



**GOD AND
THE KINGDOM**
Lesson 1 Slide 1

THE CHURCH the KINGDOM.

We are going to look at the concept of the Church which is also described as the Kingdom of God.

We need to recognize that the word Kingdom like many words in the Bible can have a wide application and a specific application.

In its wider application it means more than just referring to the called out by Christ.

The term "kingdom" in the Bible characteristically means the reign, rule or the exercise of sovereignty.

Yet also in a number of cases it means the realm ruled over.

The first use is the "abstract" use.

The second use is the "concrete."

God is King.

There has always been a kingdom of God and since it is based on His status as Creator and Sustainer there cannot cease to be a kingdom of God.

Man's rebellion against the Kings Moral Government was sin and treason. This fall (which has been participated in by the whole of mankind as they each made their choice to rebel) necessitated what we call "redemption" and the need of a "universal kingdom of grace of God."

The **history of the Kingdom of God** is simply the unfolding of the **scheme of redemption** in which **man may have a right relationship to His Lord.**

God is King.



In the beginning God. Genesis 1:1;

**Before the mountains were born or
you brought forth the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Psalm 90:2;

**For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods. Psalm 95:3;**

God is Creator.



Word.



“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” Revelation 4:11;

God is King.
The kingdom of God has existed through all time from creation. Psalm 10:16; 16. “The LORD is King forever and ever; Nations have perished from His land.”

God’s Kingdom Rule and Reign and Sovereignty encompasses the entire universe, not just mankind, not just planet earth. (Psalm 103:19; Isa 24:23;)

We think we are clever because we can make a watch with all its gears and parts, yet we set our watches by atomic clocks, (atoms emit electrons when changing energy levels,) which loses one second in 30 million years and is based on the actual rotation of the earth with respect to solar time.

God's Universal Kingdom.

God is God He has the authority / dominion /reign.

**He creates whether it is the angelic powers
and everything in the invisible realm.**

**He Creates the stars the planets, sticks and stones,
man and woman, all the animals,
evervthina in the visible realm.**

**God is God . He calls Himself a King,
He calls Himself a Shepherd,
He calls Himself a Husband,
He calls Himself a Father.
He calls Himself a Mother**

**God calls Himself all sorts of things,
All of that is in the Biblical witness.**

God is King.

**Right from the beginning God has been King.
Jer 10:10; “You are the TRUE God the Everlasting”
Jeremiah links God’s Kingship to His Godhood**

**Isa 37: He “You alone are God and creator
they are not real gods out there.”**

**Psa 10:29; God was reigning while
the flood was devastating the earth.**

**There never was a time when God was not King
God is God and because
He is the creator He has all authority.**

God's Universal Kingdom.

The TRUTH behind it all is this:-
THAT GOD IS GOD!

**Because that is true HE has the Authority,
He has the Right, and the Muscle, To
exercise POWER over the world and everything else.**

**What then happened?
God made US KINGS under Him.
He gave US GLORY.**

**We REBELLED and thus fell short
of the GLORY God had given us.**

God's Universal Kingdom.

The Glory God had given us that reflected His glory.

We lost it! We became all grubby!

**Instead of being all wonderful and reflecting
His Glory as in a mirror image.**

We fell short of that.

He had said:- Here / Here is my gift to you.

**We fell short of that and as of yet as
a human family have not yet fully recovered it.**

But God purposed that He would RESTORE

glory to us. Not simply the glory

that He gave us in earlier days, but more than that.

God's Universal Kingdom.

So God knowing that we would rebel against Him,

He allowed us,

We did it and He ALLOWED US To do it.

**We fell short of His glory and even that
was a sub point a sub purpose!**

**For even while he is creating Adam and Eve,
even while He is creating Human kind.**

**He has in Thought and thinking about
a NEW humanity more glorious than THIS humanity,
More glorious than we are today.**

That Glorious humanity we will speak of later,

**We see it in the Person of Jesus Christ
who's image we will bear if we belong
to those who embrace His saving work.**

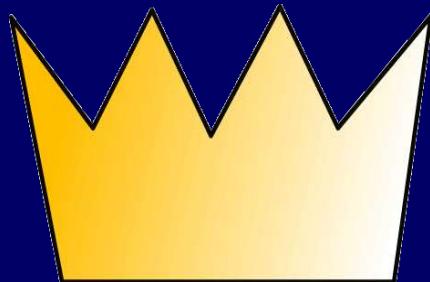
God's Covenant Kingdom of Grace.

**There are numerous scriptures which make it clear
that God, from eternity, had in mind a kingdom
of grace based upon the work of Jesus Christ.**

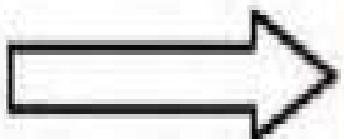
**This presupposes His foreknowledge of sin
in humanity and His consequent reaction to it.**

**Ephesians 1:3-14; 2 Timothy 1:9-10; 1 Peter 1:18-20;
Romans 1:1-4; Genesis 3:15; Romans 5:14;
Genesis 2:21-24; with Ephesians 5:31-32;
Galatians 3:23-24; Hebrews 10:1;**

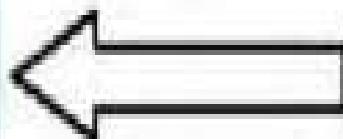
Christ, the Focal Point of Biblical History



CREATION
Genesis 1:1



NEW CREATION
Revelation 21:1



**God's Covenant Kingdom of Grace.
Since "Redemption" is the main thrust
of the Bible- its "one story," it is safe to say
that this is the all-important issue.**

This is seen to be true not only in the face of the unfolding story of redemption seen in the pages of the Bible but in the desperate need man has of that redemption!

**Romans 1:1-2; Genesis 3:15; 12:1-3; 49:10; 2 Samuel 7:12ff;
Isaiah 53; Matthew 16:26; Luke 19:10; 1 Timothy 1:15;
Matthew 26:26-28;**

God's Covenant Kingdom of Grace.

If all this be true i.e.
that man desperately needs redemption,
that God foresaw his fall and need, that
man's redemption is the paramount issue.

Then **God's ultimate aim**
in human history was to establish
the present kingdom of GRACE in Christ.

God's Covenant Kingdom of Grace.

"King" (Melek and Basileus)

1. The I.S.B.E. cautiously suggests the word "Melek" has the root idea "to possess" and hence "to reign" because "the possessor is also lord and ruler."

**"Sovereignty," "Dominion" Speak of the same thing.
"Authority," "power," "rule." In one or two passages
they seem to carry the idea of realm or territory.**

"Kingdom" "basileia." The abstract meaning (rule rather than realm) is to be taken almost always.

The "kingdom" of God is the "rule," or "reign" of God and not just the "realm" over which He rules.

God's Universal Kingdom.

By this phrase is meant the dominion or rule of God over everything and all things, animate and inanimate, visible and invisible.

This kingship and dominion follows from the fact that the Lord is the Creator and Sustainer of the whole creation.

Manifestly He who creates and sustains possesses the power and the wisdom which constitute a king's qualifications.

Isaiah 37:16; - Creator therefore King.

Psalm 8:3-6; Grants dominion therefore possesses it.

Genesis 1:1; 26ff; Creates and grants dominion.

God's Covenant Kingdom of Grace.

There are two aspects of creation:-

First the unthinking and inanimate.

The inanimate and the unthinking (animals,)
are the involuntary servants of God.

The heavenly bodies, the elements,
plants and animals are all regarded
as "**servants**" and **worshippers** of God.

Psalm 148:1-10; 19:1-4; 104:4;

Psalm 119:89-91; 147:4; Isaiah 40:26;

God's Universal Kingdom.

There are two aspects of creation:-

Second:- The volitional.

Man (to the exclusion of angels etc.) as the volitional element in creation. Since God made him- God is king over him!

**Genesis 1:1, 26ff; Psalm 8:3-6; Psa 2:1-12;
1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 148:11-13;**

God's Universal Kingdom.

**God rules as King over the whole of mankind-
whether they are submissive,
indifferent or rebellious.**

**Psalm 2:1-12; Exodus 9:15-16;
Psalm 29:10; Ezekiel 20:33;**

**Since God is eternal and can't cease to be so;
since He is Creator and Sustainer; since
He is omnipotent and cannot cease to be so;
and since His Kingship is based on
this Godhood status- His rule is eternal!**

**Exodus 15:18; Psalm 10:16; 29:10; 66:7; Psalm 145:13;
Daniel 4:3; Daniel 6:26; Psalm 93:2;**

God's Universal Kingdom.

The Sovereignty of God in dealing with mankind is seen in His use of "blessing and punishment."

Exodus:-The plagues on Egypt.

**1 Kings 17:1-7; 18:41-46; Genesis 7;
Jonah 1:17; 3:6-8;**

The Sovereignty of God in dealing with mankind is seen in their carrying out His will even when they are not aware they are doing it.

Genesis 45:5-7; 50:20; Isaiah 10:5ff;

God's Universal Kingdom.

Even the formation of kingdoms among men in accordance with the over-all scheme of God are indeed a manifestation of the sovereignty of God.

This means when an individual or nation exercises dominion over an area (large or small), and over others- it is so because God according to His permissive will has "given" him the kingdom.

The very fact that God is able to grant dominion to another proves He has the adequate authority and power.

**Daniel 2:37; 4:17, 25, 36; 5:18, 28;
Daniel 7:26-27; Revelation 11:15f; 13:5;**

God's Universal Kingdom.

**The Creator expects submission
and obedience from His creation.**

**In the case of the mankind, terms
like "obedience" or "submission"
are (strictly speaking) out of place-
they are thus, figuratively used.**

**What God wanted was obedience-
what He got was (ultimately) rebellion.**

**In this respect the Kingship
of God based on his Creatorship, "failed."**

God's Universal Kingdom.

**The moral obligation of the creature
to the Creator wasn't fulfilled-
rebellion and failure had entered.**

This is seen in the record of the Fall.

**Since flawless obedience was now
out of the question, grace must enter
to (in some way) render
that less than flawless obedience- acceptable.**

This is seen in the promise of a Redeemer.

