

The Bible Overview Part 3: KINGDOM

God is the Ruler of the world; but his image-bearers were supposed to rule too

Psalm 8 (echoing Genesis 1:26-28)



Abraham ⇒ Isaac ⇒ Jacob ⇒ Moses ⇒ Joshua ⇒ Judges ⇒ Samuel...

The people always needed leaders, and they feel this keenly at the points of transition

So surely a king is the solution?

YES?

‘In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.’ (Judges 17:6)

‘In those days there was no king in Israel.’ (Judges 18:1)

‘In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a certain Levite was sojourning...’ (Judges 19:1)

‘In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.’ (Judges 21:25)

NO

Judges 8:22-23 and Judges 9:7-21...

1 Samuel 8



But then God promised a glorious, everlasting kingdom (2 Samuel 7)

David wanted to build God a ‘house’ (a temple). Instead God promises David a ‘house’ (a dynasty)

God’s covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are now focused in on one man, the king

It’s a promise of an eternal kingdom (we don’t know yet it will end in an eternal king)

Unlike King Saul, David was a shepherd who knew God as his shepherd (Psalm 23)



The Kingdom under Solomon, the ‘Son of David’, is wonderful

He builds the ‘house’ (temple)

The arrival of the Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:1-13)

Beware the prosperity gospel (10:9, WHO AM I? TOOL)

But sinful kings bring ruin to the kingdom

David commits adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11)

Solomon marries foreign women, and his heart turns aside to worship their gods (1 Kings 11)

⇒ the kingdom is divided into Israel (north) and Judah (south)

Jeroboam leads Israel into idolatry

⇒ Israel is exiled to Assyria (2 Kings 17:6-23, LINKING WORDS TOOL)

Manasseh leads Judah into idolatry

⇒ Judah is exiled to Babylon (2 Kings 24-25)

From exile, the prophets promise a glorious king to come

‘The word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?... The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them’ (Ezekiel 34:1-2, 4)

‘For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.... I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.’ (Ezekiel 34:11, 15-16)

But here’s a puzzle: “I myself will be the shepherd” (v15)

“I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd” (v23)

And so comes Jesus, the eternal king and the true image of God

He is Son of David (Matthew 1:1-17)

He doesn’t just build a temple; he is the temple (e.g. John 2:21)

He is a good shepherd (John 10) who fulfils Ezekiel’s prophecy and solves the puzzle:

he is the shepherd (v27-28)

his Father is the shepherd (v29)

“I and the Father are one” (John 10:30)

He is the image of God (Colossians 1:15), the true man, who fulfils Psalm 8 (Hebrews 2:5-9) with all things under his feet (Ephesians 1:22)

And we will reign with him! (Revelation 3:21)

