true God and sovereign over the nations.

- Rod of God swallowed up the rods of Pharaoh's magicians
- 10 judicial plagues fell upon Egypt with appalling swiftness and progressive severity
- Final blow = Red Sea = Israel delivered; Pharaoh and his armies perished

Effects of Supernatural Demonstration:

1. The power of Egypt against Israel was temporarily destroyed.
2. The Israelites "believed the LORD and his servant Moses." [Ex. 14:31]
3. The fear of Jehovah spread to the surrounding Gentile nations. [Ex. 15:14-17]

The victory Song of Moses after the Red Sea crossing appeared to connect this supernatural demonstration of power with the Kingdom of God.

Ex. 15:18 "The LORD shall reign forever and ever."

Note the Parallel: Supernatural judgments will poured out upon a rebellious world in preparation for the future Millennial Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ at His Second Coming.

1. Same insolent challenge to the true God on the part of the Gentile powers.

Ps. 2:1-3 Why are the nations in an uproar, and their people involved in a vain plot?

² As the kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers conspire together against the LORD and his anointed one, they say,

³ "Let us tear off their shackles from us, and cast off their chains."

2. There will be a similar but infinitely greater preliminary miracle, the Rapture of the Church. This will warn men of the supremacy of Jehovah and the ultimate defeat of all who rebel against Him.

3. There will be the same swift progression in the severity of the divine judgments which follow and a striking parallel in the nature of the judgments. [Rev. 6-18]

4. There will be the same victorious outcome, the destruction of the antichrist and his armies in the judgment of Armageddon and the deliverance of the people of Israel. [Rev. 19]

5. There will be another song of victory, significantly referred to as "The Song Of Moses... and the Song of the Lamb. [Rev. 15:1-3]