

THE KINGDOM OF GOD  
December 1, 2019  
Advent 1

INTRODUCTION

1. Last week = Fulfillment = Christ the King = 3 kingdoms, realms, kinds of King
    - Jesus = King of Heaven = Kingdom of Glory = provides, protects saints, angels
    - **Jesus = King of the Universe = Kingdom of Power** = keeps galaxies, worlds spinning
  
  2. **Jesus = King of the Church = Kingdom of Grace** = rules His people with love
    - Today, look more at His kingdom of grace on earth = church = "kingdom of heaven, God"
    - Christ's kingdom on earth = important -- first words: "Repent, kingdom of God = near"
  
  3. Jesus = many parables = more than "earthly stories with heavenly meaning"
    - Jesus' parables = "kingdom parables" = life in His kingdom on earth
    - "Kingdom of God" = "reign, rule of God" = important to know = Advent Journey
- A. 1. In the beginning, there was no kingdom of grace on earth = no need = no sin
  - **There was a kingdom of God** = power, love -- God = creator, owner, ruler of world
  - He loved creation, creatures, Adam, Eve = His assistants = care for earth with, for Him
- A. 2. Everything = good until serpent tempted Eve, Adam = ate of forbidden fruit = sinned
  - In a desire to be like God, they brought death and dysfunction to creation and themselves
  - Ruined relationships with each other, God, earth -- tried to hide, blame, cover up
- A. 3. **As a God of power, He imposed consequences** -- serpent = crawl on belly, eat dust
  - Woman = painful childbirth, domestic conflict -- man = painful, futile labor, work
  - **As a God of love, He made a promise: a man-God would defeat evil, restore creation**
- A. 4. God's perfect kingdom of power was ruined on earth -- not everything = reason
  - **He had to find a family through which to bring forth His man-God** = kingdom of grace
  - Genesis = quickly from Adam, Eve to Noah, Flood to Tower of Babel to Abram (ch.12)
- B. 1. With God's call of Abram in Genesis 12, the Kingdom of Grace begins
  - Abram = heathen = believes, worships idols, statues = nothing "worthy"
  - **God chose Abram by grace to begin the bloodline to bring forth man-God, Jesus**
- B. 2. **With time, God chose by grace Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau, Judah over Reuben**
  - Reason: Jesus' bloodline = by grace, not human reason, standards -- but God = still king
  - God still ruled Abram's descendants = Israelites = "kingdom of grace" = growing
- B. 3. Then Joseph happened -- Israelites moved to Egypt -- 400 years later = Moses, exodus
  - 40 years later = Joshua, entrance into promised land -- 400 years later = Samuel, Saul
  - Bible books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth

- C. 1. 1 Samuel 8 is the saddest chapter in the Bible -- since Abram, God = Israel's king, ruler
- **Vs. 5: (Israel's elders said to Samuel:) "You are old; your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."**
- C. 2. Samuel = not like it = prayed -- God answered: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected Me as their King." (Vs. 7)
- **Samuel warned them of the hardships of a king** -- people refused to listen to him
- C. 3. They said: "No! We want a king over us! Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles!" (Vss. 19-20)
- **God told Samuel: "Listen to them and give them a king." (Vs. 22)** = Saul = not work out

#### CONCLUSION

1. Stop here in story of God's kingdom on earth = pause for Advent reflection = homework
  - How similar are we to the Israelites of Samuel's day? -- **We are preparing to celebrate the birth of God's baby King** -- **Do we embrace His rule in our lives, or does it need a vote?**
2. We say we are part of the Church, God's Kingdom of Grace on earth -- *How much do we want to be like the unbelievers around us?* -- **Do we want to be and live like them, or like Christ?**
  - We don't need a king, but we need a pastor to fight our battles -- **We won't let him decide anything; we'll just pay him to do outreach, witness, and care-giving so we don't have to**
3. We say we love Jesus and we're celebrating His birth in 24 days -- **But the most important things about Christmas are our social schedule, presents, food, and family gatherings**
  - Spiritual preparation? -- **We're too busy** -- **It's a good thing He wasn't not too busy for us**
  - He came to earth to fulfill God's promise = defeat evil, restore creation -- focus on that!