

## THE KINGDOM PROMISED (1 Samuel 8:4-7)

A. Israel rejected God as their King, so He permitted them to have an earthly King.

1. Saul, the son of Kish of the tribe of Benjamin.
2. David, the son of Jesse of the tribe of Judah.
3. Solomon, the son of David & Bathsheba.
  - a. The infant kingdom of Saul.
  - b. The conquering kingdom of David.
  - c. The peaceful & spacious kingdom of Solomon.

B. Solomon's kingdom, a great beginning (1 Kgs 3:1-15)

1. He asked God for an "understanding heart".
2. God gave him that wisdom plus a long life, riches, & favor among his enemies.
3. These "glory days" lasted for 120 years.
4. After Solomon's death, the kingdom divided into north & south.

D. In the north, King Jeroboam led Israel into idolatry, so God sent prophets to call them to repentance.

1. After a long series of evil Kings, God sent the Assyrians to punish them (721).
2. Israel would never return from their foreign captivity.

E. In the south, Judah was alone & closely following in the footsteps of her wicked sister Israel.

1. God sent the Babylonians to punish them (606).
2. However, God would bring Judah home again.
3. He had a purpose for this remnant of Israel.
4. Through Judah God would bring His Son J. Christ to the world.

a. Messiah or Christ means, "Anointed ruler".

b. After His resurrection from the dead & His ascension into Heaven some 40 days later Jesus received His anointing or appointment as King over the Kingdom of God (Dan 7:13-14).

[God had been working through Israel for many centuries to prepare for the Kingdom of His Son.

Our study has 3 parts: 1) Jesus came to establish a Kingdom. 2) His Kingdom differed from popular ideas. 3) His Kingdom was prophesied in the OT.]

## I. JESUS CAME TO ESTABLISH A KINGDOM

### A. He was of the royal lineage.

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**Luke 1:31-33** (**Gabriel**) – And behold, you will conceive in your womb & bring forth a Son, & shall call His name **JESUS**. 32 He will be great, & will be called **the Son of the Highest; & the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David**. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, & of His Kingdom there will be no end” (**Isa 9:6-7**).

**Matt 1:1, 16** – The book of the genealogy of **Jesus Christ, the Son of David**, the Son of Abraham...Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born **Jesus who is called Christ**

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1. But why was it important for Gabriel & Matthew refer to Jesus as the Son of David?

a. It was important not only to show that Jesus was of royal lineage, but to show that God was about to fulfill His promise to David.

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**2 Sam 7:12-13** – When your days are fulfilled & you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, & **I will establish his kingdom**. 13 He shall build a house for My name, & I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

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B. **He was born to be King**, a point that even foreigners understood – “Bible scholars from countries outside of Israel”

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**Matt 2:1-2** (**Magi**) – Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, “**Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?** For we have seen His star in the East & have come to worship Him.”

**Gen 49:10** (**Jacob blesses Judah**) – **The scepter shall not depart from Judah**, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; & to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

**Num 24:17** (**Balaam’s 4<sup>th</sup> prophecy against Edom & Moab**) – I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; **a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel**,

**John 18:37** – Pilate said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “**You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, & for this cause I have come into the world**, that I should bear witness to the truth...”

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[Summary: Jesus would be called the Son of the Highest. He would reign over an endless kingdom. He was of the right royal lineage to be king by God’s promise. He was born for that purpose.

Now there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> thought we need to underscore in this introduction to the Kingdom of Christ.]

## II. HIS KINGDOM DIFFERED FROM WHAT WAS EXPECTED

### A. His Kingdom differed...because it is not an earthly kingdom.

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**John 18:36** (Pilate asked, “Are you a King?”) – *My kingdom is not of this world.* If My Kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now *My kingdom is not from here.*

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1. Yet the popular concepts regarding the Kingdom of Jesus Christ connect current & future wars as precursors to its establishment.
2. But Jesus said, “No, My Kingdom bears no resemblance to the kingdoms of this world.”

