

THE PROPHESED KINGDOM – ISRAEL’S HISTORY PART TWO

EZEKIEL 36:16-32

RECAP

1. THE END OF THE OLD TESTAMENT (1 KINGS 12 – 2 KING 25)

- **Solomon’s golden age → disobedience, division and decline**

1 Kings 12:28, “After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

- **God’s judgment: Assyria destroys Israel (722BC)**

2 Kings 17:7, “All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt from under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshiped other gods.”

- **God’s judgment: the destruction of Judah (597/586BC)**

Psalm 137:1, “By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.”

- **The return from Exile (538BC)**

Ezra 3:11-12, “With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: “He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.” And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.¹² But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy.”

- **The point of the OT? We need GOD... to do something FOR US... and IN US**

2. THE PROPHETS: THEIR JOB

- **God's mouthpiece**

Exodus 7:1, "Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. ² You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country."

2 Peter 1:21, "For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

Jeremiah 1:4, "The word of the LORD came to me, saying..."

- **Covenant enforcers**

3. THE PROPHETS: WHO? WHEN? WHERE?

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| OT books addressing the northern kingdom of Israel, prior to 722BC... |
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Amos, Hosea

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| OT books addressing the southern kingdom of Judah... | | |
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| BEFORE the exile (from c.800-597BC) | DURING the exile | AFTER the exile |
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Joel, Micah, Isaiah,
Nahum, Zephaniah,
Jeremiah, Habakkuk

Lamentations,
Daniel, Ezekiel,
Obadiah

Esther, Ezra,
Nehemiah,
Haggai,
Zechariah,
Malachi

4. THE PROPHETS: THEIR MESSAGE – COVENANT JUDGEMENT AND COVENANT HOPE

- **God's people**

A remnant (Isaiah 10:20-21)

A new Exodus (Jeremiah 16:14-15)

The servant (Isaiah 53:5-6)

The inclusion of the nations (Isaiah 49:6)

- **God's place**

A new temple (Ezekiel 40-48)

A new creation (Isaiah 65:17-18)

- **God's rule and blessing**

The new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-37, Ezekiel 36:25-27)

The new king (Ezekiel 37:24-26, Isaiah 9:6-7, Daniel 7:13-14, Psalm 110:1)

| The kingdom of God | <i>The pattern of the kingdom</i> | <i>The perished kingdom</i> | <i>The promised kingdom</i> | <i>The partial kingdom</i> | <i>The prophesied kingdom</i> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| God's people | Adam & Eve | No-one | Abraham's descendants | The Israelites | Remnant of Israel; inclusion of nations |
| God's place | The garden | Banished | Canaan, the promised land | Canaan (& Jerusalem & the temple) | New temple; new creation |
| God's rule & blessing | God's word; perfect relationships | Disobedience & curse | Blessing to Israel and the nations | The law & the king | New covenant; new king; great blessing |

GROUP BIBLESTUDY: HOSEA 1 – 3

- What are the different stages in the relationship between Hosea and Gomer, his wife (see chs 1 and 3)?
- How does their marriage mirror the relationship between God and his people?
- What do we learn about the people's sin?
- How will God judge them?
- What hope is there?
- What echoes are there, in this hope, of the promises to Abraham and David?
- What do we learn about God from this passage?
- What do we learn about ourselves from it?
- How should our lives change in the light of what we have learned?

HOMEWORK: FOR NEXT WEEK PLEASE READ

- Malachi 4:1-6
- Mark 1:1-15

RECOMMENDED READING / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Vaughan Roberts, *God's Big Picture*