

THE BIG PICTURE THROUGH THE MAJOR AND MINOR PROPHETS

Week 5 – The Future King

February 20, 2024

From the Law to the Prophets to the Writings, we read of the FUTURE KING Who will rule the nations – the Messiah! A particular individual is revealed and followed throughout the first five books of Scripture – the Torah/the Pentateuch.

Gen. 3:15 - this One Who was promised is the sin-bearer, the solution for mankind's sin. He is "the Seed of the woman." As the "sin-bearer" – this One Who was promised would be the central figure in the unfolding drama of the REDEMPTION of the world.

Gen. 9:26-27 – *Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem....*
27 May God enlarge Japheth, and may he dwell in the tents of Shem;

God would come to dwell IN THE TENTS of Shem...God would take residence among the family of Shem? God would DWELL among a specific family? What are your observations and questions?

What is Plan A? What does "restoration" mean?

Who is Shem? (Gen. 11:10-32; Gen. 11:26)

Shem's line produced the Assyrians, the Chaldeans (Babylonians), the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Arabs, and HEBREWS (Gen. 11:10-32). Shem's name is the origin of the word *Semitic*! Shem's great-grandson, Eber, (Gen. 11:15-17) was the father of those who were eventually called "Hebrews," including Abram and the Jews. "Eber" means from the other side, crossing over. God promised to dwell among the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Gen. 12:3 - Through Abram and his seed/THE Seed, the One Who would dwell in the tents of Abram's descendants, blessing would come to all the families of the earth.

God narrowed His plan and called Abram.

God narrowed His promise to Isaac (Gen. 21:12; Rom. 9:6)

God narrowed His promise to Jacob.

Two nations were in Rebekah's womb: Esau & Jacob.

Esau sold his birthright to Jacob.

Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, was the father of the 12 tribes of Israel. God created Israel as a nation (Isa. 43:10).

Gen. 49:1 - *And Jacob called his sons and said, Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days: In the following verses we read of Jacob blessing his sons. Of Judah it was said...that his brothers would praise him (Gen. 49:8) and that he is as a lion's whelp (likened to a lion).*

Gen. 49:10 - *The scepter (symbol of kingship) shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh (He Whose right it is) comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.*

The praise from his brethren, the scepter, and lawgiver role all refer to the ruling position Judah will have among his brethren. These passages speak of a coming king, One Who will ultimately receive the obedience of ALL people. These passages speak of a future Messianic king. Jacob's blessing/prophesy over Judah is speaking of Judah's greatest descendant: Jesus the Messiah Who will return as the Lion from the tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5).

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Moses' last words to the children of Israel included telling them to look for a future king!

Deut. 17:15 - *you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses;*

Deut. 18:18-19 - *I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. ¹⁹ And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.*

From the "Big Picture" perspective, we should know that Joshua and Judges lead up to Israel looking for a future Messianic King.

The book of Joshua paints a positive picture of the initial conquest of the land. BUT, in the book of Judges the circumstances spiral downward as Israel goes through a cycle of disobedience to God, discipline by God, and then deliverance by God through a chosen Judge. The appendix to the book of Judges begins and ends with this repeated refrain, *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes* (Judg. 17:6; Judg. 21:25). The results: spiritual confusion, compromise, and nations then fall into disgrace.

Judges concludes with the horrific behavior of the tribe of Benjamin who rape and kill a young woman from Judah. These last chapters in Judges anticipate developments in I Samuel concerning the first two kings of Israel: Saul from the tribe of Benjamin and David from Bethlehem in Judah.

Scripture moves forward telling us of the tribe of Judah and their part in establishing a monarchy through whom the nations of the earth will be blessed!

I Samuel through II Kings focuses on the Davidic "house." We know that Saul's kingship...Saul from the tribe of Benjamin...the person and his kingship fail. David's house is presented as the dynasty through which the Messiah will come. Central to this presentation is the Davidic

covenant (II Sam. 7:12-16). This covenant is foundational for the Messianic hope in the Hebrew Bible and the basis of a future kingdom.

