

## The Kingdom of God

### Lesson 12: The Prophets Declare The Coming of a Literal Future Kingdom

#### I. The Coming King is Related To History

- a. Even though the predictions of the prophets came to them in the form of **spiritual** revelation, the roots of the future Mediatorial kingdom are anchored in history past and will manifest in human history of the future.
- b. An examination of what the prophets say about the Future King makes it quite clear that He is a **literal person** with links to:
  1. A specific **tribe** of Israel, Gen 49:10 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. KJV
  2. A specific **geographic** place, Mic 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. KJV
  3. **Human birth** process Isa 7:14 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. KJV
  4. The **lineage** of David 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. KJV
- c. Furthermore, His dynastic **rights** reach back in the history of Israel.
  1. He will sit on the **throne** of David. Isa 9:7 *Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. KJV*
  2. He will execute **judgment** and righteousness Je 33:15 *In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. KJV*
  3. His rights are **inviolable** and they cannot be abrogated or transferred. Je 33:20-21 *Thus saith the Lord; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; 21 Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; KJV*
- d. The prophet Amos was meticulous in establishing the linkage between the historical kingdom of David and the future **literal** Kingdom. Amos 9:11 *In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: KJV*
- e. Therefore the dynastic rights of the future kingdom will constitute a restoration of certain historic rights which in their exercise have been temporarily interrupted but not **extinguished**.
- f. The rule of Messiah, while something totally new and without parallel in human history, will nevertheless display and maintain an **unbroken** connection with a kingdom which once existed in ancient historical Israel.
- g. This indisputable fact must be taken into account as a guiding **principle** in our attempt to understand the Kingdom as set forth in Old Testament prophecy.

#### II. Kingdom Will Produce Literal Effects On Earth

- a. The future kingdom will be **on earth** and involves the earth and those upon it. Matt 6:10 *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. KJV*
  1. The King will judge on behalf of earth **dwelling** people. Isa 11:4 *But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. KJV*
  2. Its geographical center will be the land of **Palestine**. Ez 37:25 *And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. KJV*
  3. Its capitol will be the city of **Jerusalem**. Is 24:23 *when the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously. KJV*
  4. Men will **see** the King there. Is 33:17; *Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: KJV*
  5. Its **effects** will be upon all creation of the earth. Isa 11:6-8 *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. KJV*
  6. All of these descriptors argue for a literal Mediatorial Kingdom fulfillment as opposed to a **spiritual** fulfillment but there is more evidence to be considered.

#### III. National Israel is The Focus

- a. The prophecies of the future Mediatorial Kingdom are replete with promises made to the Old Testament people of Israel both religiously and **politically**.
- b. However, those who argue against the literal understanding of these OT prophecies often base their objections on two premises: The first is that these promises to Israel have been fulfilled in the historic return of the exiles from the **Babylonian captivity**.
- c. The second, view that opposes the literal fulfillment is the view that these OT prophecies were spiritually fulfilled and transferred to another Israel. IE: The Church. This is also called **supercessionist** theology.
- d. These positions, while well thought out and forcefully argued must overcome the following facts of **Scripture**.
  1. Israel's **identity** is clear. All OT prophets are united in their warning to the specific people of historical Israel that they will be punished for their sins, that this punishment will involve military defeat and the loss of the Promised Land. Deut 28:63 *And it shall come to pass, that as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.*
  2. During this divinely imposed and world-wide dispersal of Israel according to the prophets, there will be **no absolute** break in the historical continuity of the nation. Jer 30:11; *For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations*

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*whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: KJV Amos 9:8 "Surely the eyes of the Sovereign LORD are on the sinful kingdom. I will destroy it from the face of the earth — yet I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob," declares the LORD. NIV*

3. The prophets promise specifically that there will be a **restoration** of the nation that was once cast off. Zech 10:6 *"I will strengthen the house of Judah and save the house of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. NIV*
4. The prophets assert that the promised restoration of historic Israel will involve a **regathering** of the dispersed nation back into the land from which it was cast out. Isa 11:12 *And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. KJV Jer 31:10; He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock. KJV*
5. To the nation that was dispersed and regathered, God promises a restoration of ancient **privileges** and rights. Mic 4:7 *As for you, O watchtower of the flock, O stronghold of the Daughter of Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to the Daughter of Jerusalem." NIV*
6. All this comes about in what the prophets call the **last days** and for this reason cannot be regarded as fulfilled by any partial restoration in the past. Mic 4:1,6 *But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. 6 In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; KJV*
7. All prophetic descriptions of historic Israel's future restoration indicate that the restored relation to Jehovah's favor will be permanent, **never again** to be interrupted Mic 4:7 *And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever. KJV*

#### IV. This Kingdom Literally Destroys and Supplants Historical Powers

- a. In Daniel chapters 2 and 7 Daniel is given a vision of world powers. While the visions are different in the symbols they use there are striking **similarities** to be observed.
- b. In each, a succession of four empires and in each the fourth empire dissolves into a coalition of ten lesser powers. In chapter seven a notable world ruler emerges who will embody the **consummation** of sinful man's opposition to God.
- c. At least **three** things can be reasonably concluded from Daniel's description:
  1. The symbols used are intended to represent a **succession** of political power which will appear on the stage of human history.
  2. This succession began with the **Babylonian** Empire already existing historically when the visions were given to Daniel. 2:38 *And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. KJV*
  3. It is in the final stage of this succession (**the toes** of Daniel's image) that God will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. Dan 2:44 *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. KJV*
- d. The critical point is that in these visions the heavenly Kingdom comes on the scene and destroys and **supplants** existing political powers. This suggests that such an historic event is literal and not merely spiritual.
- e. The express language of these passages will not allow for a **spiritualization** of the effect of the Kingdom of God "breaking in pieces" the political powers that it displaces. Dan 2:40 *And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. KJV*
- f. The fact that it is accomplished supernaturally does not alter the fact of the literal destruction. Further, this supernatural intervention is merely a **repeat** of what God had done many times previously on Israel's behalf. Ex 14:27 *And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. KJV 2 Kings 19:35 *And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. KJV**

#### V. Summary

- a. It is clear that from the point of view of the prophets, the coming kingdom would be literally manifest in national Israel and not merely a **spiritual** condition overspreading the earth.
- b. The promises regarding the coming kingdom made by the God of national Israel through the prophets were spoken of in terms that render them **irrevocably** unconditional.
- c. While many today might debate the question, there can be **no question** about whether the prophets themselves believed that the coming Kingdom would be a literal and real phenomenon.

#### VI. Application

- a. Do you believe that the Kingdom of God is now or do you believe that the Kingdom is to be realized in the future?
- b. How does your belief impact your attitudes and activities with regard to this present life? Your approach to personal evangelism?

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  3. Human \_\_\_\_\_ process Isa 7:14 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. KJV
  4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of David 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. KJV
- c. Furthermore, His dynastic \_\_\_\_\_ reach back in the history of Israel.
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