

THE KING'S STORY (13)¹

The King Saves

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 two kingdoms God established were the kingdom of creation and the kingdom of Israel².

The kingdom of creation, established and ruled over by the covenant of works and the Noahic covenant, is cursed and destined for destruction, but has been preserved, while God keeps the promise, He made to send a Saviour.

The kingdom of Israel, within the kingdom of creation, established and ruled over by the Abrahamic, Mosaic and Davidic covenant, was concerned with the inheritance and enjoyment of the Promised Land by Abraham's offspring.

God promised that Abraham's offspring, the people of Israel, would enjoy life in God's presence in the Promised Land, if they (and later the king on their behalf) lived under His rule by obeying the law. Sadly, Israel's kings and the people with them were unfaithful, and were exiled from the land.

He also promised Abraham that the Saviour He will send, will be one of His descendants (and will come from the tribe of Judah and be in the line of King David).

Because the promise of a Saviour remained, and God will not break this promise, God preserve a remnant from the people of Israel, who returned to the Promised Land, to wait for His arrival.

Who will the Saviour be?

The Saviour would be a new King that will bring salvation to His people by establishing a new kingdom, the kingdom of Christ, and by ruling over it by means of a new covenant.

3. In this new covenant, God promises to give His people a new heart, a new relationship, and a new forgiveness.

A new heart that will enable them to obey God's law – something that they had not been able to do.

"Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days"—the LORD's declaration. "I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33)

A new relationship so that this new kingdom will now only be made up of people whose trust in the new King.

"I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will one teach his neighbour or his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them"—this is the LORD's declaration." (Jeremiah 31:33-34)

A new forgiveness where sin will be fully and finally dealt with.

"For I will forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin." (Jeremiah 31:34)

But how will God forgive His people's sin and change their hearts?

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.

The new King will be the perfect Adam and perfect Israel and will represent them by atoning for their sins. He will also put His Spirit in them, so that they can obey God's law.

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering who knew what sickness was. He was like someone people turned away from; he was despised, and we didn't value him. Yet he himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains; but we in turn regarded him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished him for the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:3-6)

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances." (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

4. In Jesus Christ, the new King and new kingdom, God promised, arrived.

His coming was announced by His background, His birth, His baptism, and His battle.

He is the seed of Abraham in the line of David. He is the offspring of the woman who is God with us. He is the servant of the LORD who has come to save His people. He is the obedient Son of God (unlike Adam and Israel) who is faithful to God's Word.

His coming was authenticated by His authority to teach and to heal and over nature.

Jesus announced the coming of His kingdom and by His miracles gave glimpses of what life with Him in His kingdom will be like.

In His kingdom there will be no sickness or suffering, no sin, evil, and darkness, no death, and all the effects of the Fall will be undone.

But for sinful people to be part of this new kingdom ruled over by Christ, the new King, a new covenant needs to be established.

5. How will this new covenant be established?

Jesus announced to His disciples that He was going to be put to death in Jerusalem.

"Then he began to teach them that it was necessary for the Son of Man to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and rise after three days." (Mark 8:31)

"Then they left that place and made their way through Galilee, but he did not want anyone to know it. For he was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after he is killed, he will rise three days later." But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask him." (Mark 9:30-32)

"They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. The disciples were astonished, but those who followed him were afraid. Taking the Twelve aside again, he began to tell them the things that would happen to him. "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death. Then they will hand him over to the Gentiles, and they will mock him, spit on him, flog him, and kill him, and he will rise after three days." (Mark 10:32-34)

Jesus announced to His disciples that His death was going to initiate the new covenant.

"And he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he also took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:19-20)

"For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."
(Matthew 26:28)

Jesus' death will initiate the new covenant because His death will be both substitutionary and sacrificial.

"Therefore, he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance, because a death has taken place for redemption from the transgressions committed under the first covenant." (Hebrews 9:15)

B. The King saves by dying in the place of His people

1. Jesus did not deserve to die.

He committed no crime.

"The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they could not find any. For many were giving false testimony against him, and the testimonies did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, stating, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another not made by hands.'" Yet their testimony did not agree even on this." (Mark 14:55-59)

"Pilate went outside again and said to them, "Look, I'm bringing him out to you to let you know I find no grounds for charging him." Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the temple servants saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" Pilate responded, "Take him and crucify him yourselves, since I find no grounds for charging him." (John 19:4-6)

He committed no sin.

"And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased."
(Matthew 3:17)

"While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5)

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)

"He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth; when he was insulted, he did not insult in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted himself to the one who judges justly." (1 Peter 2:22-23)

2. Jesus willingly chose to die.

"No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father." (John 10:18)

He died in the place of others and for others.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." (Mark 10:45)

"...the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

"After his anguish, he will see light and be satisfied. By his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many, and he will carry their iniquities. Therefore I will give him the many as a portion, and he will receive the mighty as spoil, because he willingly submitted to death, and was counted among the rebels; yet he bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels." (Isaiah 53:11-12)

C. The King saves by dying for the sins of His people

1. His death was sacrificial.

It was for a purpose.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

"I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

2. His death was for sins.

It was to rescue sinners from the curse and bring them forgiveness.

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

"For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3)

"But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished him for the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:5-6)

"God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed." (Romans 3:25)

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24)

"He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world." (1 John 2:2)

"He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'" (Galatians 3:13)

"Otherwise, he would have had to suffer many times since the foundation of the world. But now he has appeared one time, at the end of the ages, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment— so also Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." (Hebrews 9:26-28)

It was to bring sinners back into relationship with God.

"For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God." (1 Peter 3:18)

"He did this so that he might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by which he put the hostility to death." (Ephesians 2:16)

"...and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him." (Colossians 1:20-22)

3. But forgiving the sins of people is only one part of the new covenant.

How will Christ change His people's hearts?

How will His people be able to obey God's law?