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:16-17; 3:1-6; 3:15;

God's Universal Kingdom.
**God's government is based on
a good, just, and loving ruler, monarchy
becomes the best form of government.**

**The governor of the universe
is that kind of a ruler.**

**The government
of the universe is a monarchy.
The kingdom is God's, not man's.**

God's Universal Kingdom.

The question then for each person is.

Will I submit to His rule?

**Will I submit to Jesus Christ, the son of man,
to whom God has given the dominion?**

Prentice Meador wrote a book
on the parables of Jesus which he entitled
Who Rules Your Life?

That is the question which the theme of the
kingdom of God should leave with each one.
God is King in ultimate reality; but in actual
fact in daily living, "**Who rules my life?**"

God's Universal Kingdom.

**Although God is High King and ultimate Sovereign,
under His permissive will He has chosen to rule
the kingdom through mediators. Psalm 8.**

- 4. “What is man that You take thought of him,
And the son of man that You care for him?**
- 5. Yet You have made him a little lower than God,
And You crown him with glory and majesty!**
- 6. You make him to rule over the works of Your
hands; You have put all things under his feet.”**

**His first mediatorial ruler
was the first man Adam.**

God's Universal Kingdom.

Mankind's Created Potential.

**Dominion:- Genesis 1:28; Psalm 8:4–8;
Hebrews 2:5–9; 2 Timothy 2:12.;**

Fruitfulness and Multiplication:-

Psalm 72:16–17; Isaiah 60:22.

In the pre-Fall world, God, in His own royal role as the High King of creation, established His chosen vice-regents, Adam and Eve, to rule immediately over all the earth:

God's Universal Kingdom.

**Mankind rules God's creation
because God gave mankind choice.**

**There is a big argument in the world
as to the Sovereignty of God**

**Many in the world teach that because God is
Sovereign He has pre-planned and pre-determined
everything that happens in the world.**

Some call it FATE, unchanging and unchangeable.

**Even some under the umbrella of Christianity
speak in this way,
it spills over into the idea of original sin.**

ORIGIN SIN

As far as we can tell, **Augustine**,
Bishop of Hippo (354-430) in North Africa,
was the first to teach a **doctrine of original sin**.

Original sin according to Augustine

“consists of the guilt of Adam
which all human beings inherit.”

“As sinners, **human beings** are **utterly depraved**
in nature, lack the freedom to do good, and **cannot**
respond to the will of God without divine grace”

Augustine taught that infants are born sinners spiritually dead and separated from God at birth.

This is sometimes called the doctrine of Total Hereditary Depravity of the soul.

The Roman Catholic Church and some others still believe and teach a similar doctrine today.

Catechism 403 "Following St. Paul, the Church has always taught that the overwhelming misery which oppresses men and their inclination towards evil and death cannot be understood apart from their connection with Adam's sin and the fact that he has transmitted to us a sin with which we are all born afflicted, a sin which is the "death of the soul".

291 Because of this certainty of faith, the Church baptizes for the remission of sins even tiny infants who have not committed personal sin."

Rom 5:12; “Well then; it was through one man that sin came into the world, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.” NJB

The western church accepted the views of Augustine, although with some modifications.

The definitive statement of this is the canons of the Synod of Orange in AD 529.

“What is meant by “the doctrine of original sin” is usually some version of Augustine’s teaching:-

“All people (Christ excepted) receive the consequences of Adam’s sin and are born not only with a tendency to sin but actually as sinners.”

George L Murphy “Roads to Paradise and Perdition: Christ, Evolution, and Original Sin” p113

Rom 5:12; “Well then; it was through one man that sin came into the world, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.” NJB

Some Protestant Churches also Believe and Teach this Doctrine of Original sin.

John Calvin and Martin Luther believed and taught this doctrine.

The churches that came from the Calvinist and Lutheran tradition also still believe and teach this doctrine.

This includes the Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists – all who “baptize” babies.

This is not what the Bible teaches.

Those who teach infant baptism (sprinkling)

Say man is born a spiritual sinner.

5:17; By the trespass of the one man, death reigned.

**5:19; Through the disobedience of the one man
the many were made sinners.**

Not just that our actions are bad

Our actions arise out of our fallen nature.

What we do arises out of what we are.

Adam's action affected us Spiritually.

**Those who teach infant baptism (sprinkling)
Say man is born a spiritual sinner.**

**They teach:- Our sin nature is inherited:
Psa 51:5; “Behold, I was shaped in iniquity;
and in sin did my mother conceive me.”**

**Another translation tries harder
Psa 51:5; “Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”**

**Eph 2:1-3; “As for you, you were dead
in your transgressions and sins...
Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”**

Those who teach infant baptism (sprinkling)

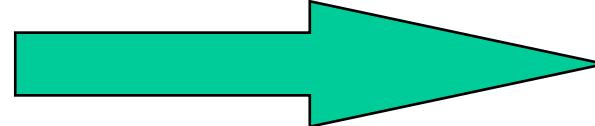
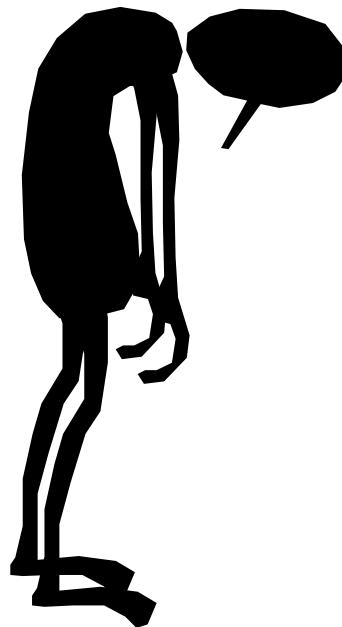
Say man is born a spiritual sinner.

They teach:- To get our sin nature,
all we had to do was be born.

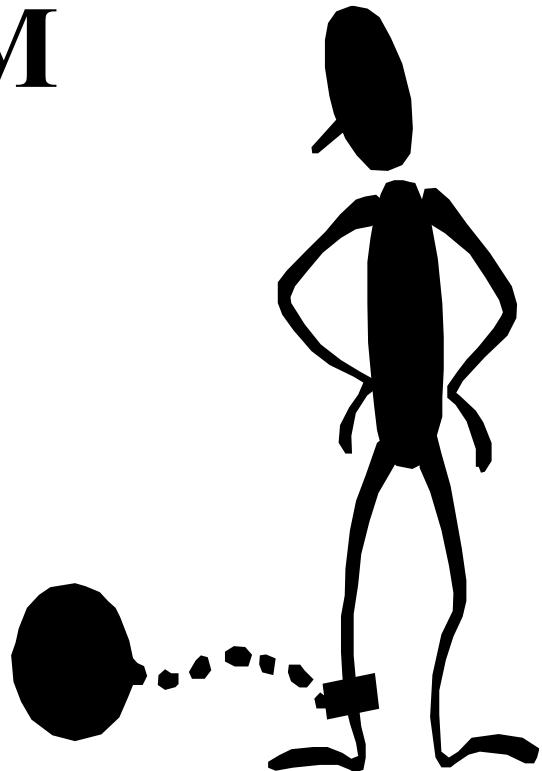
To get rid of it, all we have to do is die. (Rom 5:12;)

**Mat. 23:25; “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees,
hypocrites! for you make clean
the outside of the cup and of the platter,
but within they are full of extortion and excess.”**

ORIGINAL SIN IN AUGUSTINIANISM & CALVINISM



CORRUPT NATURE



**ADAM:
ORIGINAL
SIN**

GUILT

**ME: INHERITED
BOTH CORRUPT
NATURE AND GUILT**

TULIP Inherited Total Depravity:- Part of the CALVINIST doctrine.

T - Total hereditary depravity:- Babies inherit the sin of Adam and are totally depraved and therefore unable to respond to the gospel message of Christ.

U - Unconditional election:- (or predestination) God had a master list of those who will be saved and those who will go to hell before creation in Gen 1:1. The list is unchangeable.

L - Limited atonement:- Christ did not die for all men but only those on the "saved list."

I - Irresistible grace:- God sends the Holy Spirit only those on the saved list which removes their depraved nature inherited from Adam and creates within them a saving faith in Christ.

The Holy Spirit thereafter guides them directly to understand and correctly interpret the Bible.

P - Perseverance of the saints:-
A child of God once saved, cannot be lost.

They Teach:- “Every baby starts life as a little savage.

He is completely selfish and self-centred.

He wants what he wants when he wants it - his bottle, his mother's attention, his playmate's toy, his uncle's watch.”

“Deny him these wants, and he seethes with rage and aggressiveness, which would be murderous, were he not so helpless.”

“He is dirty. He has no morals, no knowledge, no skills. This means that all children not just certain children, are born delinquent.”

“If permitted to continue in the self-centred world of his infancy, given free reign to his impulsive actions to satisfy his wants, every child would grow up a criminal....”

Minnesota Crime Commission, cited in Ray Steadman,
From Guilt to Glory, 160.

Different aspects of Calvinism.

**They teach that this God before creation decided
That He was going to create 10 Billion people (just
as an example Number) then this God decides**

**He will damn 9 billion of them to burn in hell
for an eternity. Because it pleases God to do it!**

**God had not created these people yet
but what God says is already decided
as to what will happen to them.**

**I will create them and then burn them eternally in
hell because it pleases me to do so.**

**I will take a certain group of the 10 Billion,
a minority say 1 Billion and I will save them.**

Different aspects of Calvinism.

They say:- This damnation will have nothing to do with their response to me or what they think about me.

I have already made the decision about their end before they have even existed.

**Someone will say NOBODY BELIEVES THAT!
YES THEY DO.**

**This is the teaching of the Consistent Calvinists.
John Calvin who systematised
the work of Augustine of Hippo.**

This is the basis of much of the Neo Reformatist people believe and teach.

Different aspects of Calvinism.

Clark said:- “when a man becomes a vile drunk, murders wife and then is butchered one way or another.” **Clarke said:-** God did that, God Purposed that, God predestined that, The man had no choice.

