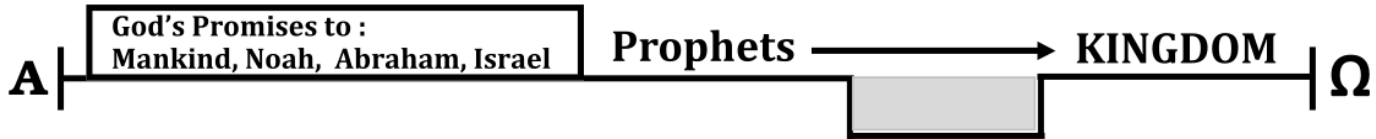


The Biblical Metanarrative:

“Knowing the story we are all a part of.”

PART 9: GOD’S PROMISED INCARNATION

REVIEW:



Along with prophecies about the soon to occur destructions of Israel and Judah, nearly all of the prophets gave revelation concerning the coming of a better Kingdom that would be ruled by a triumphant King.

- This Kingdom would be everlasting and the King who ruled over it would be divine. —Is. 9:6-7

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”

All of the prophecy given regarding the promised Kingdom came during times of great crisis for the nation of Israel. As the people awaited God’s fulfillment of all that He had promised, they suffered the humiliation of being ruled over by various Gentile empires:

- ⇒ The Northern Kingdom was conquered by Assyria in 722 BC.
- ⇒ The Southern Kingdom was conquered by Babylon in 586 BC.
- ⇒ The region then became part of the Medo-Persian Empire in 540 BC.
- ⇒ The Greek Empire under Alexander then captured the region circa 320 BC.
- ⇒ Following roughly a century of moderate independence under the Maccabees, the region came under the control of the Romans in 63 BC.

God had promised through His prophets that the King would come to rescue His people, but what followed after the last prophet, Malachi, was 400 years of silence.

Simeon & Anna

LUKE 2:25-38

Many in Israel had given up hope that God would keep His promises. Others, however, waited patiently for the Word of the Lord to be fulfilled.

Simeon—An older, common man who was waiting for the “...consolation of Israel.”

- He was waiting for God’s promised “_____” or “_____”
- He was waiting for the promised “_____”

➔ Simeon understood from scripture that this child would bring salvation to all people, including the Gentiles, and would be the fulfillment of all God’s glorious promises to Israel.

Anna—An older woman who had been a widow for most of her life.

- She served in the temple through fasting and prayer and proclaimed who Jesus was to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Early Life of the King

The Gospels gives us significant detail about the events surrounding Jesus' birth. After that, we know little about His life until He began His public ministry. We do know that Jesus lived in Judea, an insignificant part of the Roman Empire, where he worked as a tradesman like his father in a small community within the region of Galilee.

John Prepares the Way

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

- Malachi 3:1; 4:5

MATTHEW 3:1-12

➡ **John's Message: _____! The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand! (3:2)**

- There was no explanation for what was meant here. There was only one promised King and Kingdom.
- The response of the people was to confess _____ and to be _____.
- In order to receive the promised Kingdom, the people had to acknowledge their sin and the breaking of their covenant with God.
- This repentance was to be both _____ and _____.

➡ **John's Focus: "He who is coming after me is mightier than I..."**

- The whole purpose of John's ministry was to prepare people for the coming of Jesus!

The Baptism of Jesus

MATTHEW 3:13-17

- ⇒ Jesus' baptism _____ His public ministry.
- ⇒ Jesus' baptism _____ John's ministry, showing that their message and mission were the same.
- ⇒ Though Jesus' baptism was not for repentance or cleansing of sin, it demonstrated that He _____ with the sinful people to whom He came.

Jesus' Message

Following His temptation in the wilderness, Jesus began His earthly ministry in the region of Galilee that had been His home.

MATTHEW 4:12-17

- Jesus' ministry began with preaching.
- The content of Jesus' message was the same as that of John's message. (3:17)

Jesus' Work

Jesus' message proclaimed clearly that the Kingdom was at hand. The work of His ministry would now demonstrate the truth of that claim.

1. Preaching & Teaching the Word

- Jesus taught in formal settings: LUKE 4:16-21
 - Jesus was willing to identify Himself with the teachings of scripture.
 - The people noticed that Jesus taught with _____. (MARK 1:27)
- Jesus taught in informal settings: MATTHEW 5-8
 - Jesus spoke authoritatively about who would and would not inherit the Kingdom.
 - Jesus interpreted the O.T. Law and explained that people could follow the letter of the Law and yet be in violation of the righteousness of the Law in their hearts. (MATTHEW 5:21-37)

Jesus' preaching and teaching demonstrated that He had the authority to explain and interpret the Law because, as God, He was the _____ of the Law.

2. Healing the Sick MATTHEW 8:14-17

- Jesus healed many with physical ailments.
 - All this occurred to fulfill what was written of Messiah in the Old Testament.
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; — Isaiah 35:5-6

Jesus' healing ministry demonstrated that He had the authority to undo the _____ of the physical world.

3. Casting Out Demons MATTHEW 8:28-32

- During Jesus' ministry He directly confronted His spiritual enemies. He did this by facing Satan at the very beginning of His ministry and He continued it by casting out demons throughout His ministry's duration.

Jesus' casting out of demons demonstrated that He had authority over the _____ enemies of mankind.

4. Calming the Storm MATTHEW 9:23-37

Jesus' calming of the storm demonstrated His authority over _____ reality.

5. Sending Out the Disciples

MATTHEW 10:5-8

- After gathering to Himself a core group of 12 main disciples, He sent them out to proclaim the good news of the King and His Kingdom.

Jesus' _____ of His authority to the Disciples showed that He did in fact possess the intrinsic authority of the promised King.

The Rejection of the King

MATTHEW 12:22-32

- Though many individuals had embraced Jesus as the promised King, many of the religious leaders in the nation had already rejected Him. (12:14)
- After a demon possessed man was healed in the presence of many, people began asking very publically whether or not Jesus could be the "Son of David."
- The religious leaders immediately put an end to this talk claiming that Jesus' authority and power were _____.

Consequences:

1. The promised Kingdom would not be received by this generation, but by another that would repent of their sin and embrace Christ as Messiah.
2. Rather than rescuing the nation from its enemies and establishing the promised Kingdom, the King would be crucified and the nation further scattered among the Gentile nations of the earth.

A Change in Focus:

- From this point forward, Jesus taught the crowds primarily in the form of _____.
- Jesus' ministry focus was primarily on training the _____.
- Jesus began to teach clearly about His death, burial, and resurrection.

Some Considerations:

Are there areas of my life where I reject Jesus' _____?

Do I understand that God can work out His good and perfect plan despite my _____ and even the sin of _____ against me?

A _____ heart is necessary for us to come to Christ initially as well as to walk in Him by faith.