

THE KING'S STORY (12)¹

The King Arrives

A. Introduction

1. The Bible is a story of a King, God, who makes His glory known in His Son Jesus Christ.

Two prominent themes in this story are that this King:

- a) saves His people through judgment;
- b) establishes kingdoms and rules over them by means of covenants.

2. The first kingdom, God established and rules over was the kingdom of creation², through the covenant of works and the Noahic covenant.

This kingdom however is now cursed and destined for destruction, because Adam sinned and broke the covenant of works.

But before destruction came, God made a promise that a Saviour would come who would be the offspring of the woman.

He then made a covenant with Noah which ensured that this world will be preserved, until this promise was kept.

3. God then established and ruled over another kingdom within the kingdom of creation, the kingdom of Israel, through the Abrahamic covenant (later to be expanded on by the Mosaic and Davidic covenants).

In the Abrahamic covenant, God promises Abraham that his offspring would inherit the Promised Land and live in His presence. Enjoyment of this promise was dependent on obedience to His rule. God also promised that through One of Abraham's descendants, people will be saved.

In the Mosaic covenant, what it meant for Abraham's offspring, the people of Israel, to obey His rule, is spelt out by the law of God.

In the Davidic covenant, the kingdom of Israel is then focused into one person, the king, who was commanded to keep the law on behalf of the people.

So now, if the king is righteous and keeps the law, the people of Israel will enjoy life in God's presence in the Promised Land. But if the king is wicked, the people will be cursed and exiled from it.

Sadly, like Adam, Israel's kings were unfaithful to God's covenant, and the people with them, eventually being exiled from the land.

But the promise of salvation still remains, and God will not break this promise.

God through the prophets, gave the people of Israel hope, by announcing that a new king, in the line of David is coming, and He will bring salvation to His people by establishing a new kingdom and ruling over it by means of a new covenant.

They were looking ahead to the kingdom of Christ.

4. By the end of the Old Testament the kingdom of Christ had not yet arrived because the Christ, this new king had not yet come.

Who is this Christ that the remnant of God's people who now had returned from exile were waiting for?

¹ The titles for this series are taken from Biblical Theology by Nick Roark & Robert Cline

² Throughout this series I will refer to 3 kingdoms, the kingdom of creation, Israel, Christ, which is an idea taken from The Mystery of Christ by Samuel Renihan.

He is the promised King, the offspring of the woman, the seed of Abraham, from the tribe of Judah, in the line of David, who will shepherd God's people and be the servant of the LORD.

He is the perfect Adam and the perfect Israel who will represent His people, keeping the covenant on their behalf and atoning for their sins by taking the curse of the covenant.

He is the LORD and He is coming to save His people.

B. The arrival of the Christ

1. The King's coming is announced.

By His background – He is the seed of Abraham who is in the line of David.

"An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham." (Matthew 1:1)

By His birth – He is the offspring of the woman who is God with us.

"The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly. But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfil what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated "God is with us." (Matthew 1:18-23)

"Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end." Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?" The angel replied to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:30-35)

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side—he has revealed him." (John 1:14, 18)

By His baptism – He is the servant of the LORD who has come to save His people.

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?" Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then John allowed him to be baptized. When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased." (Matthew 3:13-17)

By His battle – unlike Adam and Israel, He is faithful to God's Word.

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Then the tempter approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." Jesus told him, "It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God." Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. And he said to him, "I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship

me." Then Jesus told him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him." (Matthew 4:1-11)

2. The King's coming is authenticated.

"Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. Then the news about him spread throughout Syria. So they brought to him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. And he healed them. Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan." (Matthew 4:23-25)

By His authority to teach.

"When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes." (Matthew 7:28-29)

By His authority to heal.

"Right away a man with leprosy came up and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Reaching out his hand, Jesus touched him, saying, "I am willing; be made clean." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed." (Matthew 8:2-3)

"When evening came, they brought to him many who were demon-possessed. He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick." (Matthew 8:16)

"Just then some men brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, "Have courage, son, your sins are forgiven." ... "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—then he told the paralytic, "Get up, take your stretcher, and go home." So he got up and went home." (Matthew 9:2, 6-7)

"When Jesus came to the leader's house, he saw the flute players and a crowd lamenting loudly. "Leave," he said, "because the girl is not dead but asleep." And they laughed at him. After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. Then news of this spread throughout that whole area." (Matthew 9:23-26)

By His authority over nature.

"He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. Everyone ate and was satisfied. They picked up twelve baskets full of leftover pieces. Now those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children." (Matthew 14:19-21)

"Jesus came toward them walking on the sea very early in the morning." (Matthew 14:25)

C. The arrival of the kingdom of Christ

1. The King announced the coming of His kingdom.

"From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near." (Matthew 4:17)

It is a kingdom not of this world.

"My kingdom is not of this world," said Jesus. "If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." (John 18:36)

It is a kingdom for those who have been born again.

"Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." "How can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked him. "Can he enter his

mother's womb a second time and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:3-6)

It is a kingdom that is rejected.

"He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him." (John 1:10-11)

"But the Pharisees said, "He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons." (Matthew 9:34)

"But the Pharisees went out and plotted against him, how they might kill him." (Matthew 12:14)

It is a kingdom which belongs to those with Abraham's belief not those of Abraham's body.

"Our father is Abraham," they replied. "If you were Abraham's children," Jesus told them, "you would do what Abraham did." (John 8:39)

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad." (John 8:56)

It is a kingdom that is good news for all people.

"Hearing this, Jesus was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with so great a faith. I tell you that many will come from east and west to share the banquet with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 8:10-12)

It is a kingdom which will grow as people hear the gospel.

"But the one sown on the good ground—this is one who hears and understands the word, who does produce fruit and yields: some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty times what was sown." (Matthew 13:23)

"He presented another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It's the smallest of all the seeds, but when grown, it's taller than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the sky come and nest in its branches." (Matthew 13:31-32)

2. The King gives glimpse of His kingdom.

The miracles Jesus does, show what life with Him in His kingdom will be like.

"The signs which accompanied His ministry were but the trailing clouds of glory which He brought from heaven, which is His home." (B.B. Warfield)

Christ's authority over sickness and disease tells us that in His kingdom there will be no sickness or suffering.

Christ's authority over Satan and demons tells us that in His kingdom there will be no sin and evil and darkness.

Christ's authority over death tells us that in His kingdom there will be only life.

Christ's authority over nature tells us that in His kingdom all the effects of the Fall will be undone, and creation will be as it is meant to be.

3. But how can people be part of this kingdom ruled over by Christ?

Will Christ establish that new covenant which God had promised?