Arthur Pink said:- “I am sorry that Calvinism is being watered down. It is NO LONGER Calvinism, God has arranged before anybody knew anything about it,”

“and He arranged it so that no-one has anything to do about it. **It does not matter what they think or say!**”

“**It never did, for God had already arranged what He was going to do.**”

Different aspects of Calvinism.

John Piper says:- “God is almighty, knows everything and everything He does, He does because it comes out of Him and pleases Him.”

“And NO ONE does or says or thinks ANYTHING that affects God’s decisions. God is not influenced by any bodies thought or deed.”

Piper claims:- “If you can influence God’s decisions then God is at your disposal in some shape or form and God is not like that.”

Different aspects of Calvinism.

But even Piper could not live with Consistent Calvinism for a number of years ago he changed his mind about babies dying.

Because of the Calvinist doctrine Piper had been required to believe that babies when they are born and then die are damned and will burn in hell because they do not believe the Lord Jesus Christ.

Piper has now dropped that teaching and says babies will not be damned and go to hell! WHY because they have not done anything wrong!

At least Piper has put aside his Calvinism on that point and come round to true biblical teaching.

John Wesley (Armenian) and Mr Whitfield (Calvinist)

Whitfield said to Wesley “I agree with Augustine that the floors of hell are crawling with un-baptised infants not a span long.”

**Wesley is purported to have replied
“Whitfield your God is my devil.”**

see Sermon 28 “free Grace”

**We hear people speak about Predestination,
Foreordination, Double Predestination, Supralapsarianism,
Sublapsarianism, Infralapsarianism.**

See <http://www.wnking.com/calvinism.htm> for example.

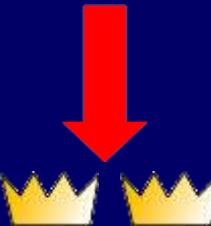
When you get all confused about some of these things.

**Think God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
who loved us and allowed His Son to die for us.**

**He is not going to send us to hell
without giving us a choice in the matter.**

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness,

God's Kingdom.



Place = Presence.

Choice.

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”
Genesis 2:15;

RULE.

“And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;’

Blessing.

“but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Genesis 2:16-17;



God's Kingdom.

**God's people!
Living in God's place!
Under God's rule
and blessing!**

God's Kingdom Ruined.



“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.”

“She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised they were naked, so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.”

Genesis 3:6-7;

“So the LORD God banished him from the Garden in Eden.”
Genesis 3:23;

God's Promise of War.



And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Genesis 3:15;

“he will crush your head.”

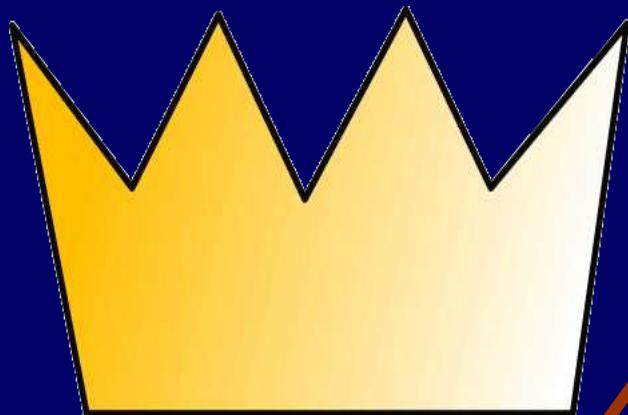
**See Heb 2:14; Rom 16:20;
Gal 3:8;**

“you will strike his heel.”

See 1 Pet 1:19-20;



Human Rebellion and Death Advances.



Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, **because all sinned.** Romans 5:12;

God's Universal Kingdom.

The element of grace has now entered into the Kingdom of God (since the fall of man).

God will accept an imperfect (flawed) submission from those who by moral obligation owe a flawless submission.

This gracious acceptance will cost God His Son so that the grace is not "cheap" grace.

God's Universal Kingdom.
With the "fall" and the "failure" of the Kingdom of God to obtain from creation acceptable submission **there entered the grace element.**

The rest of the teaching of the Bible from the Fall onward shows the development of the "**gracious**" kingdom of God.

God has proven anxious to give those who wish to acceptably serve him the opportunity to do so. **Without the grace element the law of the kingdom would be too much for mankind.**

Leviticus 18:5; with Romans 10:5;
Deuteronomy 27:26; with Galatians 3:10-13;
Genesis 15:6; with Romans 4:1-3; also see Genesis 6:8;

**Despite mans sin God is still King
still Reigning and still in Control.**

In the pages of the OT we find that Yahweh
**(God) had entered into many covenants
with His people.**

**One of these covenants was with mankind
after the flood, The Noahic Covenant.**

**Some of these covenants were with the
people of Israel:- The Abrahamic, the Mosaic,
the Priestly, the Deuteronomic, the Davidic.**

**God also entered into a New Covenant
with His followers today - Christians.**

The New Israel of God.

God's Covenant With Noah. Gen 9:1-17;

**The Noahic Covenant was initiated
and dictated by God.**

**The sovereign rule of God is clearly seen
in this covenant. While some ancient
covenants were the result of negotiation,
this one was not.**

**The Noahic Covenant was established with
non-Israelites long before the existence
of Abraham and his descendants.**

God's Covenant With Noah. Gen 9:1-17;

**It is true that in Genesis 6 God says
The whole world has now gone rampant.
Man got worse and worse.**

**The last phrase of Gen 4:25; says
“In those days men began
to call on the name of the Lord.”**

**There was more righteous people
on the earth than just Noah.**

**But in the middle of it all Gen 6
God found Noah a righteous man
God decided to work through him.**

God's Covenant With Noah. Gen 9:1-17;

God makes a promise not to bring another flood to destroy the earth. (9:9;)

God sees Noah's making the sacrifices for he and his family, saying in the burnt offering we all we are all we have we are offering it to you.

The promise is valid for all Noah's descendants. (9:12;)

God points to the rainbow as a sign. Of His promise and Grace. (9:13;)

God's Covenant With Noah. Gen 11:1-17;

God said I am not going to destroy the world
by flood again because
humans are going to keep being sinful,
Sinful from their youth up. Gen 8:21;

Then the **tower of Babel** Gen 11:1ff. The **fall record begins** in Genesis 3. The process of the complete fall is recorded in the first half of Gen 11.

Adam did bad, Eve did bad, These people
now do bad with absolute insolence.

**If God will not give us a name
we will make a name for ourselves.**

God's Covenant With Noah. Gen 11:1-17;

**If God will not gives us a Big place,
a Big Centre we will claim one for ourselves.**

**If God will not have fellowship with us from heaven
We will build a tower to heaven (not literally
to heaven) and it will be defiance.**

All of it is defiance.

We will do this, we will do that, we will do the other.

**God won't have it He confounds their speech
They are scattered.**

God's Covenant With Noah. Gen 11:1-17;

What God would not let them do for themselves God plans to do for them.

**God calls a man called Abram
He was not very old but his body was not in great
shape for their time, Abram's wife was barren.**

**Calls them out of Ur one of the chief cities
of the world at that time.**

**He calls two people who could not by themselves
do what needed to be done and He calls them
into a covenant relationship with Himself.**

God's Universal Kingdom.

**As we have observed in the previous section,
there has always been a kingdom of God
which embraced the whole of creation.**

**This means, before Israel ever reached Sinai
where they were constituted
a nation and a kingdom unto God.**

Before that time.

**Israel was still under the dominion of God.
They were in the kingdom of God.**

God's Universal Kingdom.

As we have also observed, the history of the kingdom of God from the Fall Is really the history of the scheme of redemption. It is salvation history.

It is the story of how God secured acceptable obedience from a willing man who could not render flawless obedience.

(It is attained in Christ Jesus of course.)

God's willing subject was accepted despite his failures.

The citizen of the kingdom who willingly gave his heart to the King but couldn't live up to his inner commitment was accepted by the King (on the grounds of a coming transaction at Calvary.)

God's Covenant With Abram

**As a part of the development of this scheme
Abram (Abraham) was called and
a covenant made with him and his seed.**

**This covenant was not made
with the nations at large
but with Abraham and his seed.
(before Israel was constituted a nation.)**

**The plan was to bless the world through the
covenant made with Abraham and his seed.**

**Genesis 11:31-12:3; with Galatians 3:8, 15-17;
Genesis 12:1-3; with Ephesians 2:12;**

Genesis 12:1-3 with Exodus 19:6-7; and Galatians 3:17;

God's Covenant With Abram

**You did not sign a covenant in those days.
Instead you “cut” a covenant.**

**This practice was so widespread that
in later times, one could speak of entering
into a covenant merely by
speaking of how he “cut” with someone.**

The instructions to Abram seem rather strange and remote to us. That is because we are not a part of the culture of two thousand years before Christ. If we had been there, **Abram’s preparations would be familiar to us.**

God is King.

Some of the Biblical Covenants with Israel.

	Abrahamic Covenant	Mosaic Covenant	Priestly Covenant	Deuter- onomic Covenant	Davidic Covenant	New Covenant
Nation	X	X		X	X	X
Seed	X				X	X
Land	X	X		X	X	X
Blessing	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kingdom	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Gen 12:1–3; 15:1–21; 17:3–14; 22:14–19	Exod 19–24	Num 25:10–13; 1 Sam 2:35; Jer 33:17– 18; Ezek 44:10–15; Mal 2:4–5	Deut 27–30	2 Sam 7:8–16; 1 Chron 17:7–14; Pss 2; 72, 89; 102	Jer 31:27–40

GOD AND THE KINGDOM

Lesson 1 Slide 1

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**Next in the series:-
The Church the Kingdom
Lesson 2 Slide 66**



**GOD AND
THE KINGDOM**
Lesson 2 Slide 66

God's Covenant With Abram. Gen 15:7-10;

7 "And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it."

