

## The Gospel of the Kingdom

### Week 6 - Day 2: The King is Here!

**John 20:30-31 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

Let's soak it all in for a moment! Here is what, or who rather, the entire Old Testament has anticipated up to this moment:

- The offspring of Eve who crushes the serpent and allows the serpent to bruise his heel
- The Noah-like servant of God who remains faithful amidst a sinful generation
- The descendant of Abraham through whom all blessings would flow to the nations
- The Isaac-like sacrifice who would offer his own life out of obedience to God
- The King from Jacob (Israel) who would take the scepter from the tribe of Judah
- The Moses-like prophet who would lead God's people to salvation from the enemy
- The eternally blameless and spotless sacrifice who would permanently atone for sins
- The High Priest who would grant God's people permanent access to the Lord's presence and intercede on their behalf
- The one who would be able to give Israel a new heart to listen and obey (*shema*) the commands of God
- The Joshua-like leader who would conquer the enemies of God and bring us back into His kingdom space
- The Judge, the Lawgiver, and the King who would eternally rule from the line of David
- The David-like King who would conquer pride and humbly seek after God's own heart
- The Solomon-like King who would lead God's people to the incredible blessings, splendor, and wisdom of God.
- The Everlasting King who would be like a son to God Himself
- The Good Shepherd and the Suffering Servant who would fill in the gap by bearing the iniquities of sin and leading God's people towards better pastures.
- The one like a Son of Man who would be able to approach the throne of God and establish an everlasting kingdom over all foreign enemies that will one day arise.
- The Anointed one / Messiah / Christ who would reestablish God's rule over God's people in Israel extending to the ends of the earth.

I hope that in this study so far, you have seen that the Old Testament is a story about how all of human history has been pointing to this one figure!

Finally - let's talk about him.

**Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham...**

## **Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

Throughout the Old Testament, we have seen God work through a myriad of people. However, we have still been looking for the one who would finally be able to set us free from the kingdom of sin and offer salvation to humanity who have all bowed their knee to the serpent. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John write their account of the gospel story testifying that the one we have been looking for is finally here!

As we look at where we have arrived, there are three very important points to take with us into the next leg of this journey.

1. Jesus is a real person. He is fully man and fully God (what a marvelous mystery)!
2. Jesus said what he was going to do - and actually did it.
3. God keeps his promises.

I love to read fictional books, especially when I'm on vacation. I've found that it's the only time I can truly give myself permission to read books that aren't professionally driven. On vacation you truly have nothing else to do, nowhere to be, nothing that needs your attention. I didn't know I was a fast reader until I was on vacation one year and read several books in one week. It was then that I realized I only gave myself the chance to read when I was away and "unplugged", and I went full force for the run of the week. When it comes to books, I'm a thriller fan. I love a good murder mystery and find myself getting so into the book that sometimes it's hard to separate characters from reality, fully submerging in the narrative.

One incredibly well-written book is one that we have access to - you guessed it; the Bible. I think one of the most encouraging and important parts of reading the Bible is the truth that we are not reading some fiction thriller!

Jesus is a real person. He is an actual part of history!

Right at the top of the new testament - the first 17 verses of Matthew to be exact - we get to walk through his genealogy. Jesus was a real person, with a real family and a real bloodline. It also states, incredibly clearly, that Jesus is from the line of Abraham and from the line of David.

So if there was any confusion about that...there you have it on the first page!

However, we have seen a countless number of messianic candidates and they have all failed to overcome sin. What makes Jesus any different? It is at this point that we must realize that the authors understood Jesus to be God Himself! Consider how John equates Jesus with God as His Word and how he uses the opening of his book to wrestle with Jesus' divine identity.

**John 1:1, 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**John 1:48-51 Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”**

This is AMAZING news! God loves us so much that He has come to us Himself to conquer sin and offer a salvation that will bring us back to God’s family under God’s rule in God’s space!

The story of Jesus is also one of prophecies fulfilled. We read example after example of the promises from the old testament having life breathed into them in the form of Jesus- the actual Word becoming human flesh. Even prophecies completely out of His control, such as the events of his birth, were perfectly fulfilled. The kind of ministry he would lead is so clear and gives us a road map of what Jesus would eventually do.

**Luke 4:17-18 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”**

Jesus is finally here and salvation from the shackles of sin, the serpent, and death is at hand!

Jesus said what he would do and then actually did it. He has come as an answer to a promise made long before his birth. In Isaiah we read what the spirit of the Lord would do. Jesus came to proclaim good news, proclaim liberty to captives, recover the sight of the blind and to set liberty to those oppressed.

**Matthew 4:23-24 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them.**

The entire human story points to Jesus. The people of Israel had read about and prayed over this new hope, trusting that the Lord would bring to them this source of life and love. In reading

over all of these examples of Old Testament foreshadowing to New Testament promises answers I felt incredibly humbled. Our God is one of promises kept. It also caused me to take pause and think about what faithfulness really means. So many never got to see Jesus. People who trusted that the Lord would deliver them, who prayed for a Messiah for years and trusted that the Lord would send them a savior, never got the chance to meet him. God's timing is not our timing, His ways are not our ways; but He is no less faithful, trustworthy or good.

Something I value immensely is integrity. When someone tells me what they're going to do, and then does it - trust is created. The Lord had a plan for His people and His Kingdom in His timing, and He will keep His promises. What an incredible freedom we have to know that our King is in control. He is not frantically pacing, worried, anxious, or surprised. He is seated on his throne, steady and secure with plans to prosper us.

A lot of this may feel far fetched or unlike any history books you have read in school. But the authors of the gospel wrote these books so that we would come to believe that it IS real and that Jesus IS the Christ that we have been looking for! Centuries of prayer, longing, hoping lead to the moment that Jesus finally delivered his first message in ministry:

**Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**

**Mark 1:15 The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.**

**Luke 4:43b I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.**

**John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.**

The time is now. The Kingdom is here. Salvation from sin is available!

-Lindsey Cavallero

**Share the Gospel:** Jesus, the descendant of Abraham from the line of David, has been identified as the Bible's next candidate to bring salvation to God's people under the reign of sin in order to bring them back to God's family under God's rule in God's presence. The 4 gospel accounts document Jesus' life so that you would come to believe that He is the promised King of Kings and Lord of all!

Personal Observations, Reflections, and Prayers:

