

Session Four – Promise and Fulfilment

PROMISE

The Promised Kingdom (the OT books of the Prophets)

The Major Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah/Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

The Minor Prophets

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah

Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Covenant Watchdogs

Kingdom promise (see diagram)

(a) A New King

Isaiah 11: 1-9

(b) A New Atonement

Four key passages speak of a suffering servant.:

- Isaiah 42:1-4

The servant is God's chosen one; the one in whom he delights; the one on whom he puts his spirit. He is gentle and yet he will bring justice to the nations.

- Isaiah 49:1-6

The servant is one who appears to labour in vain and yet in him God's glory is displayed – he not only brings Israel back to the Lord, but he is a light to the Gentiles to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

- Isaiah 50:4-9

The servant is the one who is taught by God and willingly faces suffering because he is confident that God will vindicate him.

- Isaiah 52:13-53:12

the servant's task and the purpose of his suffering

(c) A New Exodus (to end the exile)

Isaiah 11:11-16

Isaiah 35:10

(d) A New People of God

- New spiritual life

Ezekiel 36:26-27

- New unity

Ezekiel 37:15-22

- People from all nations included

(e) A New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34

(f) A New Temple

Ezekiel 40-48

(g) A New Heaven and a New Earth

Isaiah 65:17-19

FULFILMENT: THE KINGDOM HAS COME AND IS COMING**New Testament**Four gospels

Matthew
 Mark (**Peter**)
 Luke (**Paul**)
John

Acts (of the Apostles)

Letters by Paul

Romans
 1 Corinthians
 2 Corinthians
 Galatians
 Ephesians
 Philippians
 Colossians
 1 Thessalonians
 2 Thessalonians
 1 Timothy
 2 Timothy
 Titus
 Philemon

Other Letters

Hebrews
 James
 1 Peter
 2 Peter
 1 John
 2 John
 3 John
 Jude

 Revelation

Fulfilment in Jesus

Matthew 1:1-17

- Promised Son of Abraham
- Promised Son of David
- The one to end the exile

Luke 24: 25-27

- it's all about him!

1. The Present Kingdom (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

John the Baptist (the herald)

- The Kingdom is near (Matt 3:1)
- because the king is here! (Matt 3:11)
- The king is Jesus, God's own Son (Matt 3:17)

The kingdom is near because Jesus is here

- he is the King
- he is the kingdom!

(a) The true people of God, living under God's rule

- The true (or second) Adam

Luke 3:21-38

- The true Israel

Luke 4:1-13

- Gathering a New Israel

Luke 6:12-16

- from amongst the Jews and Gentiles (bringing exiles home to God)

John 10:14-16

Galatians 3:29 – If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

(b) God's true place

- The true tabernacle

John 1:14

- The true temple

John 2:19-21

(c) Yet he dies under God's curse and rises from the dead to fulfil God's purpose

- The true Passover Lamb

Matt 26:17-19

- His death establishes the New Covenant

Matt 26:27-28

- Fulfilling God's purpose

Matt 24:54

- As he dies under God's curse

Matt 27:45-46

- and then rises from the dead

Matt 28:1-10

- before launching his mission to all nations

Matt 28:16-20

- and ascending to heaven (the ascension)

Luke 24:50-53

2. The Proclaimed Kingdom (Acts and The NT Letters)

When the kingdom comes in all its fulness

- God's rule will no longer be denied; opposition no longer allowed to continue
 - his enemies will be judged
 - his people vindicated
 - everything made new

In this sense, the kingdom is yet to come

So why the delay?

- Time for witness to Jesus (Acts 1:8)
 - From Jerusalem to the ends of the earth
 - Empowered by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-12)
 - So people can hear the good news about Jesus and respond (Acts 2:22ff.)
 - repenting of their sin and being baptised (Acts 2:38)
 - trusting Jesus for the forgiveness of sins
 - and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit
- In other words, now is the time for the kingdom to be proclaimed to the nations

Acts 28:30-31

- So, what is the kingdom now?
 - God's people = the church = people drawn from all nations who trust in Jesus (Eph 2:11-20)
 - God's place = the church = a temple in which God lives by his Spirit (Eph 2:21)
 - under God's rule = living the new life Jesus makes possible (Eph 4:22-24)
 - = serving in the new way, not of the law, but of the Spirit (Rom 7:6)
 - enjoying God's blessing = the firstfruits of the Spirit (a foretaste of the blessing of the age to come)
 - the joy of sins forgiven
 - adoption as God's children
 - knowing God as Father
 - his loved poured into our hearts
 - able to come to him in prayer
 - fellowship with his people
 - the hope of glory to come
 - and with it all suffering, sorrow, trials and frustrations

3. The Perfected Kingdom (Rev 21-22)

Groaning and waiting, in sure and certain hope (Romans 8:18-25)

- to share in his glory
 - his glory in us
 - shared by all creation
 - including the redemption of our bodies

Glory described (Rev 21:1-22:5)

- After the final judgement (20:11-15)...
- God's people = the bride, the wife of the Lamb (21:2)
 - = a people redeemed from every tribe, language, people and nation (Rev 5:9)
- God's place = the Holy City, the New Jerusalem (21:2)
 - = God dwelling among his people (No temple required – 21:22)
- God's rule = the throne of God and of the Lamb (22:3)
- God's blessing = the river of the water of life (22:1)
- God's purpose = 'they will reign for ever and ever' (22:5)