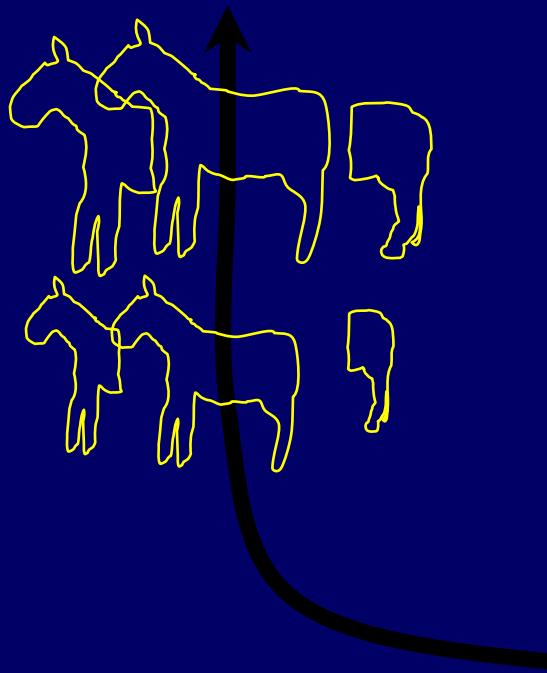
8 And he said, "O Lord God, how may I know that I shall possess it?"

9 "So He said to him, "Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

"He split the animals and placed each piece opposite the other along with the birds."

"God passed between the pieces as a smoking oven & a burning torch." (15:17;)

Genesis 15:8; The Covenant Ceremony!



“To Cut a Covenant.”

God's Covenant With Abram

These were the typical preparations one understood in order to enter into a binding covenant.

The making of this sort of covenant involved several animals being sacrificed. The animals would be cut into two parts and then placed in parallel with a pathway between the animals.

Then when the parties who were entering into the covenant were ready to go through the covenant ceremony, they would walk between the pieces of the animals as they verbally stated the terms of the covenant.

God's Covenant With Abram

**The idea behind the ceremony is that
they were binding themselves to the fate**

**of the slain animals as they took an oath that, if they
broke their word, they might suffer the same fate.**

**They were saying in effect,
“If I break the terms of this covenant,
then may I similarly be torn apart and die.”**

God's Covenant With Abram

**In this covenant scene in Gen 15
God makes Abram sleep while
God goes between the sacrificed animals.**

**This is described as a *Suzerain Covenant* a
covenant **between a strong party and a weak party.****

**The emphasis is on the majesty and power
of the sovereign (suzerain) king, God.**

**The fact that Abram is asleep indicates that
the Covenant does not depend on Abram
but depends on God keeping His word.**

**According to the Abrahamic Covenant,
the following themes will highlight the
fulfillment for the descendants of Abraham:-**

Nation:- “I will make you a great nation.”
(Gen 12:2;)

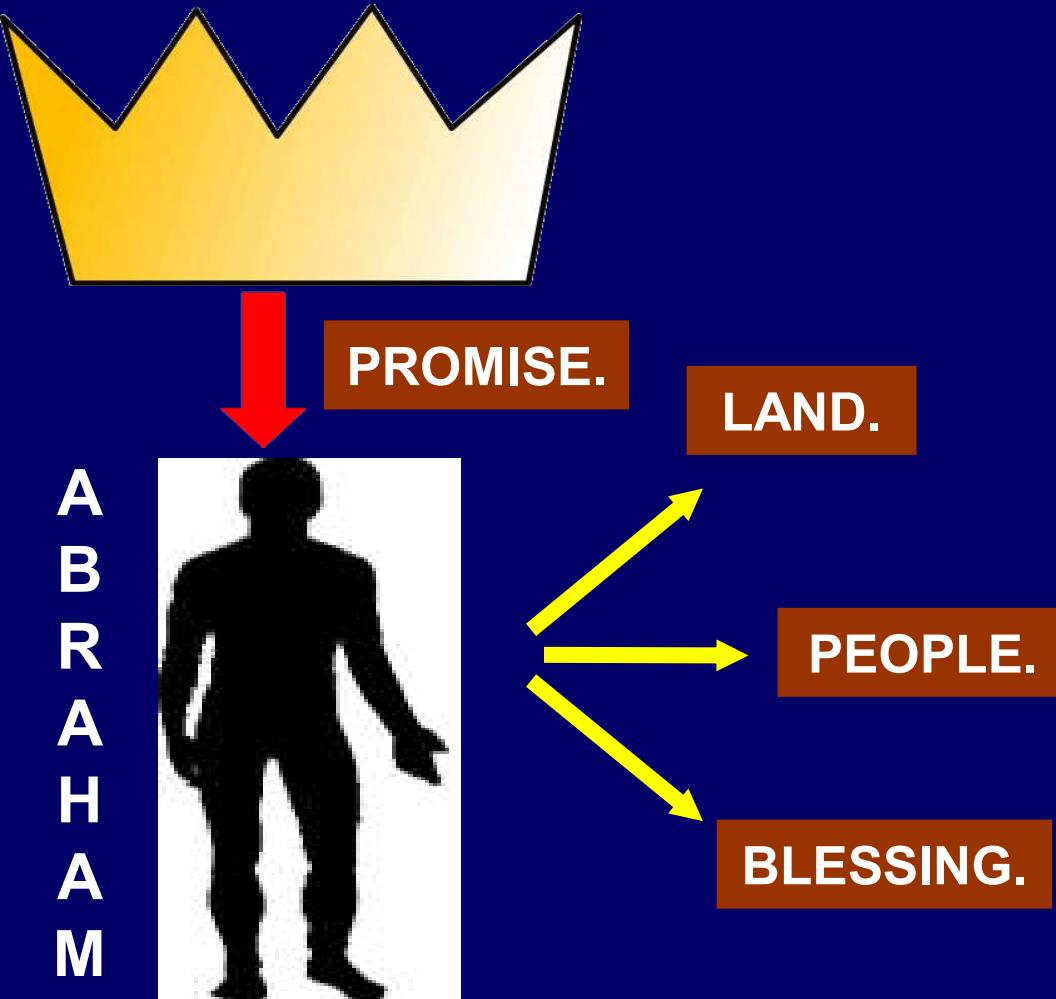
Seed:- “count the stars . . . So shall your
descendants be.” (Gen 15:5;)

Land:- “To your descendants I have given this
land.” (Gen 15:18;)

Blessing:- “in you all the families of the earth
will be blessed.” (12:3; Gal 3:14;)

Kingdom:- “your seed shall possess the gate
of their enemies.” (22:17; Matt 16:18;)

God's Promised Kingdom.



"The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you;"

"I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse, and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 12:1-3;

"I will establish my covenant... to be your God and the God of your descendants after you." Gen 17:7;

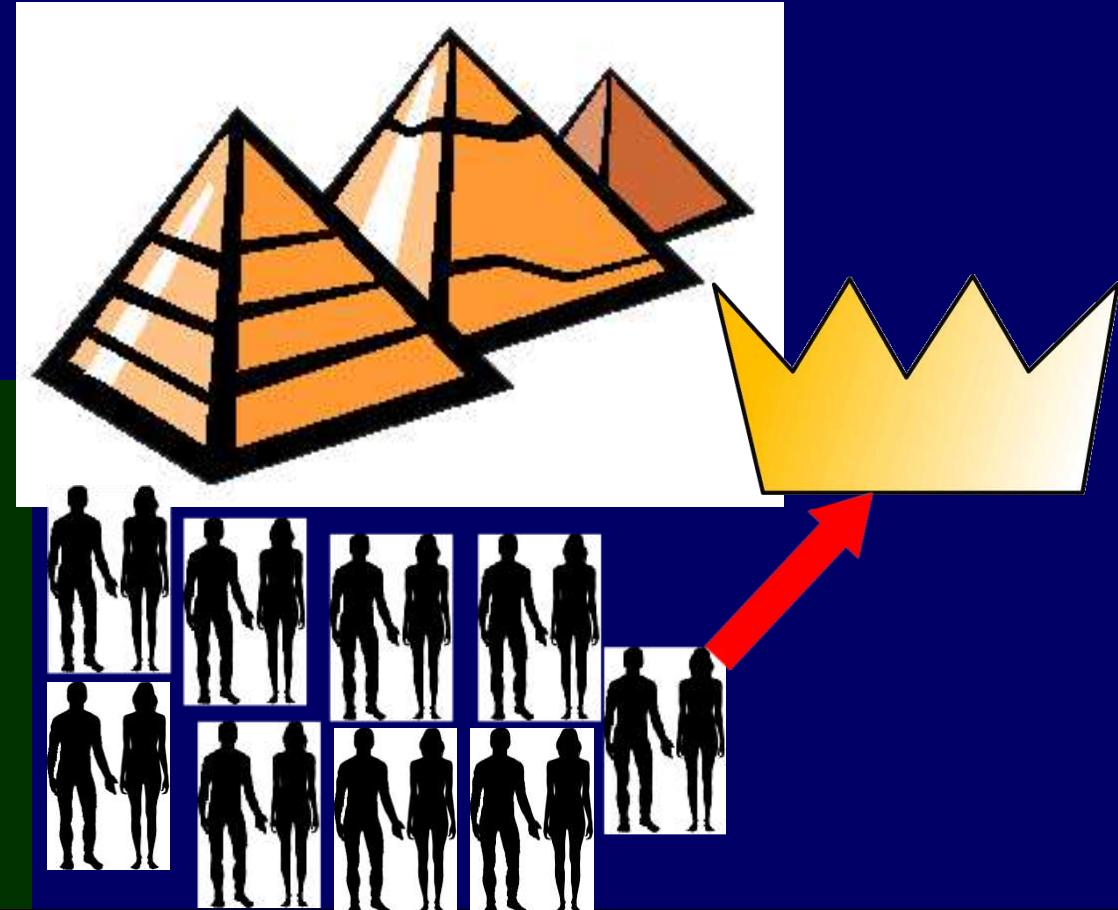
From Slavery to Paradise.

“Then the LORD said to him, ‘Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own,’

“they will be enslaved and ill-treated

In four hundred years.
In the fourth generation
your descendants
will come back here.”

Genesis 15:13-16;



“So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

Exodus 3:8; “I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.” Exodus 6:7;

God's Covenant With Moses.

