

The Church in Prophecy

The Kingdom of God

Part 1

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 23:5-8

INTRODUCTION.

I. THE END OF A DYNASTY.

- A. The beginning of David's reign as king.
 - 1. God chose David to be king over the nation of Israel. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)
 - a. *"So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah."* (1 Samuel 16:12-13)
 - 2. After the death of King Saul, David was anointed King over Judah. At this same time, Abner, the commander of Saul's army, appointed Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, king over the rest Israel. (2 Samuel 2:1-11)
 - a. David reigned over Judah for seven years and six months.
 - b. Ishbosheth reigned for two years.
 - 3. After the death of Ishbosheth, all the tribes of Judah came to David at Hebron and the elders anointed David king over Israel, ca. 1010 B.C. (2 Samuel 5:1-5)
 - 4. David and his men took the city of Jerusalem, the stronghold of Zion, and made it the City of David. (2 Samuel 5:6-10)

5. The Lord promised to establish David's house and his kingdom forever. (2 Samuel 7:8-17)

B. The end of David's dynasty came around 586 B.C.

1. God's people did not remain obedient.
 - a. The northern nation of Israel was carried off into Assyrian captivity in 722 B.C.
 - b. The southern nation of Judah's Babylonian captivity began around 605 B.C.
2. The Babylonian influence began during the reign of King Jehoiakim, 509 to 598 B.C.
 - a. King Jehoiakim submitted to Nebuchadnezzar around 605 B.C. He later rebelled. This resulted in the Babylonian army marching on the city of Jerusalem. Jehoiakim died either during or just before the siege on Jerusalem began. (2 Kings 24:1-7)
 - b. Jehoiachin succeeded his father, Jehoiakim around 598 B.C. Jehoiachin reigned for three months and ten days. Jehoiachin surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C. He was taken captive to Babylon along with his family and 10,000 others. (2 Kings 24:8-12)
3. The fall of Jerusalem, ca. 586 B.C.
 - a. King Nebuchadnezzar appointed Zedekiah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king over Judah. (2 Kings 24:17)
 - b. Zedekiah would reign for 11 years, from 597 to 586 B.C. (2 Kings 25:1-30)
 - 1) City Jerusalem sieged in 588 B.C.
 - 2) Jerusalem was destroyed in 586 B.C.

C. The Davidic dynasty began in 1010 B.C. and ended in 586 B.C.

II. PROMISES OF FUTURE RESTORATION.

- A. Before the Babylonian captivity, Isaiah prophesied (ca. 734-732 B.C.) the coming of one who would sit on the throne of David. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

1. *“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. 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.”* (Isaiah 9:6-7, ca. 734 – 732 B.C.)
- B. After the Babylonian captivity began, the Lord sent a message of a coming great kingdom to King Nebuchadnezzar around 604-603 B.C.
1. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, was given a dream that the wise men could not interpret. (Daniel 2:1-13)
 2. The Lord, through Daniel, explained the meaning of this dream. (Daniel 2:31-45)
 3. Breakdown:

a.	Head of Gold -----	Babylonia	605 B.C.
b.	Chest & Arms of Silver -----	Medo-Persia	539 B.C.
c.	Belly & Thighs of Bronze ---	Greece	330 B.C.
d.	Legs of Iron -----	Rome	63 B.C.
e.	Feet of Clay -----	Rome	63 B.C.
f.	Great Stone -----	Kingdom of God	33 A.D.

 - 1) *“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...”* (Daniel 2:44)
 - 2) *“...it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”* (Daniel 2:44)
- C. Around 598 B.C., Jeremiah said the Lord would *“raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign,...”* (Jeremiah 23:5-6)
1. *“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and*

Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness.” (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

2. The prophecy may have been written during King Jehoiachin’s predecessor, Zedekiah the last king of Judah. (Zedekiah was appointed by Babylon. Zedekiah was Jehoiachin’s uncle, the son of Josiah. (2 Kings 24:17-20)
- D. Around 585 B.C., Ezekiel prophesied the reuniting of Israel and Judah and the anointing of God’s servant David as king. (Ezekiel 37:15-28)
1. God would reunite Israel and Judah. (vs 15-23)
 2. God would anoint His servant David as king, shepherd, and prince over His people forever. (vs 24-28)
- E. After the exile in Babylon ended, Zechariah prophesied the coming King. (Zechariah 9:9-11, ca. 520 – 500 B.C.)
1. *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”* (Zechariah 9:9)
 2. This is the passage spoken when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. (Matthew 21:4-5; John 12:12-16)
 - a. *“All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’”* (Matthew 21:4-5)

CONCLUSION.

- A. David’s dynasty fell because of Judah’s disobedience.
- B. However, the Lord sent promises of the coming of His great kingdom.
 1. Isaiah told us about the character of the coming King.
 2. Daniel told us the timing of the Kingdom.
 3. Jeremiah told us about the righteousness of the King.
 4. Ezekiel told us about the unity of the Kingdom.
 5. Zechariah told us about the humble arrival of the King.

- C. In our next lesson, we will show the fulfillment of these prophecies, looking at the coming of the Kingdom of God and the reign of Jesus Christ.

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