

Seeking My King & His Kingdom

Lesson #9 The King & His Kingdom

It seems from Scripture that the purpose of God is to set up a Kingdom on this earth.

The question: Who is to be the King?

A. The Old Testament provides a "prophetic portrait" of the King.

1. Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

a. A future descendant of the woman who would be victorious over the Serpent.

Note: 1700 years pass until after the Flood.

2. Gen. 9:26-27 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

a. Promised seed of the woman shall come through the line of Shem

Note: 400 years pass

3. Gen. 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: ² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

a. Abraham will be the father of the race from whom the King shall come.

b. Gen. 17:18-21 - God revealed to Abraham the covenant would be established with Isaac who would be born of Sarah.

4. Gen. 28:10-15 God revealed to Jacob at Bethel that he was to be the one chosen for the line of the promised one.

a. The Abrahamic Covenant passed over Esau, the firstborn.

b. No descendant of Esau may claim the Messianic title.

5. Gen. 49:8-10 Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. ⁹ Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? ¹⁰ 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.

a. Sceptre indicates Kingly power. Shiloh = name for Messiah

b. Reuben, the firstborn, was passed over. Joseph, the favorite, was passed over.

c. God chose Judah, the 4th born son of Leah.

d. The Messiah must come through Judah and not Levi, the progenitor of the Priestly order.

Note: 475 years pass to the time of David of the tribe of Judah

6. II Sam. 7:16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

a. God confirmed this promise with an oath:

Ps. 89:3-4; 35-37 I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant,
⁴ Thy seed will I establish forever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.

Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.

³⁶ His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before me.

³⁷ It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.

b. Unconditional Covenant

c. Reaffirmed to Israel through Jeremiah many years after David's death when Israel had lapsed into idolatry [Jer. 33:17-26]

Consider: It is clear these promises did not mean there would be an unbroken line of successors.

a. After Solomon, the kingdom was divided.

b. In 587 BC the last king of Judah was carried captive to Babylon.

c. Jeremiah refers to a future king that God would raise up to sit on the "Throne of David."

Jer. 23:5-6 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

⁶ In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

c. Compare with Isaiah 11:1-2 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Note 1: "Branch" is common to both.

Note 2: "The Spirit of the Lord" shall rest upon Him in Isaiah & compare with...

d. Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

B. Scripture also foretells His Divine Parentage

1. Isa. 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

2. There are 4 prophecies in reference to the origin of the Messiah that were literally fulfilled in Jesus. (1) Be born in Bethlehem (2) Born of a virgin (3) Come out of Egypt (4) Nazarene
There can be no question that "Jesus of Nazareth" was the promised "Son of David" who is to reign upon the "Throne of David." But being rejected and crucified, and risen from the dead, he now sits on His Father's Throne until the time comes for Him to take His Kingdom.

The Throne of David is now VACANT and has been for ~2500 years, but when the "Times of the Gentiles" have run their course, and the time has come to set up again the "House of David" which has fallen down [Acts 15:13-18], the Throne of David will be re-established and given to Jesus Christ.

The Kingdom:

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

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."

Matt. 4:8-10 Again, the devil takes him up into an exceeding high mountain, and shows him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ And says unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then says Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shall worship the Lord thy God, and him only shall thou serve.

Luke 4:6-7 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

⁷ If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

Note: Satan offered Jesus: Kingdom, Power & Glory

John 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me..[no claim on me]

B. In the "Call" of Abraham God took the first step toward the setting up of a "visible" Kingdom on this earth which assumed an outward form in the "Jewish Commonwealth," under Moses. God reigned through Moses, Joshua, the Elders that outlived Joshua, the Judges, David, Solomon, the kings of Israel and Judah down to the Babylon Captivity under the form of a "Theocracy." Under the judgeship of Samuel there was a revolt against the "Theocracy."

Saul was chosen by the people as king. [I Sam. 8:6-7] Then God selected David as King.

The misrule of his successors, and the idolatry of the people, caused the cessation of the Theocratic reign in 606 BC. The "Times of the Gentiles" began.

C. When 600 years of the "Times of the Gentiles" had run its course, God again made the attempt to set up His Kingdom on the earth.

The angel Gabriel announced to Mary the birth of the King in Luke 1:31-33. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

³² He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

The Kingdom was announced: Note: In Hebrew: the words of and from are the same.

1. Thirty years later the King's forerunner, John the Baptist, announced that the Kingdom was "at hand" in Matt. 3:1-2 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of [from] heaven is at hand.

2. When the King manifested Himself to Israel He Himself made the same announcement in

Matt. 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying,

"Repent, for the kingdom of [from] heaven is at hand."

3. He sent out the 12: Matt. 10:7 as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. But the King was rejected and crucified, and the setting up of the Kingdom postponed.

The Promised "King" Returned To Heaven.

Acts 1:9-11 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; ¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

The Kingdom took on its "Mystery Form" while the King is physically absent. [Matt. 13:1-52]

One of the key petitions in "The Lord's Prayer" is "Thy Kingdom Come." There are more promises and prophecies about this "Kingdom" than any other period in the entire Bible.

The OT is replete with commitments for a literal Messiah ultimately ruling the world through Israel from His throne in Jerusalem. There are at least 1845 references in the OT and 17 books give prominence to the event. There are at least 318 references in 216 chapters of the NT and 23 of the 27 books give prominence to the event. The early church looked longingly for His promised return as their "Blessed Hope" to ride a desperate world of its evil rulers.