**Abraham then Isaac and Jacob.
They had the covenants renewed to them.**

**Jacob goes down to Egypt where his son
Joseph is in a position of power which
God had enabled him to establish**

**They prospered and grew that at some point
a Pharaoh rose up and did not care what Joseph
had done for the Egyptian Pharaoh of His day.**

**This Pharaoh has troubles on his borders and
begins to see the Israelites as a threat
and so wants to curb their growth by killing off
the male children as they are being born**

God's Covenant With Moses.

**Moses is born, Kills a slave master
and runs away to Midian.**

**Works as a shepherd then God calls him
to service to set God's people free.**

**Moses goes back down to Egypt
Gives Pharaoh a ten plague
correspondence course on the power of God.**

**Brings the people out of Egypt
You know the story well.**

**God at Mount Sinai then formalises
a Covenant with Israel as a nation.**

God's Covenant With Moses.

Israel prior to Sinai were already under the sovereignty of God, thus, were already a part of God's kingdom.

Exodus 15:18; Psalm 29:10;

Nevertheless, at Sinai God entered into a special kingdom relationship with Israel.

Exodus 19:5-8; Amos 3:2;

Deuteronomy 7:6; 14:2; Romans 9:4;

God's Covenant With Moses.

In Exodus 19:5ff God says:-

**“If you will obey my statutes,
if you will hear my voice,
if you will do what I tell you.”**

**“You will be unto me a special possession,
You will be a royal kingdom.
You will be a priestly nation.**

**God says:- “all the earth is mine, but you,
you will be different you will be a nation to Me.”**

**God says Do you want a covenant with me?
They said they would.**

God's Covenant With Moses.

So in Exodus 24

Moses then covenants the people.

Moses gets the blood, sprinkles it over the nation and says “This is the blood of the covenant that God has made with you.”

Paul in Gal 3:17; is saying that:-

First there was the Abrahamic Covenant, then came the Mosaic covenant many years later.

God's Covenant With Moses.

**This kingdom relationship was involved
in the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant.**

**The Abrahamic covenant existed prior
to and independent of this "Theocracy"
which began at Sinai.**

**Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-21;
Genesis 12:1-3; with Galatians 3:15-17;
Exodus 2:24; 3:13; 6:3-5;
Deuteronomy 29:12-13;**

In the Mosaic Covenant, some of the same themes recur as a progressive development of divine revelation founded upon the Abrahamic Covenant:-

Nation:- “you shall be to Me . . a holy nation.”
(Exod 19:6;)

Land:- “that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.” (Exod 20:12;)

Blessing:- “He will love you and bless you and multiply you . . . You shall be blessed above all peoples.” (Deut 7:13–14;)

Kingdom:- “and you will be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Exod 19:6;)

God's Covenant With Moses.

**The Mosaic covenant is similar to
but different from the Abrahamic covenant.**

**Israel now the nation is the means by which
and is an expression of
the covenant God made with Abraham.**

**Israel is the means by which
God fulfills His covenant with Abraham
To bless all the nations.**

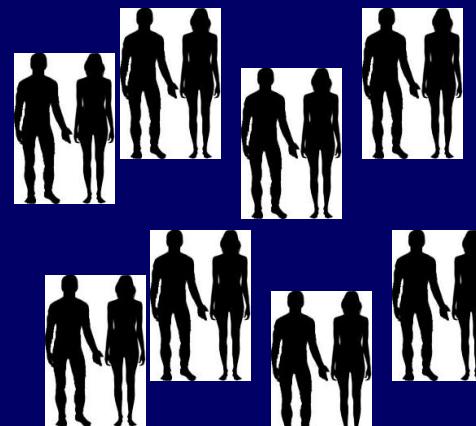
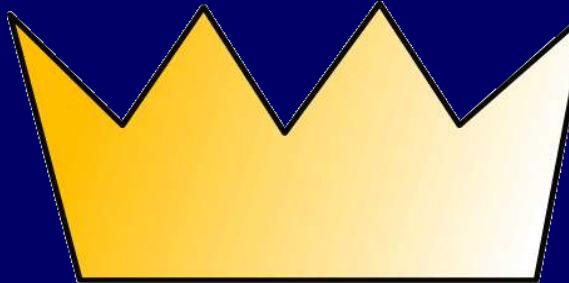
**They are a nation under God
but God alone is the ruler!**

The Rules of the King.

“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.”

“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.”

“Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” Exodus 19:4-6;



“And God spoke all these words: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me” Exodus 20:1-3;

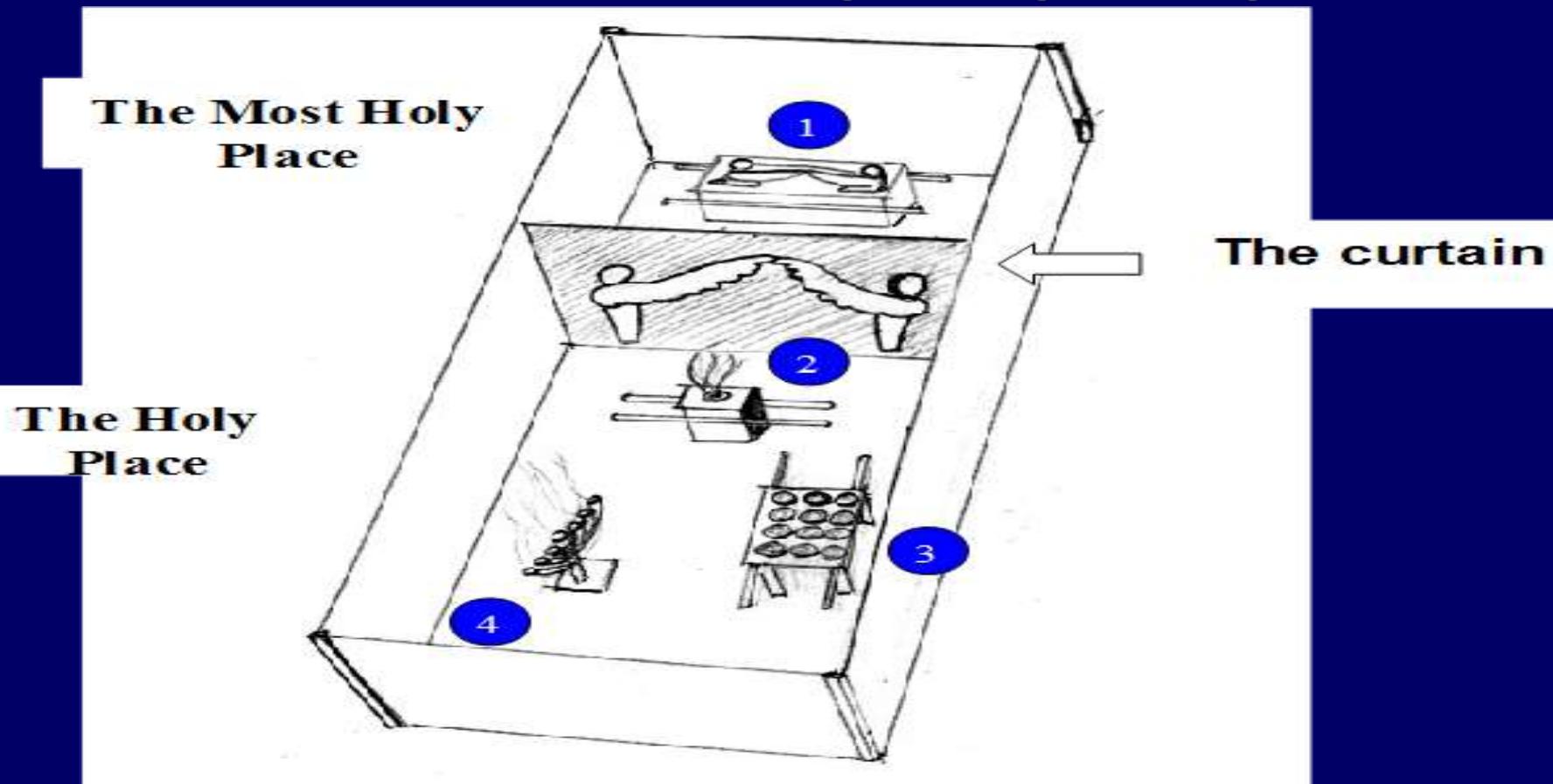
God's Covenant With Moses.

**God is the ruler yet sets up Judges, teachers,
if you had a problem then you went to them,
they knew the Torah (law) the will of God.**

**They not only know the will of God they love
God and they love the people whom God
has given them authority over.**

**That was how it was supposed to work.
But they did not do well, we never do it seems.**

A Just and Forgiving King.



The LORD said to Moses:- “Tell your brother Aaron not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the Ark, or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.” **Leviticus 16:2;**

The Priestly Covenant.

Although expositors often overlook the Priestly Covenant, it likewise echoes at least two of these themes in its association with the Davidic Covenant:

Blessing: “My covenant of peace.”
(Num 25:12;)

Kingdom: “David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man before me.” (Jer 33:17-18;)

The Priestly Covenant.

**Zechariah 6:13; reveals that the Messiah
“will be a priest on His throne.”**

**These dual offices, king and priest,
bring together the two key roles
of the mediatorial kingdom’s ruler.**

**What Israel did not accomplish in their
appointment as a “kingdom of priests”
in the Mosaic Covenant, the Messiah
will fulfill as their representative.**

The Deuteronomic Covenant.

Later in progressive revelation,
the **Deuteronomic Covenant** likewise
Spoke of a number of these themes:-

Nation: “that He may establish you today
as His people.” (Deut 29:13;)

Land: “in the land which the LORD swore
to your fathers to give you.” (Deut 28:11;)

The Deuteronomic Covenant.

Blessing: “The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand.”
(Deut 28:12;)

Kingdom: “The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above . . . if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully,” (Deut 28:13;)

Joshua, Judges Period.

Joshua then leads the people over the Jordan river and to the promised land.

Judges are taking care of all the argument.

The people go to the cities of refuge to get things settled.

Then in the book of Judges we are told that after Joshua and his peers died,

“The people forgot God.”