God affirmed that He would give David an everlasting kingdom with an eternal ruler to sit on David's throne (II Sam. 7:16).

No Davidic king from the tribe of Judah succeeded in obeying God completely. All of them, even the "good" kinds, ended in failure. II Kings ends with Israel in captivity and the Davidic covenant unfulfilled.

The hope and expectation that God would one day send an eternal ruler Who would build the true Temple of God and sit on the throne of David continues from Gen. 3:15 through to Malachi!

The Major Prophets

Isaiah – told of Judah under the oppression of Assyria. God interceded. King Hezekiah of Judah spent his last days in relative peace. Isaiah told of the Kingdom of Judah being taken captive into Babylon. Redemption for the nation of Israel would not come in Isaiah's time. The hope of Israel was in the future Davidic king (Isa. 9:6-7; Isa. 11:1-10) Who would be born of a virgin and called Immanuel (Isa. 7:14). He would come as a Servant-King (Isa. 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11) Who would provide a sacrificial atonement for Israel and the world (Isa. 52:13-53:12).

Jeremiah – warned that Babylon would be God's instrument of righteous wrath on His sinning people, Israel. Judgment was coming upon Jerusalem. Jeremiah was opposed by the king and the priests who did not want to hear his message. Jeremiah's message of surrendering to Babylon (Jer. 29) amounted to treason. And, false prophets told the people of Judah that the

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future of Jerusalem looked bright and spoke of "peace, peace." They denied that judgment would fall upon Jerusalem...that God was not displeased with them. The false prophets were giving the people false assurances. What occurred? Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon and the Kingdom of Judah was taken into captivity in Babylon just as Jeremiah had been declaring.

Jeremiah, in a letter sent to his Jewish brethren in exile in Babylon, spoke words of comfort to them. Jer. 29:4-14 (READ).

The Jewish people were in Babylon by the will of God, in that He was bringing judgment on Judah for their generations of rebellion against Him. In God's plan they would be in Babylon a long time, so it was best for them to settle in and make the best of their lives and families there.

God wanted the Jewish people to multiply in Babylon even as they had multiplied in Egypt (from 70 to 2.5M!). Exile didn't mean that God had forgotten about them or wanted to destroy them.

Jer. 29:7 - *And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace.* God wanted them bless their Babylonian neighbors.

Jer. 30:1-3 - *The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ² ‘Thus speaks the LORD God of Israel, saying: ‘Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. ³ For behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,’ says the LORD. ‘And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.*

Jeremiah also spoke to the people of Israel re: the hope of restoration in the “Righteous Branch of David.” Jer. 23:5-6 – *‘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. ⁶ In His days (Millennial Kingdom) Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD (YHWH; JEHOVAH) OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

This righteous Branch, this King, will ultimately deliver Israel from a time of trouble more severe than the Babylonian exile (Jer. 30:1-9; Jer. 30:7 – “time of Jacob’s trouble” – the tribulation).

And a new covenant with Israel and Judah (Jer. 31:31-34) will be established

Ezekiel – gave a first-person account of the word of God – the prophecies that God gave Ezekiel during the Babylonian exile. God through Ezekiel spoke out against the false prophets. Ezekiel spoke of God restoring the house of David under the Son of David Who will return the people of Israel to their land and give the people a new heart and His Spirit (Eze. 36:1-38).

The Minor Prophets

Hosea – foretold that in the last days, ...*the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days.*

Micah 5:1-4 - *But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.*

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Zech. 12:10 – ultimately the house of David and the people of Jerusalem will repent, turn to the Lord, call upon this king who had been previously pierced and experience the opening of “a fountain” that would wash away “sin and impurity” (Zech. 13:1).

Malachi 4:4-5 – The Minor Prophets conclude with the hope of the return of Elijah to announce the Day of the Lord and the coming of the Messiah.

QUESTIONS

How has this lesson been beneficial?

What's the predominant theme?
How are you going to use this information?
What impacted you most?
Who is Elijah in Malachi?!

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 5 w/ Bible references.
Continue in your journal – observations; questions; answers.
Pray about sharing with others.
Read Week 6 when you receive it.