

# THE KING'S STORY (9)<sup>1</sup>

## The King Rules

### 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.

Two of the kingdoms that God the King establishes and rules over by means of covenants are the kingdom of creation and the kingdom of Israel<sup>2</sup>.

2. The kingdom of creation was established through the covenant of works and the Noahic covenant.

The covenant of works made with Adam in the Garden of Eden, promised eternal life for obedience and eternal death for disobedience.

Adam, representing all humanity, broke this covenant, and everyone was condemned and cursed. No longer would eternal life be possible through obedience to this covenant.

However, God promised that an offspring of the woman would come, a Saviour, through whom eternal life would be possible.

In the Noahic covenant, God ensures that this world would not be destroyed before the Saviour's arrival.

This Saviour, we discover, would come out of a new kingdom that God established within the kingdom of creation.

3. The kingdom of Israel was established through the Abrahamic covenant and expanded by the Mosaic covenant.

In the Abrahamic covenant, God promises Abraham that he will be a great nation and a great blessing.

He will have a vast number of descendants who will possess and live in His presence in the Promised Land of Canaan.

Also, that one of his descendants will be the promised Saviour – the offspring of the woman.

God demanded that Abraham and his descendants live under His rule.

The Mosaic covenant, made with Moses and the people of Israel after they were rescued from slavery in Egypt, explained what it meant to live in God's presence under His rule in the Promised Land.

What neither the Abrahamic nor the Mosaic covenant promised to the people of Israel, was eternal life if they lived under God's rule by obeying His commands.

They only promised ongoing life in God's presence in the land of Canaan if they obeyed, threatening exile from the land if they disobeyed.

4. The Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants also hinted that once Israel was settled in the land, God would rule over them through a King of His choosing.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

"I will make you extremely fruitful and will make nations and kings come from you." (Genesis 17:6)

The King of God's choosing will be from the tribe of Judah.

"The sceptre will not depart from Judah or the staff from between his feet until he whose right it is comes and the obedience of the peoples belongs to him." (Genesis 49:10)

The King of God's choosing will trust and obey Him.

"When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, take possession of it, live in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations around me,' you are to appoint over you the king the LORD your God chooses. Appoint a king from your brothers. You are not to set a foreigner over you, or one who is not of your people. However, he must not acquire many horses for himself or send the people back to Egypt to acquire many horses, for the LORD has told you, 'You are never to go back that way again.' He must not acquire many wives for himself so that his heart won't go astray. He must not acquire very large amounts of silver and gold for himself. When he is seated on his royal throne, he is to write a copy of this instruction for himself on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. It is to remain with him, and he is to read from it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to observe all the words of this instruction, and to do these statutes. Then his heart will not be exalted above his countrymen, he will not turn from this command to the right or the left, and he and his sons will continue reigning many years in Israel." (Deuteronomy 17:14-20)

The King of God's choosing will be used by Him to give His people rest from their enemies, and to establish a place where His presence will dwell.

"Indeed, you have not yet come into the resting place and the inheritance the LORD your God is giving you. When you cross the Jordan and live in the land the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and he gives you rest from all the enemies around you and you live in security, then the LORD your God will choose the place to have his name dwell. Bring there everything I command you: your burnt offerings, sacrifices, offerings of the tenth, personal contributions, and all your choice offerings you vow to the LORD." (Deuteronomy 12:9-11)

The King of God's choosing will be the offspring of the woman, the descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Judah – the promised Saviour.

5. Israel's first king, once they had settled in the land, was not the King of God's choosing.

Saul was God's allowance to the people of Israel who wanted a king like all the nations had.

He was not from the tribe of Judah. He did not trust and obey God. He did not give the people rest from their enemies nor establish a place where God's presence would dwell.

"Then let's bring back the ark of our God, for we did not inquire of him in Saul's days." (1 Chronicles 13:3)

God rejected Saul as king and replaced him with the King of His choosing from the tribe of Judah.

"but now your reign will not endure. The LORD has found a man after his own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over his people, because you have not done what the LORD commanded." (1 Samuel 13:14)

"So Jesse sent for him. He had beautiful eyes and a healthy, handsome appearance. Then the LORD said, "Anoint him, for he is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully on David from that day forward. Then Samuel set out and went to Ramah." (1 Samuel 16:12-13)

6. David was the King many in Israel had been waiting for.

God's people had a hero, and after Saul and his sons died on the battlefield, he finally became king.

"As they danced, the women sang: Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands." (1 Samuel 18:7)

"All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Here we are, your own flesh and blood. Even while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led us out to battle and brought us back. The LORD also said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will be ruler over Israel.'" So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron. King David made a covenant with them at Hebron in the LORD's presence, and they anointed David king over Israel." (2 Samuel 5:1-3)

Under King David's rule, Israel won victory after victory, bringing peace and security to Israel. After capturing Jerusalem, it was made the capital city and the Ark of Covenant brought there.

Once settled in his new palace and with rest from his enemies, David made a plan to build a house for God to dwell in.

