

THE KINGDOM OF GOD, Part 2  
December 8, 2019  
Advent 2

INTRODUCTION

1. Conversation about Christ the King in November = Kingdom of God last week
  - On earth, God's kingdom of grace began with Abram, family = children of promise
  - God = condition: "If you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession."
  
2. They = mission: **"Although the whole earth is Mine, you will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Exodus 19:5-6)**
  - Understanding OT Israel = understanding how they repeatedly failed at both = understanding how God repeatedly tried to get them to "succeed"
  
3. That's why they = back into wilderness for 40 years = why God gave them judges
  - That's why God let enemies invade, conquer Israel when they disobeyed, sinned
  - That's why God drove out enemies when Israel repented, renewed covenant pledge
  
- A. 1. This went on for 400 years until people said, "Enough! We want a king like other nations."
  - That = how ended last week = 1 Samuel 8 = saddest chapter -- people reject God as King
  - **Through Samuel, God gave Israel its first king, Saul, in 1050 BC** = failure from start
  
- A. 2. Saul reigned 40 years, until 1010 BC -- **Then David was anointed king and reigned 40 years**
  - David = different than Saul = "man after God's own heart" = sinned = truly repented
  - Under David, Israel = greatest size -- through David, God = continue bloodline of Messiah
  
- A. 3. Man-God of Genesis 3 who defeat evil, restore creation = Davidic royalty = King
  - READ 2 Samuel 7:1-7,11b-17 = most hopeful chapter in Bible -- **Em, insert text**
  - Partially, initially fulfilled by David's son, Solomon = totally, finally fulfilled by God's Son, Jesus
  
- A. 4. David died in 970 BC and Solomon became king; he reigned for 40 years (until 930 BC)
  - Under Solomon, Israel = richest -- Solomon built temple = symbol for temple of Jesus = Church
  - **Solomon's son, Rehoboam, couldn't keep the kingdom together -- It split in two in 930 BC**
  
- B. 1. Southern Kingdom of Judah (2 tribes) was ruled by Rehoboam -- **Northern Kingdom of Israel (10 tribes) was ruled by Jeroboam** -- they = never reunite
  - Northern Kingdom lasted 210 years, had 20 kings, and was conquered by Assyrians in 722 BC
  - **Southern Kingdom lasted 345 years, had 20 Davidic kings, and was conquered by Babylonians in 586 BC**
  
- B. 2. Conquests = different -- Assyrians resettled conquered people = intermarry = lose identity
  - Some Israelites = moved out of Israel -- foreigners = moved in -- "Lost 10 tribes of Israel"
  - Babylonians deported Judahites to Babylon, let them live together, let few remain in Judah

- B. 3. Why = all this happen? -- READ 2 Chronicles 36:15-23 -- **Em, insert text** = sad with hope
- Conquest of Israel = never undone = Samaritans in Jesus' day = "half-breeds" = impure
  - Conquest of Judah = undone by Persians -- Judahites = return to land = Jews in Jesus' day
- B. 4. Though Judahites return, they are under Persian rule until 340 BC -- **Then Greeks take over**
- **Greeks rule until 160 BC when Judah becomes independent, until Romans take over in 60 BC**
  - Romans = in control when Jesus = born into world that = still heavily Greek = not very Jewish

## CONCLUSION

1. Just as God provided judges between Joshua, Saul, He sent prophets to Israel, Judah
  - After Israel fell = no prophets -- Judah = prophets during exile, after return to Judah
  - By time Jesus = born, no prophet for 400 years, no Davidic king for 600 years
2. What were God's people waiting, ready, and anxious for? -- **A prophet and a Davidic king**
  - What = God send them? -- **John the Baptizer, the last OT prophet** -- **Jesus, son of David**
  - John was the messenger who prepared the way for the ultimate Davidic King, Jesus
3. **Jesus was not Davidic king people expected** -- He = not restore Israel by kicking out Romans
  - Jesus restored Israel, established God's kingdom, and built God's house by dying on a cross
  - **He crushed evil, restored creation, and fulfilled God's promise in Genesis 3 by dying and rising**
4. Many missed Him then because they did not listen to the prophets = small, old "Messiah-box"
  - "Messiah = king like David" -- prophets expanded meaning, work of Christ -- many = not listen
  - **How big is your "Messiah-box"?** -- How small is your Christ? -- **How well do you listen to God?**