Judges 2:10; 3:7; 8:33;

They tribes started fighting among each other and going after other gods.

The book of Judges says several times that **all of this was happening before there was any king.**

Joshua, Judges Period.

During the period prior to the "Monarchy"
God had no kingly representative
through which to rule the people.

Since they were especially a religious kingdom the rulers (e.g. Moses and Joshua) needed only to enforce the **Laws of the King** to see to it that the rights of each individual were not violated.

Deuteronomy 17:14-20; Judges 8:22-23;
Exodus 18:13-27; 1 Samuel 8:7;

Joshua, Judges Period.

**Despite the fact that during this period
there was no kingly representative
it was God's intention to give Israel a king.**

**Genesis 35:11; Deuteronomy 17:14-20;
Genesis 49:10; Numbers 24:7;**

Moses. Joshua, Judges Period.

**During this "pre-monarchy" period,
we have God ruling over all nations
through various kings and leaders**

He had raised up

(e.g. Pharaohs, Amraphels, Tidals, Beeris.)

Then too, God ruled Israel as their sole King.

**His relationship to Israel was therefore
radically different to that of all other nations.**

**Genesis 14:1-24; Joshua 10:1-43;
Exodus 19:5ff;**

Moses. Joshua, Judges Period.

Israel from Sinai onward is something of an illustration of the kingdom relationship God would have with all creation.

They are His by virtue of creation but now they have submitted to Him by choice.

**Exodus 19:5-8; Deuteronomy 5:27;
Exodus 24:3;**

Joshua, Judges Period.

With the death of Moses and Joshua adequately strong leadership vanished and anarchy set in.

Central control was non-existent and we have record of various priest-leaders exercising a limited control in some areas.

This was permitted by God of course in order to further the development of His own plans.

The Time of the Judges.

“Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived.”

“But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshipping them.”

Judges 2:18-19;

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.

Judges 21:25;



**Judges Period.
The book of Judges**

**was not just about how bad Israel was! It is
also big on how good and gracious God is.**

**Despite their rebellion despite their
unfaithfulness God remained faithful.**

**The failure of good men such as
Eli and Samuel (in their sons)**

**Resulted in the bitter request for a king-
a visible representative.**

**Judges 17:6; 1 Samuel 7:6, 15ff;
1 Samuel 8:5-20;**

Government by God and the Monarchy

The request for a king, under the circumstances, was a wicked thing, but this is just another example of God using wickedness to fulfil His intention.

In the case of Esau and Jacob God had already chosen Jacob and there was no need for Jacob's deception.

Jacob obtained the blessing as God had planned. The same applied to the kingly rule.

Government by God and the Monarchy.

**Then comes Samuel the little boy
who's mother was Hannah who says
“give me a baby and I will give him to you.”**

**Hannah has a baby, she brings him to the
Temple probably at about six years of age.**

**Samuel was put under the care and guidance of Ely.
Samuel responds to God by saying:-
“speak Lord your servant hears.”**

**From that moment on Samuel
becomes one of the great men of Israel.**

Government by God and the Monarchy.

**Read 1 Samuel. Samuel becomes a leading man in the kingdom.
He is honest as the day is long.**

**He loves God, he has two sons
Joel and Abijah who were bad. 1 Sam 8:2;
(This was great man who's children lost their way.)**

**Samuel is the number one man in the nation,
when Israel who are sick and tired of not having
a king like the other nations round about.**

**Samuel was the only man (on record) in the nation
who opposed the idea.**

Government by God and the Monarchy.

**Samuel is angry but God said:- 1 Sam 8:7;
“it is not you they are rejecting it is Me.”**

**God said to Samuel I want you
to go ahead and establish the monarchy.**

**This is why the first 8 chapters are all about Samuel.
The monarchy was going to come in and since
the monarchy was not what God had set up.**

**For the last 4 hundred years
Israel had not had a monarchy,
anyone who suggested it was shouted down.**

Government by God and the Monarchy.

**Now they want a king, Samuel says:-
You are not doing it, I wont let you.**

God says to Samuel:- Let them have a king.

**In Genesis 35:10-11; When God is blessing Jacob
and part of the blessing is this:-
“Kings will come from you.”**

**God always intended Israel to have kings.
BUT He did not intend Israel to ask for a king
or want a king out of the bad rebellious
attitude they had.**

Government by God and the Monarchy.

**The outcome was that the one man
who was AGAINST the monarchy
Is the very man who introduces it.**

**So what does that tell us?
It tells us that those kings (Saul, David etc.)
did not seize the authority and power.**

**The man who brought in the monarchy was the
one man in the nation who would speak the truth.**

**Samuel the man who was against the monarchy
brought it in because he was told to by God.**

Government by God and the Monarchy.

God is their king!

But now another one is their king!

**Together you have the
unity of divinity and humanity
on the throne over Israel.**

**That sends a message of something
they could never have dreamed of that
one day there will be someone **on the throne**
of David who was literally God and man.**

So now that we have the monarchy.

**We have the kingdom now expressed in the reign
of God in a visible manner through a human king.**

Government by God and the Monarchy.

**God's plans called for a king in Israel-
His human, kingly representative.**

**1 Samuel 8:1-22; Genesis 49:10;
Genesis 35:11; Numbers 24:7;**

Samuel brings in the monarchy,

He introduces Saul and makes him to be king.

But Saul struggles to do the right thing

**Since God had it in mind to give the sceptre
(dominion-sovereignty) to Judah, the
choice of Saul was an interim arrangement.**

Genesis 49:10; 1 Samuel 9:1-2;

Government by God and the Monarchy

**God then chose David the son of Jesse,
of the tribe of Judah, to be king over Israel.**

**With David He made an everlasting covenant
that his seed (and one in particular)
would rule over Israel forever.**

**David and all of those who follow in his line,
they sit on the throne of the Lord.**

Government by God and the Monarchy

In light of the fact that they would be sinners, the covenant would contain the clause that God would discipline them when necessary.

This discipline was necessary, especially since the king was God's regent and he was supposed to be doing the will of God.

The punishment was not to be understood as the dissolution or violation of the covenant (which we will call the "Davidic Covenant.")

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 18:43-50; 89:1-52;
2 Samuel 7:10-17; 1 Chronicles 17:1-27;

The Davidic Covenant.

**When the prophet Nathan announced
the Davidic Covenant,
it also featured equivalent themes:-**

Nation: “That you should be ruler
over My people Israel” (2 Sam 7:8;)

Seed: “I will raise up your descendant after
you” (2 Sam 7:12); “your house . . .
shall endure before Me forever” (7:16;)

The Davidic Covenant.

Land: “I will also appoint a place for My people Israel.” (2 Sam 7:10;)

Blessing: “let men bless themselves by him;
Let all nations call him blessed”
(Psalm 72:17;)

Kingdom: “your kingdom shall endure before Me forever.” (2 Sam 7:16;)

A King for God's Kingdom.

"All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd my people Israel, and you shall become their ruler.' and they anointed David king over Israel."

2 Samuel 5:1-3;

"When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own 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 7:13;



The Davidic Covenant.
Despite the fact that the people now had
a visible royal representative David
Who was acknowledged as "king."

**It yet remained true that strictly speaking,
only God, was "the King."**

**1 Chronicles 29:9-11; Isaiah 33:22;
Psalm 20:9; 44:4; 47:6; 68:24; 74:12; 89:18;**

The Davidic Covenant.
David near the end of his life
wants to build a Temple to the Lord.

In 1 Chron 29:9; “The people rejoiced they had offered willingly towards the building of the Temple and King David he rejoiced greatly.”

10. “While still in the presence of the whole assembly, David expressed his praises to the Lord: ``O Lord God of our father Israel, praise your name for ever and ever!”

11. Yours is the mighty power and glory and victory and majesty. Everything in the heavens and earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom.
We adore you as being in control of everything.

The Davidic Covenant.

12. “Riches and honour come from you alone,
and you are the Ruler of all mankind;
your hand controls power and might,
and it is at your discretion that
men are made great and given strength.

13. “Now therefore, our God, we thank You,
and praise Your glorious name.”

16 “O Lord our God, all of this material that we have
gathered to build a temple for your holy name
comes from you! It all belongs to you!”

18. “O Lord God of our fathers: Abraham, Isaac, and
Israel! Make your people always want to obey you,
and see to it that their love for you never changes.”

Solomon is King on the Lords Throne.
David is followed by his son Solomon
who is anointed king.

**1 Chron 29:23; “Then Solomon sat on
the throne of the Lord, succeeding
his father David as king; he prospered,
and all Israel obeyed him.”**

**Sitting on the Lords Throne
does not mean he is sitting on a chair!
It means he exercises authority on God’s behalf.**

**God has set Solomon as king over Gods kingdom
God has set Solomon on the throne to reign.**

**As we will see later God will set Jesus
on the Throne to reign over Gods spiritual kingdom.**

Solomon is King on the Lords Throne. God the Father gives Jesus the Son ALL authority

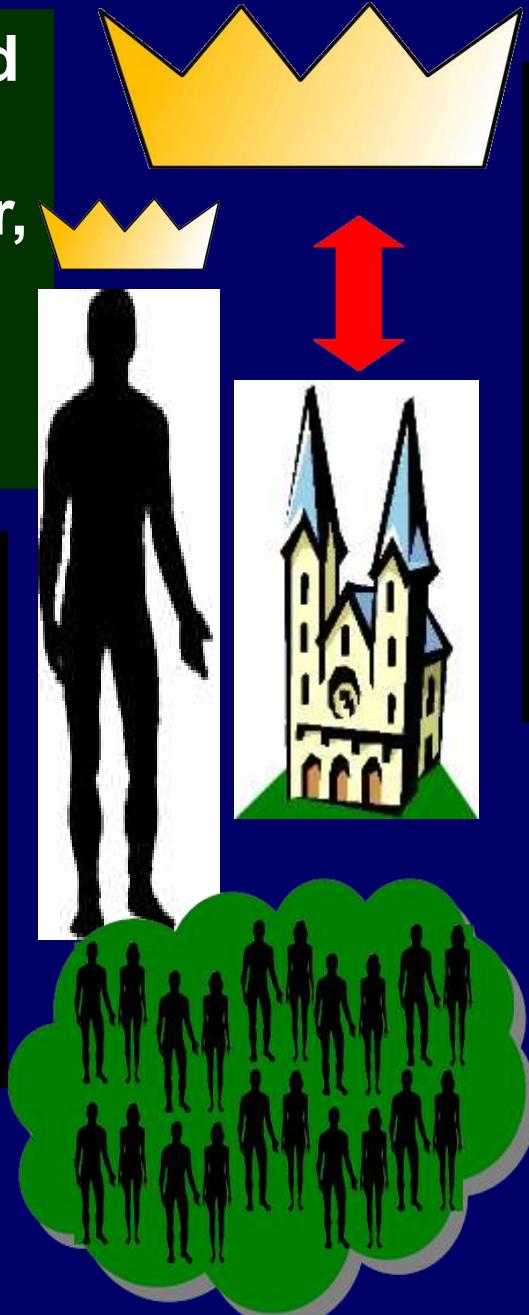
Matt 28:18-20; "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20. teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**Then Paul says in 1 Cor 15:25-28;
25. "For He (Jesus) must reign until
He has put all His enemies under His feet."**

28. "When Christ has finally won the battle against all his enemies, then he, the Son of God, will put himself also under his Father's orders, so that God who has given him the victory over everything else will be utterly supreme."

