

The Message of Acts: The Kingdom of God (part 2)

What is the Kingdom of God?

A. God's Kingship in general

- a. Over creation
- b. Over all the earth - Ps. 24:1, 7-10
- c. Over the governments of men – 2 Chr. 20:5-7, the whole book of Daniel
- d. Over history – Isa. 10:5-27 (Assyria), Isa. 44:24 – 45:5 (Cyrus), Daniel
- e. It is an eternal kingdom – Daniel, 1 Tim. 1:17

B. Over the nation of Israel

While God is indeed King over all the earth, there is a more restrictive kingdom that does NOT include all men, but includes His covenant people, the Jews, in the land He promised to Abraham. His promise to all the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) was “seed (descendants), land, forever”.

Gen. 12:7, 13:14-17, 15:5-7, 18, 17:5-8

They were His chosen, special people – Dt. 7:6-8

- a. This has all 3 marks of a kingdom: a specific people in a specific land, and a king
- b. God Himself was their King, to command and judge, but also to lead, to defend, to provide for. These are all quite plain in the Exodus period, and on through Joshua and the judges.
Ex. 15:16-18 – Israelites were called “God’s people”, and “The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.” Judges 8:23 – “Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the Lord shall rule over you.” 1 Sam. 8:4-7 – the people demanded a king (Saul). God told Samuel. “they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not rule over them.” 12:12 – “... ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: when the Lord your God was your king.”

Saul was the perfect king from the people’s viewpoint, but David was the king of God’s choice.

c. He “delegated” kingship to David and his descendants

1 Sam. 16:1 – “I have provided me a king among his sons”

2 Sam. 7:10-16 God promised that God would set up his son after him, and establish his throne forever

Isa. 41:21 – even when the nation had human kings, God was still “the King of Jacob”

d. The “Messiah King”

Promises/predictions

- Num. 24:16-17 – there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel
- Ps. 2 – God’s Son, His Anointed, is set as king on the holy hill of Zion
- Ps. 45:6-17, 72, 110 – God’s son, Messianic rule in the earth
- Mic. 5:2 – Bethlehem ... out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel ...
- Zech. 9:9 - ... O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy king cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

These “King” references are to be taken together with many sections describing the “Day of the Lord” as a time of God’s wrath being poured out on the nations, the violent overthrow of Israel’s enemies, followed by a period of incredible peace, prosperity, and long life, under the direct kingship of the Messiah, and the surviving nations coming up to Zion to worship and be taught by the King.

Isa. 2:2-5 – many people go to the mountain of the Lord ... out of Zion goes forth the law ...

Isa. 11:1-10 - Rod out of Jesse, the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, ... peaceful coexistence between prey and predators, Gentiles shall seek

Isa. 35 60-62, 65 Joel 3:17-21 Amos 9:11-15 Mic. 4, esp. verses 7-9 Zech. 14:16-21

So despite God being their “invisible King” in the heavens, despite the Davidic line of earthly kings, His ultimate intention was to send the Messiah, His Anointed Son, to reign over the nation in victory over their enemies, in prosperity and peace. This was the view taken by the Jews at the time of Christ, which, along with their resentment at the Roman presence in their land, explains their inability to understand Christ’s purpose at the time.