

# RETURN OF THE KING

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Ready for Jesus in the Former Prophets: 2 Samuel 7:5-16

December 3, 2023

*<sup>11</sup> "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself  
will establish a house for you . . . .  
Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me;  
your throne will be established forever."*

2 Samuel 7

## **Favor in the story of kingship**

<sup>5</sup> "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' "

<sup>8</sup> "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

" 'The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. <sup>15</sup> But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.' "

2 Samuel 7 (see Deuteronomy 17 for God's expectations for the king)

1. God had always been king (see Genesis 1:26-31) but now he prepares his people for a king who would be far different than anyone living in the ancient Near East would expect
2. David didn't finally build the temple (see 1 Chronicles 22:8), but God still honors that desire with an incredible promise
3. David's son was going to God's Son (see Psalm 2:7 and its application to Jesus in Hebrews 1:5)

4. “He is the one who will build a house for my Name” is . . . .

Solomon

Jesus

## The problem God addresses

*<sup>19</sup> But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. <sup>20</sup> Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”*

*<sup>21</sup> When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the LORD. <sup>22</sup> The LORD answered, “Listen to them and give them a king.”*

1 Samuel 8

1. God had always intended to be represented from among his people

*<sup>14</sup> When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, “Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,” <sup>15</sup> be sure to appoint over you the king the LORD your God chooses. He must be from among your own brothers. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not a brother Israelite. <sup>16</sup> The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, “You are not to go back that way again.” <sup>17</sup> He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.*

Deuteronomy 17 (but read this entire passage for the “write for himself” a copy of the law section)

2. God’s people have never done well without an authoritative reminder of God’s word (and often not even when that word was spoken)

*<sup>25</sup> In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.*

Judges 21

3. Abuse of that authority makes hearing well from God even more difficult

*When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel. <sup>2</sup> The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. <sup>3</sup> But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.*

*<sup>4</sup> So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. <sup>5</sup> They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”*

1 Samuel 8:1

## Will we make it without a King?

In our day, the Westminster Catechism answer has been inverted: “the chief end of man is to glorify and enjoy *himself* forever.” One could even make a case that self-worship is the world’s fastest-growing religion. It is certainly the world’s oldest (just read Genesis 3). Moreover, this religion lies beneath many of the most hot-button social and political issues of our day.

Thaddeus Williams’ “Self-Worship”

1. Robert Bellah called this kind of self-worship “Sheilaism” (*Habits of the Heart*, 1985)
2. God told us that the time would come when even the church would suffer a Judges 21:25 failure (2 Timothy 4:1-5)
3. Never has humanity been more in need of hearing “There is a King and this is what he says”

## Favor revealed to us

<sup>26</sup> *In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”*

<sup>29</sup> *Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”*

<sup>34</sup> *“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”*

<sup>35</sup> *The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing is impossible with God.”*

Luke 1

1. God finally reveals the fulfillment of his kingship promise to David
2. This kingdom was going to be much different than David’s reign:
  - all the “citizens” of this kingdom would be priests (Revelation 1:4-6, 5:9-10)
  - this kingdom would be entered by repentance and faith (Mark 1:15)
  - this kingdom would reflect God’s value system (Matthew 5:1-12)
3. Key question: Why doesn’t God introduce Mary to work of this new King in redemption?  
Hint: Was the idea of Jesus as Savior already there in Torah, the story of God’s provision?

## Praying with David

<sup>18</sup> Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said:

*“Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? <sup>19</sup> And as if this were not enough in your sight, O Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant. Is this your usual way of dealing with man, O Sovereign LORD? . . .*

*<sup>25</sup> “And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, <sup>26</sup> so that your name will be great forever. Then men will say, ‘The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!’ And the house of your servant David will be established before you.*

2 Samuel 7

<sup>9</sup> *“This, then, is how you should pray:*

*“ ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,*

<sup>10</sup> *your kingdom come,*

*your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Matthew 6

This means the kingdom story we are telling is not the story of Christ saving His people so that they might change the world or reclaim a nation. Instead, the story is of Christ so ruling over the nations of the world that the church might be built up. As J.G. Vos observes in his commentary on the Larger Catechism, “The kingdom of power is not an end in itself, but a means to the furtherance of the kingdom of grace and the hastening of the kingdom of glory.” We pray, then, for the success of the kingdom of power, but to the end that the kingdom of grace may flourish and the kingdom of glory may be brought near.

Kevin DeYoung, “What Kingdom Story Are We Telling?”

1. Even though David’s reign was chaotic, he humbly looked forward to the fulfillment of this promise

*<sup>6</sup> Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the LORD, the God of Israel. <sup>7</sup> David said to Solomon: “My son, I had it in my heart to build a house for the Name of the LORD my God. <sup>8</sup> But this word of the LORD came to me: ‘You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight. <sup>9</sup> But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign. <sup>10</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.’ ”*

1 Chronicles 22 (I also like Keller’s “Upside Down Kingdom”)

2. “Your kingdom come” is a prayer that Jesus would truly reign in his church (Pastor Fakkema likes Kevin DeYoung’s discussion of Jesus’ reign)

3. Gabriel’s encounter with Mary was a clear hint that Jesus is going to be a different kind of King

## Resources for further study

The Bible Project's video on Luke 1 does a good job of showing how Jesus would be a different kind of king at <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/gospel-luke-1/>

Alexander Maclaren has a commentary on Genesis 22 at [https://www.ccel.org/ccel/maclaren/gen\\_num.ii.i.xxvii.html](https://www.ccel.org/ccel/maclaren/gen_num.ii.i.xxvii.html)

R.C. Sproul has some wonderful "kingship" articles at <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/king-kings>

I like this Scott Redd "Tabletalk" article (with all the important texts included) on Kingship at <https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2021/11/the-king-of-gods-kingdom/>

Kevin DeYoung tells the story of the kingdom in "byFaith" at <https://byfaithonline.com/what-kingdom-story-are-we-telling-kevin-deyoung/>

Tim Keller has some important things to say on the Jesus' kingship:

"Christ is your King" video at <https://vimeo.com/72213172>

"Jesus, our King" podcast at <https://podcast.gospelinlife.com/e/jesus-our-king-1576116271/>

"Signs of the King" sermon at <https://www.monergism.com/signs-king-%E2%80%93-acts-237-47>

Keller's classis "Upside Down Kingdom" article at

<https://www.scribd.com/document/258555474/Upside-Down-Kingdom-Tim-Keller>

Sermon preached this prayer on David's response prayer in 2 Samuel 7: <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/prayer-found-in-the-heart/#flipbook/>

I found the Gospel Coalition article helpful: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/self-worship-booms/>