The National Kingdom Established.

“You have established your people Israel as your very own for ever, and you, O LORD, have become their God.”



“The LORD has kept the promise He made:- I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the LORD promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.”

“for you, O Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever.”
2 Samuel 7:24,29b;

“I have provided a place there for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that He made with our fathers when He brought them out of Egypt.”
1 Kings 8:20-21;

God's National Kingdom Has Come.

"God's people
The people of Judah
and Israel were as
numerous as the sand
on the seashore."

1 Kings 4:20;

**God's rule
in God's place!**
"Solomon ruled over
all the kingdoms from
the River to the land
of the Philistines,
as far as the
border of Egypt."

1 Kings 4:21;



God's blessing!
"During Solomon's
lifetime Judah and Israel,
from Dan to Beersheba,
lived in safety, each man
under his own vine and
fig-tree." 1 Kings 4:25

**"God keeps His promises
Praise be to the LORD,
who has given rest to his
people Israel just as he
promised. Not one word
has failed of all the good
promises he gave
through his servant
Moses."** 1 Kings 8:56;

God's Kingdom under Solomon.

When Solomon takes over

He is an absolute Tyrant.

Because he tyrannised the people.

Samuel had warned them about it in 1 Sam 8;

**Solomon wants to stabilise his kingdom,
so what does he do?**

He marries every woman in sight.

All the women all the concubines he had.

**He married them all to make treatise
covenants agreements**

with many of the nations round about.

God's Kingdom under Solomon.
**Solomon wants to make his kingdom bigger,
better, more powerful and richer.**

**He marries a Pharaohs daughter, he marries
everybody but it is a kingdom issue.**

That is the real crime of it.

**Because when all of those wives and servants
came in they brought their gods in with them.**

**Solomon put up with it, not only did he put up with it
he started worshipping their gods with them.**

God's Kingdom under Solomon.

God said FOR THAT I am going to punish you.

**I will not take the entire kingdom away
from David's line because
I made the covenant with David.**

**I am going to tear the kingdom in two and
give 10 tribes to your opponent Jeroboam.**

**I will leave the Davidic house with two tribes.
Judah and Benjamin.**

**God's Kingdom under Rehoboam.
Solomon dies after having made a mess
of everything his son Rehoboam takes over.**

Rehoboam (1 Kings 12;) is bad
When the Northern tribes came to him
and said your father plagued us, he enslaved us,
and taxed us to death take some pressure off us!

The older advisers said to him you need
to listen and ease up on them
if you want to keep the kingdom together.

But the young men said to tell them you think my
father was tough on you! **Wait until I get going.**

God's Kingdom under Division.
When the ten tribes hear this they say:-
**"To your tents o Israel
we have nothing in the house of David."**

**So the kingdom is fractured North and South
Those in the North are carried off
by the Assyrians in 722/21 BC.**

**Then the Southern kingdom of Judah is
carried off into captivity in Babylon in 586 BC.**

God's Kingdom in captivity.

They go into captivity for 70 years.

**Then God raises up Cyrus the Persian ruler,
who lets them go back to rebuild Jerusalem.**

**Israel begins again to live in the land
from the days of Zerubbabel.**

**Then in comes Alexander the great
After his death there are four rulers
who were the leaders of his armies.**

**There is a bunch of other things happening
then Rome enters the picture.**

God's Kingdom under Rome.

**Pompey came into Palestine in 64 BC.
They become the Lords and the rulers
of the area setting up puppet kings.**

**In the days of those kings of Rome
John the immerser walks in out of the desert
to “prepare the way of the Lord.”**

God is King.

In summary:- We have the kingdom of God right from the beginning NO STOPPING.

How did God rule Egypt? Through Pharoah.

How did God rule Babylon?

Through Nabopolassar and Nebuchadnezzar.

How did God rule Persia? Through Cyrus.

How did God rule? How did God rule?

How did God rule Greece? Through Alexander.

**We need to realise all the time
that God is the KING of kings and LORD of lords.**

God is King.

God is over everyone.

**When the Assyrians were attacking Judah Isa 37;
in the days of Hezekiah everyone was scared.**

**The Assyrians send a letter to be read to the people
of Judah it is a frightening text.**

**Hezekiah reads it to the Lord God as if to say:-
God have you read this letter?**

**Isa 37:18; “It is true, O Lord, that the kings of
Assyria have destroyed all those nations,
just as the letter says,”**

God is King.

Isa 37:20; “and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. So they have destroyed them.”

20. “"Now, O LORD our God, deliver us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, LORD, are God."

**God says to Hezekiah I am going to fix it.
A 185,000 army bit the dust overnight!**

**How does God rule the world,
Prior to the beginning of the monarchy?**

Through Samuel, through Saul, David and his family.

God is King.

**How does God rule the world, Prior
to the beginning of the kingdom of Israel at Sinai?
Through Moses.**

**How does God rule anything?
Did He have a kingdom?
He did:- Psalm 29:10;**

**“The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.”**

**There is NO time when God is not King.
So who ever is ruling under God among the nations
it is better than anarchy.**

God is King.

God is against anarchy.

He establishes government structures.

**The people are to submit themselves
to the government structures.**

**God will hold those in power in the government
structures to account one day if they**

fail to use their power wisely on the peoples behalf.

**Peter says:- 1 Pet 2:13; “Submit yourselves
for the Lord's sake to every human institution,
whether to a king as the one in authority,”**

**It is the governing structures that
God has set up. He created them
because we humans need them.**

God is King.

God works through them Rom 13 says:-

“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.”

They were meant to be an influence for good.

**So be obedient –pay your taxes etc,
that all may benefit.**

**Paul in 1 Tim 2: urges us to pray for kings
and those in authority that they may
learn to use their power wisely.**

**God is always King and he rules the world through
these different rulers, Pharaohs, Emperors, Kings.**

**God is King.
The dominant theme
of all these biblical covenants is blessing.**

**These blessings are available
because God is the Sovereign KING.**

God is King.

This is made additionally clear by the fact that the "throne of David" or the "throne of Solomon" is as often called the "throne of God."

So that he who sat on the "throne of David" sat on "the throne of God".

This in turn means the "kingdom of David" or the "kingdom of Judah" is the "kingdom of God."

**2 Chronicles 13:8; 1 Chronicles 28:5; 29:23;
2 Chronicles 1:1; 9:8; Matthew 21:5; Luke 19:38;
Mark 1:15; and parallel passages. Mark 11:10;**

God is King.

While it is true that David (in whom the royal covenant was made) was ruler over Israel, God's authority was not confined to Israel.

He had dominion over other nations.

**Psalm 18:43-45; Isaiah 550-5;
2 Samuel 8:3; 1 Kings 4:21; (of Solomon.)**

God is King.

The kingdom of God over Israel involved royalty (kingly power and position) embracing the human and the divine.
(David and Yahweh.)

Bible writers foresaw the time when both these elements would be combined in He who would rule Israel and the nations.

Psalm 110:1-4; with Matthew 22:41-46;
Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2-6; Daniel 7:13-14;

God is King.

The kingdom of God (i.e. the rule, sovereignty or dominion of God) as manifested in Israel through David or one of his sons (all Israelites,) did not reflect all God's power for He ruled, at the same time, all the nations of all the world.

The "universal kingdom" of God was a much wider concept than the Davidic kingdom.

The day would come, however, when the power exercised on the throne of David would be as wide as universal sovereignty!

God is King.

**A son of David, ruling on the throne of David
would rule the entire world and universe-
things visible and invisible.**

**1 Chron 29:9-11; "For behold, our fathers have fallen
by the sword, and our sons and our daughters
and our wives are in captivity for this.**

**10. "Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD
God of Israel, that His burning anger may turn away from us.**

**Psalm 2:11-12; "Worship the LORD with reverence and
rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son,
that He not become angry, and you perish in the way,
For His wrath may soon be kindled.**

How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!"

God is King.

Just as the **Abrahamic covenant** was independent of, though connected with, the Jewish nation
(in a national perspective)

so was the **Davidic covenant** independent of,
though connected with, the **Mosaic system**.

This being so, it is not surprising
that the **prophets knew** of a **coming period**
when the **Davidic authority** would be
exercised independent of the Mosaic system.

Genesis 49:10; Psalm 110:1,4-7;
2 Chron 13:5-8; Zechariah 6:9-12;

God is King.

In these passages we see the **royal power**
(invested in Judah)
being exercised by a priest.

The ruler would be also a priest on his throne.
Since the ruler must be a Judean the
priesthood must therefore be changed.

Zechariah 6:9-12; Hebrews 7:11-18; 8:4ff;
Psalm 89; with Genesis 49:10;

THE KINGDOM DURING THE EXILE.

