



## **Week 18: Understanding the Old Testament: The Kingdom of God**

**MV:** *"Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'"* (Mark 1:14-15)

God delivers Israel into the Promised Land. You would think all is well after almost 3 years of fighting for what God gave them. It was time to set up "shop" so to speak.

But by Judges, Israel is already unfaithful and refuses to live as God intended

- Israel falls into sin/apathy
- God raises a leader to deliver them
- The people return to God and good times
- Israel falls into sin/apathy (repeated over and over)

Genesis 1 & 2 show God as King of Creation; He speaks things into existence

This is what it's like when all creation embraces God's reign.

And Humanity was created to rule on God's behalf!

*"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'" 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"* (Gen 1:26-28)

God, the Absolute Ruler, delegates His authority to mankind

But when Adam & Eve sin, they reject God's kingship. The reversal is so significant that Satan is described as "ruler of this world."

*"Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out."* (John 12:31)

The 10 plagues showed God is STILL Supreme Ruler of the World

After Exodus 19:5-6, God was King and Israel was now His kingdom

The tent and temple were the dwelling places of the King

But the people continued to rebel...

*"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit."* (Judges 17:6)

*"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."* (Judges 21:25)

Israel was ignoring God's laws. But Israel wanted a king. God was Israel's rightful king but Israel would not acknowledge Him as such.

So why not a human king? 1 Sam 8 lays out the pros/cons.

They wanted a king so they could "be like everyone else."

God warned them that if they had a king, they would be "like everyone else."

But Israel had never been like other nations. She was unique because God was unique.

Becoming like all the other nations was a huge step in the wrong direction. They were rejecting God as their king. So the people learned exactly what God meant by "being like everyone else."

But God still had a plan..."The Lord's Anointed". Its fullest expression would be in Jesus

David became the earthly King God was looking for to relate to His people as Heavenly King. *"But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."* (1Sam 13:14)

God accomplished so much thru David that David wanted to build a house for the Lord (2 Sam 7)

God told David he wouldn't build it but Solomon would. However God made a covenant with David, built on the previous covenants with Abraham and Moses, which would be ultimately fulfilled in Jesus

- God promised to make Abraham's name great
- God promised to give his descendants the Promised Land
- God promised to make David's name great
- God promised to plant Israel in the Promised Land
- God promised David's descendants on the throne forever

God even predicted Israel's betrayal in Deut 17 but was still at work working His plan

The earthly King would follow God's rule and God's plan

What God did through David is a picture of what He wanted to do through Israel all along and what He was going to do thru Jesus

David ultimately failed to be the perfect King. Jesus would not fail.

God's future for Israel was very much tied to the concept of Israel as a kingdom and the reign of the Lord's anointed (Jer 37:24-28)

Eventually the kingdom of Israel grew so wicked that God exiled them from the Promised Land (70 years).

There is a partial return to the land under Ezra and Nehemiah, but the kingdom is gone.

We don't see the kingdom again until Jesus returns....

*"Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'" (Mark 1:14-15)*

The Kingdom has returned as has the Lord's Anointed...

*"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." (Luke 1:31-33)*

CHRIST is a title, not a last name. It is the Greek for MESSIAH...Anointed One