

Ichthus Bible Stream - Notes

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1 Kingship in Israel begins with Deuteronomy's Kingship Laws

When you come to the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you possess it and dwell in it, and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are round about me';¹⁵ you may indeed set as king over you him whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.¹⁶ Only he must not multiply horses for himself, or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to multiply horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.'

¹⁷And he shall not multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply for himself silver and gold.¹⁸ And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, from that which is in the charge of the Levitical priests;¹⁹ and it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them;²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted up above his brethren, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left; so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel. (Deut 17.14-20)

Here are the key points:

- (1) YHWH is the true King over Israel: He is their God; they are his people; he chose them though Abraham; the Land he gives them is His (promised to Abraham); They live under his land distribution to the tribal cities (Josh 14-21).
- (2) Kingship is somewhat foreign to Israel (they already have a King)
- (3) God allows kingship in a constitutional theocracy.
The human King is the choice of God: (i) he must be an Israelite; (ii) be inexcusably familiar with and under the law of God; (iii) he must be literate; (iii) he must not centralise military power (war horses) or wealth; (iv) he must not lead them back to subordination to Egypt.

2 Kingship in Israel begins with Saul

Saul: (i) Samuel's takes the request for a king/judge as a personal sleight (8.4-6). But it is a rejection of Divine Kingship (1 Sam 8.7: 'for they have not rejected you but they have rejected me from being king over them');
(ii) Warning against Kings (8.10-18);
(iii) the selection of Saul (1 Sam 9-10);
(iv) Rejection of Saul (1 Sam 15.22-23)

The Central Question of Kingship in Israel is:

Q: How can Israel have a human king if YHWH is king?

A: When the king walks in the ways of the Lord

3 Enter David: A Man after God's Own Heart

3.1 The Selection and Anointing of David:

- (i) The Anointing of David (1 Sam 13.14 'God has sought out a man after his own heart')
- (ii) Note the contrast with Saul 16.7: 'Do not look on his appearance or the height of his stature...the Lord looks on the heart')

3.2 God's Promise ('Covenant') with David

⁷Now when the king lived in his *house* and the LORD and given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a *house* of cedar, but the ark of God *dwells in a tent*." ³ And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a *house* to dwell in?' ⁶I have not lived in a *house* since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about *in a tent for my dwelling*. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a *house* of cedar?"'" ⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may *dwell in their own place* and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a *house*. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, ***I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.*** ¹³***He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*** ¹⁴***I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.*** When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but ***my steadfast love will not depart from him***, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶***And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.***"' ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

- (a) A House for David (2 Samuel 7.13) – that is a dynasty, a hereditary kingdom;
- (b) The peaceable Kingdom (7.10-11);
- (c) A 'house for a house' (7.11);
- (d) An unconditional 'covenant' (7.12-17) but the warning of punishment (7.14)
- (e) The Son of David as Son of God (7.14);

Is David always holy? No – cf. Bathsheba and Uriah

Is he faithful? Yes – he is a man after God's own heart

4 Solomon is the Example 'son of David':

David's son takes the throne (1 Kings 1.38-40)

Solomon reminded and warned (2 Kings 2.1-4):

Solomon (i) Rides a mule; (ii) He is anointed with oil; (iii) The people rejoice.

5 Biblical Dynamics of the Davidic Covenant over Time

5.1 Transitions of Power: Psalm 2 as a Coronation Psalm:

Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and his anointed, saying, ³'Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us.' ⁴*He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD has them in derision. ⁵Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁶'I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.'* ⁷*I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, 'You are my son; today I have begotten you. ⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'*

¹⁰*Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. ¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, with trembling ¹²kiss his feet, or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way; for his wrath is quickly kindled. Happy are all who take refuge in him. (Psalm 2)*

5.2 Psalm 110 relates the King to God - a Vice-Regency Psalm

The LORD says to my Lord: sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool. ²The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty sceptre. Rule in the midst of your enemies! Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. ⁴The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.' ⁵The Lord is at your right hand he shall shatter kings on the day of his wrath. ⁶He will execute judgement among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. ⁷He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head

5.3 The Practice of Holy Kingship

2 Kings 21-22: Naboth's Vineyard – monarchy (not) under the law of God.

5.4 When There is No King: The 'Son of David' as Model and Hope

Facing failure squarely with a cry of lament, quiet trust and worship (Psalm 89)

Exilic expectation of future restoration in the time of Zerubbabel (see Jer 22.30)

⁹*Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. (Zech 9:9-10)*

6 Characteristics of the Ideal Davidic King

YHWH is King in Israel

Human Kingship under God - 'A Man after God's heart'

The King as Son of God

The Promise of an eternal 'house'/dynasty

7 Messianic Kingship in the NT

The Baptism of Jesus

Mark 1.11 pars: 'You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased' (= Ps 2.6 + Is 42.1)

The Messianic King and Suffering Servant (cf Mk 10.45//Is 53.4-6, 11-12)

Jesus' Ministry

Preaching the Kingdom of God (Mk 1.14-15)

Praying to God as Father (esp Mk 14.36)

The Triumphal Entry (Mk 11.1-11; Mt 21.1-11; Lk 19. 28-38; Jn 12.12-16)

Hailing Jesus as Israel from Psalm 118.17-29?

The Son of Man receiving his Kingdom (Mk 14.61-64)

The Crucifixion as Enthronement

In John's Passion (Jn 3.14; 12.32-33)

Revelation: The Enthronement of the Lamb

The Ascension (cf Psalm 110)

Jesus as Father's right hand (Acts 2.33-34; Roms 8.34; Heb 1.13)

Jesus at the right hand on high (eg Matt 20.23; 25.34)

8 Has God Kept His Promise to David?