The **division of the kingdom of Israel** was a punishment on the house of David for the ungodliness of Solomon and Rehoboam but **it was not a violation of the Davidic covenant.**

The prophets foretold a day when **both kingdoms** would be ruled over by (a son of) David and that the northern kingdom would return to "David" their king.

1 Kings 11:1ff, 31-40; chapter 12;
Psalm 89:29-34; Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:22,24-25;
Jeremiah 30:9; 31:18-21; Hosea 3:4-5;

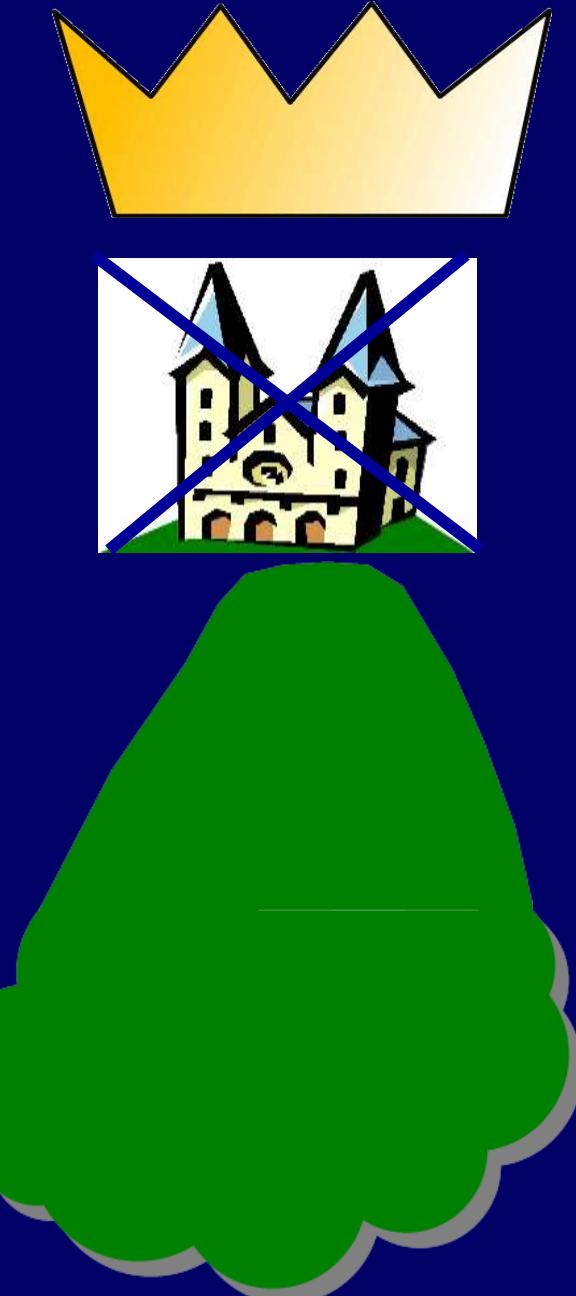
THE KINGDOM DURING THE EXILE.

God ruled over the northern kingdom through Jeroboam and his successors until they were so wicked He could bear them no longer. They went off into Assyrian captivity 722bc.

The southern kingdom became so wicked they too had to be removed into Babylonian captivity 587/6 bc.

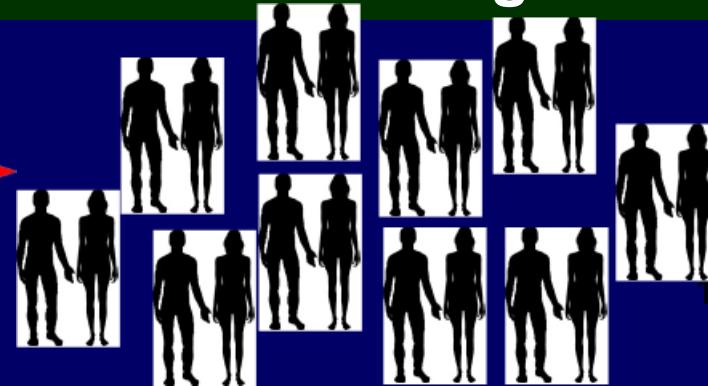
2 Kings 17; 2 Kings 25; Jeremiah 52;

The National Kingdom Declines.



“The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them until the LORD removed them from his presence, as he had warned through all his servants the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there.” 2 Kings 17:22-23;

“It was because of the LORD’S anger that all this happened to Jerusalem and Judah, and in the end He thrust them from His presence.” 2 Kings 24:20;



THE KINGDOM ruled by God.

The kingdom of God with respect to Israel was only one manifestation of the rule of God.

Despite its shortcomings (inherent in the people) it was the best and most easily observed demonstration of God's reign (kingdom). But it was neither perfect nor exhaustive.

**With the appearance of the monarchy,
(which God always had in mind.)**

**God's rule combined the elements of humanity,
(e.g. David) and the divine (His own power).**

This of course was necessary since He who would later reign over men would Himself have to become a man- redemption required this.

THE KINGDOM ruled by God.

In the monarchy God was getting the world ready.

The covenant God made the family of David ensured him of the kingdom always belonging to that family and by consequence- to Israel.

Because of the weaknesses in the kingdom of Israel (kingdom of God over Israel) especially seen in the family of David, God narrowed the power of David's family when He divided the kingdom in Rehoboam's day.

He later removed their power completely (in the Babylonian captivity) but without violating the Davidic covenant.

The rule was temporarily given over to foreigners.

God's Universal Kingdom.

**From this point onward
God ruled Israel through Gentiles.
He gave “the kingdom” to foreigners.**

The kingdom had departed from Israel.

**This however was
not a violation of the Davidic covenant-
in fact, it was the strict application of it.**

**Daniel 2:37-38; Daniel 7:17-18;
2 Samuel 7:12-17; Psalm 89:1-34;
1 Kings 11:34-40;**

God's Universal Kingdom.

This ruling of Israel through foreigners was no more a punishment of Israel than was the ruling over ten tribes by a king other than David's seed.

That is, the royal house of David was punished for its ungodliness at the time of the division of the kingdom.

It was again punished in the days of Zedekiah and the others.

God's Universal Kingdom.

Despite the fact that God was now ruling through foreigners- it was yet God ruling and not the foreigners.

Nebuchadnezzar had to learn this lesson in a very personal and painful way.

**Daniel 2:21, 38;
Daniel 4:17, 25-26, 34-37;**

God's Universal Kingdom.

Dan 2:37; “Your Majesty, you are a king over many kings, for the God of heaven has given you your kingdom, power, strength and glory.

38. “wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.”

In Dan 4:23-36; Nebuchadnezzar is flexing his muscles and saying look at all the power and dominion I HAVE GATHERED.

God's Universal Kingdom.

**God says you are misbehaving,
You are not doing what is right,
you are not taking care of the poor.**

**Your arrogant and pride filled.
I God am going to bring you down.**

**You might think that
I NEED you to rule the world.**

I do not I can rule through a donkey if I wanted to.

**So we see Nebuchadnezzar
living like an animal eating the grass
until he realises that God is in control.**

God's Universal Kingdom.
The division of the kingdom and
the giving of the dominion over Israel to
foreigners suited well the purposes of God.

God would use these events and periods
to mould the world into which
Jesus, the King would be born.

God would use the Gentiles to gain
His purposes and dispense with them
when He was through with them.

Daniel 2:36-45; Daniel 7:17-27;
Daniel 11:36, 45; with Daniel 12:6-7;

God's Universal Kingdom.

The "kingdom" (by covenant promise), however, still rightly belonged to the Israelite, the house of David.

God, whose kingdom it was, exercised the power through foreigners for a while, but would later "restore" it to Israel at the appointed time.

It would be "restored" in the hands of the rightful ruler-

Jesus, the Son of God and son of David.

Psalm 89; Daniel 7:17-18; Genesis 49:10;
Ezekiel 21:26-27; Micah 4:8;
Luke 1:32-33; Acts 2:29-36;

God's Universal Kingdom.

Among the proofs that God really was in control and was simply punishing Israel (and the house of David) for sin was His ability to foretell the future as He does so often in Isaiah and Daniel.

Without the help of Daniel and the N.T. using Isaiah alone, one might easily (and wrongly) conclude that the Messiah's kingdom would be established at the fall of Babylon.

Daniel was written to safeguard against such an error and the consequent deep disappointment which would follow the "failure" to establish the kingdom.

God's Universal Kingdom.

Daniel will expressly show the Messianic kingdom would be established after four (4) kingdoms had made their appearance.

**Isaiah 39:5-7; Isaiah 44:24; 45:6-13;
Daniel 2:36-45; Daniel 7:17-18;**

Daniel was also written to make it clear that the Davidic covenant had not been despised or violated. He would make it clear too that God really was capable of controlling the nations.

**Daniel 2:21; Daniel 4:17, 25-26, 34-37;
Daniel 3:28ff; Daniel 6:25-27;
Isaiah 49:24-50:3; Isaiah 59:1-2;
Psalm 89:38-51;**

God's Universal Kingdom.

The exile period during which Israel would be ruled by others than the family of David was not unexpected. The prophets knew about it as early as Moses.

**Deuteronomy 28; Hosea 1-3 (esp. 3:4-5;)
Ezekiel 21:26-27; Amos 9:11-15;**

God's Universal Kingdom.

In the day when God would again exalt the line of David (in the Messiah), Israel would reap the benefits of the "restoration" of the kingdom.

Providing of course they would accept the new King who would combine in himself the functions of prophet, priest and King!

So the prophets saw much glory ahead for the people of Israel.

Isaiah 9:1-7; 11:1-16; Isaiah 42:1-9;

Isaiah 55:1-5; Isaiah 59:20-62:12;

Jeremiah 23:5-8; 30:1-11; 31:27-34;

Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:1-28; Daniel 7:17-18;

Micah 3:9-4:8; with Isaiah 2:1-4;

Micah 5:2ff; Amos 9:11-15; Zechariah 11-13;

GOD AND THE KINGDOM.

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**Next in the series:-
The Church the Kingdom?**