"When the king had settled into his palace and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Look, I am living in a cedar house while the ark of God sits inside tent curtains." So Nathan told the king, "Go and do all that is on your mind, for the LORD is with you." (2 Samuel 7:1-3)

God had a different plan which was to build a house for David.

"The LORD declares to you: The LORD himself will make a house for you." (2 Samuel 7:11)

This promise of a house for David is known as the Davidic covenant and with this covenant the establishment of the kingdom of Israel is complete.

In the Davidic covenant a King who will reign forever and represent His people is promised.

## **B. A King will reign forever**

### **1. God promised David that a King will reign on His throne forever.**

After David dies, his royal line will continue.

"When your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." (2 Samuel 7:12-13)

It will be David's son who will build the temple – the house for God to dwell in.

It will be David's son who will always be on the throne – either every generation will produce a new heir to pass the throne onto, or one of these heirs will live forever.

It will be David's son who will be the offspring of the woman, the descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Judah. He will crush the serpent and bring the blessing of God's presence to the whole world.

"May his name endure forever; as long as the sun shines, may his fame increase. May all nations be blessed by him and call him blessed." (Psalm 72:17)

### **2. God promised David that a King will bless Israel.**

He will bless them with rest by defending them from their enemies.

"I will designate a place for my people Israel and plant them, so that they may live there and not be disturbed again. Evildoers will not continue to oppress them as they have done ever since the day I ordered judges to be over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies." (2 Samuel 7:10-11)

He will bless them with God's presence by building a house for God's name.

"He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." (2 Samuel 7:13)

He will bless them with stability by having an eternal throne.

"Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever." (2 Samuel 7:16)

3. But these promises are dependent upon the obedience of the king.

"The LORD swore an oath to David, a promise he will not abandon: "I will set one of your offspring on your throne. If your sons keep my covenant and my decrees that I will teach them, their sons will also sit on your throne forever." (Psalm 132:11-12)

This is why each king is required to copy out the Law of Moses and read it all the days of his life.

"When he is seated on his royal throne, he is to write a copy of this instruction for himself on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. It is to remain with him, and he is to read from it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to observe all the words of this instruction, and to do these statutes." (Deuteronomy 17:18-19)

God told David that if the king was unfaithful God would discipline him.

"I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will discipline him with a rod of men and blows from mortals." (2 Samuel 7:14)

### **C. A King will represent God's people**

1. Even though the people of Israel were called to obey the laws and commands of God, and trust in the Saviour promised, the hope of the nation depended on the king's obedience.

The king wasn't only to be an example of a law-keeper, he was to represent the people in their law-keeping.

So, if the king is righteous, the people and the land will be blessed; and if the king is wicked, the people and the land will be cursed.

The blessings and curses of the Mosaic covenant come to the nation now through the king.

"If you or your sons turn away from following me and do not keep my commands—my statutes that I have set before you—and if you go and serve other gods and bow in worship to them, I will cut off Israel from the land I gave them, and I will reject the temple I have sanctified for my name. Israel will become an object of scorn and ridicule among all the peoples. Though this temple is now exalted, everyone who passes by will be appalled and will scoff. They will say, "Why did the LORD do this to this land and this temple?" Then they will say, "Because they abandoned the LORD their God who brought their ancestors out of the land of Egypt. They held on to other gods and bowed in worship to them and served them. Because of this, the LORD brought all this ruin on them." (1 Kings 9:6-9)

"The LORD said through his servants the prophets, "Since King Manasseh of Judah has committed all these detestable acts—worse evil than the Amorites who preceded him had done—and by means of his idols has also caused Judah to sin, this is what the LORD God of Israel says: 'I am about to bring such a disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that everyone who hears about it will shudder.'" (2 Kings 21:10-12)

2. After David died, his son Solomon became king.

Was he THE king? It looked for a moment that he might be.

He was an offspring of the woman, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Judah, and in the line of David.

He secured rest.

"The LORD my God has now given me rest on every side; there is no enemy or misfortune." (1 Kings 5:4)

He built the temple and blessed them with God's presence.

"When the priests came out of the holy place, the cloud filled the LORD's temple, and because of the cloud, the priests were not able to continue ministering, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple. Then Solomon said: "The LORD said that he would dwell in total darkness. I have indeed built an exalted temple for you, a place for your dwelling forever." (1 Kings 8:10-13)

But Solomon turned out to be unfaithful and disobedient.

"He had seven hundred wives who were princesses and three hundred who were concubines, and they turned his heart away... Solomon followed Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom, the abhorrent idol of the Ammonites. Solomon did what was evil in the LORD's sight, and unlike his father David, he did not remain loyal to the LORD." (1 Kings 11:3, 5-6)

And God disciplined him.

"Then the LORD said to Solomon, "Since you have done this and did not keep my covenant and my statutes, which I commanded you, I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. However, I will not do it during your lifetime for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of your son's hand. Yet I will not tear the entire kingdom away from him. I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem that I chose." (1 Kings 11:11-13)

Solomon was not the King God promised David who would reign forever and represent His people.

Will it be his son?