### B. His Kingdom differed...because it has no physical boundaries.

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**Acts 1:6** – [After His resurrection, the disciples] asked Him, saying, “*Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?*”

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7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you (**Acts 2:1-4**); & *you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, & in all Judea & Samaria, & to the end of the earth.*”

**Witnesses to what? Acts 2:36-39** – “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly *that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord & Christ.*” 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, & said to Peter & the rest of the apostles, “Men & brethren, what shall we do?” 38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, & let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for *the remission of sins*; & you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you & to your children, & *to all who are afar off*, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

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### C. His Kingdom differed...because it is not a political kingdom.

1. James & John are not on either side of Jesus (**Matt 20:21-23**), at the exclusion of the other apostles.
2. In fact all who serve Jesus by serving others are “first” in His eyes – therefore, all His servants in His kingdom may rank #1 (**Mark 9:33-35; Matt 18:1-4**).
3. There are no political offices to vie for; there is no chance for “Simony” (buying an office).

[Jesus came to establish His Kingdom, & His Kingdom differs greatly from what people expect.

Many today hold out hope that Jesus will come back to earth & establish an empire, the glory & splendor of which has never been seen before – and that the Jews will be the prominent people in that kingdom.

But that is just not the case!

Were there any clues in the OT that Jesus' Kingdom would be different from what people expected?]

### III. HIS KINGDOM WAS PROMISED

A. God promised through Nathan that the Kingdom of Christ would last forever.

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**2 Sam 7:12-13** (God's promise to David) – When your days are fulfilled & you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, & ***I will establish his kingdom.*** 13 He shall build a house for My name, & ***I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.***

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1. If this prophecy applied only to Solomon, then it was unfulfilled, untrue & impossible.
  2. But this prophecy is primarily about Jesus Christ (a descendent of David & Solomon), & the kingdom over which He would reign.
  3. His kingdom, like Solomon's, entailed the building of God's house, the church (Quote Matt 16:16-18; 1 Tim 3:15), not a physical structure, but a spiritual house made up of living stones (1 Pet 2:5).
  4. And Jesus promised to be with His kingdom "to the end of the world" (Matt 28:20).
- B. God promised through David that the Kingdom of Christ would be governed from Heaven.

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**Psa 110:1** – The LORD said to my Lord, "***Sit at My right hand,*** till I make Your enemies Your footstool" (Matt 22:41-46).

**Mark 16:19** – So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, & ***sat down at the right hand of God.***

**Acts 2:33** – Therefore being *exalted to the right hand of God*, & having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see & hear.

**Rom 8:34** – It is Christ who died, & furthermore is also risen, who is even *at the right hand of God*, who also makes intercession for us.

**Col 3:1** – If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, *sitting at the right hand of God*.

**Heb 10:12** – But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, *sat down at the right hand of God*,

**1 Peter 3:20-22** – when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us — baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven & is *at the right hand of God, angels & authorities & powers having been made subject to Him*.

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1. Just as the OT prophets foretold, there is a descendent of David ruling over the Kingdom of God from Heaven itself.

C. **God promised through *Daniel*** that the Kingdom of Christ would come in the days of the Roman Kings (who were reigning in Jesus' day).

1. But what would make it different from what people expected?

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**Dan 2:44** (NASU) – In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will *never be destroyed*, & that kingdom will *not be left for another people*; it will *crush & put an end to all these kingdoms* [Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greek, Roman] but *it will itself endure forever*.

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[I would like to explore THAT kingdom further in our next lesson.]

**Psalms 2:6, 8, 11-12**

{God's Plan Fulfilled}  
"Yet I have set My King  
On My holy hill of Zion."

{God's Promise to the King}  
Ask of Me, & I will give You  
The nations for Your inheritance,  
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

{God's Plea to the World}  
Serve the LORD with fear,  
And rejoice with trembling.  
Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, & you perish in the way,  
when His wrath is kindled but a little.

{God's Promise to the Kingdom}  
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.