Consider: The lack of any realistic perspective on the Kingdom may be the root source of the widespread apostasy that characterizes our churches today.

Leonard Ravenhill: "Is there a forgotten truth from the holy and imperishable Word of the living God that could shake this Laodicean church from its creeping paralysis? I grasped 2 handfuls of books of sermons. Not one message on the Millennial Kingdom or the Judgment Seat of Christ. I believe this is the most neglected part of eschatology. Why? Does meditation on such a penetrating truth terrify the minister?"

Distinguish Between Kingdom Of God & Kingdom Of Heaven

1. Matthew used "Kingdom of Heaven" 33x; Kingdom of God = 5x
2. Careful exegetical study [critical explanation or interpretation of a text, particularly a religious text] suggests they are not precisely equivalent.
 - a. Kingdom of God = all-inclusive
 - b. Kingdom of Heaven = more specific and a subset within the all-inclusive term

[See chart]

3. "Kingdom of God" is the 'Reign of God' in the universe over all His created creatures and includes time and eternity, heaven and earth. It is spiritual and "cometh not with observation."

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, He Cannot Enter Into The Kingdom Of God.

Luke 17:20-21 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The Kingdom Of God Cometh Not With Observation:

²¹ Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. It is entered by the "new birth."

Rom. 14:17 For the Kingdom Of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Kingdom of Heaven: Note: In Hebrew: the words of and from are the same.

1. Its character is described in the 12 "Kingdom of Heaven Parables" given in Matt. 13:1-50; 18:23-25; 20:1-16; 22:1-14; 25:1-30. From this study, we see:
 - a. The "Kingdom of Heaven" is limited as to its time and sphere.
 2. Kingdom of Heaven seems to be portrayed in twelves: 12 tribes; 12 apostles to reign over the 12 tribes, 12 Kingdom Parables, 12 Kingdom Mysteries. It climaxes in the New Jerusalem with 12 gates, 12 foundation stones and measuring 12,000 furlongs in each of 3 dimensions.
 3. The Millennial Kingdom is the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant and is a literal, physical kingdom on the Planet Earth.
 - a. 1000 year visible reign of Christ upon the earth
 - b. Satan will be bound.
 - c. Israel as a people is restored.
 - d. Jewish Temple is rebuilt.
 - e. Jesus will be King of Kings ruling over a literal kingdom, in the literal land of Israel and located in the literal city of Jerusalem.

Ps. 2:6-8 "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion."

⁷ "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You.'⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give *You* The nations *for* Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.

Question: Was the Kingdom at Hand an outward visible and earthly Kingdom?

1. Old Testament scriptures teach there is to be an earthly and visible Kingdom over which the Son of Man is to rule.

Dan. 2:34-35 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Dan. 2:44-45 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. ⁴⁵ Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure. [This is the Kingdom Of or From Heaven.]

Dan. 7:13-14 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

¹⁴ And There Was Given Him Dominion, And Glory, And A Kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. [Kingdom of or from Heaven].

Jer. 23:5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Zech. 14:9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

2. At the time of Jesus' birth, there was widespread expectation of the coming of the Messiah.

a. Simeon & Anna waited in the Temple for the "Consolation of Israel." [Luke 2:25-38]

Luke 2:25-38 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name *was* Simeon, and this man *was* just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law,²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:²⁹ "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,³² A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."
Luke 2:36-38 Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity;³⁷ and this woman *was* a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served *God* with fasting and prayers night and day.³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

b. Magi from the East came and worshiped Him as KING. [Matt. 2:1-11]

3. Thirty years after Jesus' birth, John the Baptist appeared at the Jordan and preached: Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is AT HAND. [Matt. 3:2]

a. Matt. 3:3 and Isa. 40:3 tell us: John's mission was to "Prepare the Way Of The Lord."

b. Prepare for what???? Not the cross, but the "Kingdom."

c. Consider: John's message had no meaning to those who heard him and were looking for the setting up of the Messianic Kingdom, if he did not mean by the "Kingdom of Heaven" an outward and visible earthly Kingdom.

d. John himself believed it was a visible earthly Kingdom. 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]

e. 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.

Consider: It is true John the Baptist pointed out to 2 of his disciples that Jesus was "the Lamb of God." [sacrificial work of Jesus Christ]

Note the sequence: This was after the wilderness temptation of Jesus Christ.

1. John's proclamation of "The Kingdom is at hand" was the first event.
2. John the Baptist baptizes Jesus.
3. The fact that Jesus was the "Lamb of God" was revealed to John at Jesus' baptism.
4. After Jesus' baptism, He IMMEDIATELY was driven into the wilderness to be tempted of Satan.
5. John's first testimony of JESUS is AFTER Jesus' baptism and His temptation in the wilderness. Then John said "Jesus was the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world."
6. In John 1:32-34 John the Baptist testifies that he knew not Jesus as the "Lamb of God" until His baptism.
John 1:32-34 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."
7. Then he knew by the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove upon Christ that He was the "SON OF GOD."
8. His proclamation that "The Kingdom of Heaven Was At Hand" was before this knowledge about Christ's sacrificial work.
9. Conclusion: John was referring to a visible, literal and earthly kingdom.