

THE COMING KINGDOM

A major theme in Scripture that encompasses God's overall Master Plan is "***The Kingdom of God***". This theme is traced from Genesis to Revelation. For this reason, "***The Kingdom of God***" has been called "***the grand central theme of Scripture***".

"The Bible is one book. Had we to give that book a title, we might with justice call it '***The Book of the Coming Kingdom of God***'. This is, indeed, its central theme everywhere." – ***Richard Mayhue***

The whole of redemptive history is headed towards the coming kingdom. In the end, every person will either share in God's kingdom or will be cast out of it.

1. ***Definition:*** The idea of a kingdom involves a ruler (king), those ruled over (subjects), and the domain (realm) ruled over.

A. Various Kingdom Facets

There are a number of different kingdom realms mentioned in Scripture in relation to God.

1. God's Universal Kingdom

God is always sovereign; and in that sense, He ever rules over all in the universe. This is God's universal kingdom.

1 Chronicles 29:11 (NKJV)

11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; **Yours is the kingdom**, O Lord, And You are exalted as head over all.

Daniel 4:34 (NKJV)

34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His **dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation.**

2. God's Theocratic Kingdom & Adam

In order to properly understand the culmination of the book of Revelation, we must first understand the book of Genesis. What began in Genesis is completed in Revelation.

In Genesis 1, we find that God appointed Adam and Eve as His representatives to administer His Theocratic Kingdom on earth. A theocratic kingdom has God as its King. In Genesis 1:26-28, God clearly gave Adam and Eve dominion over everything on earth.

Psalm 8:6 (NKJV)

6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

God created man to rule over the earth, but the first Adam failed. In Luke 4:6, Satan said that authority over all the kingdoms of the earth had been delivered to him. In the fall, Adam lost this ruling authority to Satan. In this, he fumbled God's theocratic kingdom and Satan took possession.

But, the failure of the first Adam in Genesis will be restored by the second Adam (the Lord Jesus Christ), as seen in the book of Revelation (cf. 1 Cor. 15:27, 45, Heb. 2:8-9). Genesis and Revelation are like two bookends of truth regarding God's kingdom plan for planet earth. God intends for man to rule the planet for Him, and this will ultimately be realized in the ultimate representative of mankind – namely, the Lord Jesus Christ Who is the God-Man.

3. God's Theocratic Kingdom & Israel

Exodus 19:6 (NKJV)

6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

God was the King of Israel (cf. 1 Sam. 8:7). Israel was God's subject nation, and the Law of Moses was their constitution. This theocratic kingdom arrangement with Israel existed from the time of Moses in 1445 BC, until the time of the Babylonian Captivity in 605 BC.

4. The Messianic/Davidic Kingdom

With the decline of the kingdom in Israel, the prophets began to speak of a future, glorious kingdom in relation to the Messiah. Since the time of the Babylonian Captivity, there has never been a king in Israel sitting on David's throne in Jerusalem (cf. Hosea 3:4-5).

Daniel 2:44 (NKJV)

44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

All the way through the Scriptures, the dominant KINGDOM emphasis looks forward to the time when the Messiah will reign and fulfill God's kingdom purposes on earth in relation to Israel.

Genesis 49:10 (NKJV)

10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

The **scepter** is a symbol of royal power. Government and rulership belongs to the tribe of Judah. God sovereignly allowed Saul to be Israel's first king, but the spirit of this was the people's choice. God's choice was David, a man after God's own heart, from the tribe of Judah (cf. 1 Sam. 15-16). The royal dignity attained in Judah (through David) was made permanent by the Davidic Covenant in 2 Sam. 7; which is to be fully realized in the Kingship of Jesus Christ, Who is the "greater David".

From David on, the recognized leadership role on the throne over Israel belonged to Judah; and specifically, to the line of David.

After the fall of the Judah (in 586 BC), a king has never been seated on the throne in Jerusalem. The next King to come was Jesus. He presented Himself to Israel as her legitimate King (cf. Lk. 19:28-44), but they rejected Him. Therefore, there will be no proper king on the throne in Jerusalem until the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus.

The turning point is seen in the phrase, "**Until Shiloh comes**". There is general consensus that this is a Messianic reference. It has been variously translated, but suffice it to say that the majority of scholars think that the word **Shiloh** means "to whom it belongs" (cf. Ezek. 21:27). The sense then is that the scepter – the right to rule, belongs to the tribe of Judah. It will remain there until the One comes to Whom it ultimately belongs; namely, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Samuel 7:12–13 (NKJV)

12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build a house for My name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**

2 Samuel 7:16 (NKJV)

16 And **your house and your kingdom shall be established forever** before you. **Your throne shall be established forever.**”””

This is commonly called ***“The Davidic Covenant”***. Here David is promised an everlasting kingly dynasty. David’s throne will be established FOREVER. Again, this looks forward to its ultimate fulfillment in the person of Christ, Who is the “Son of David” (cf. Matt. 1:1), “born of the seed of David according to the flesh” (cf. Rom. 1:3).

Isaiah 9:6–7 (NKJV)

6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, **Upon the throne of David** and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Before Jesus was born, the angel Gabriel made the following announcement to Mary:

Luke 1:31–33 (NKJV)

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name **Jesus**.

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; 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 of His kingdom there will be no end.**”

Note that Jesus would specifically occupy the throne of David; He would reign over Israel in particular, and His kingdom would be eternal in duration.

Right now we are in the Church Age. We are NOT in the age of the KINGDOM! But the kingdom is coming and we as God’s people are headed for the kingdom!

And so we continue to pray as Jesus taught us: “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matt. 6:10)