



HOMEWORK FOR AUGUST 22

Kings: God's Anointed King

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 - Matthew 20:25-28 - Ezekiel 34:1-16 - 1 Samuel 8; 9:1-2, 21; 16:1-12; 17:8-11, 34-37 - 2 Samuel 7:1-16 - Hebrews 10:15-23 - 1 Corinthians 3:16 - Isaiah 11:1-2 - Zechariah 9:9-10 - John 18:33-36; 20:31

QUESTIONS

- 1) Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20 and summarize the qualifications God gives for the kind of king He desires for His people. What does this tell about God? What does this tell us about Christian leadership? What does it tell us about the role of kings in God's kingdom versus typical leaders in our world?

Looking at Matthew 20:25-28, what does Jesus say is the difference between worldly leaders and godly leaders? _____

- 2) Read Ezekiel 34:1-16. How does God describe the kings and leaders of Israel? How does this differ from what God had described as His kind of king in Deuteronomy? _____

Why and how will God take care of His own people? _____

- 3) Read 1 Samuel 8. Why did the people ask Samuel for a king? (note: there are multiple answers)

How does their rejection of God here compare to the way they have treated God over the last 400 years of their time with Him as His people? _____

What does Samuel tell them will happen if they get a human king? _____

Why does God give them what they asked for, even though it was rejecting Him as their king?

- 4) Read 1 Samuel 17:8-11 and 34-47 and describe how this story contrasts Saul and David. Which one is closer to God's definition of what makes a good king?

- 5) Read 2 Samuel 7:1-16. What promises does God make to David? How do they compare to the promises He made to Abraham? _____

Describe the future king God promises. What will he do? What kind of relationship will he have with God? What kind of kingdom will he lead? _____

APPLICATION

The New Testament makes it clear over and over again that Jesus is the Anointed One, the One promised to David by God. This meant He was physically a son of David, from the line of David through both his mother (Luke 2:23-38) and his human father Joseph (Matthew 1). But also that He was the Son of God – something that was spoken in the promise to David, but that the people didn't really understand until He came. This is why Jesus's message was about the kingdom of God. It wasn't just about individual salvation, but the kingdom – the fulfillment of the promises to Abraham, Moses, and David. His message was that the Kingdom of God was already here in one sense, with His first coming (Matthew 4:17), but that it would not yet be here in all its fullness until His second coming (Revelation 11:15). This is the Big Picture Story of the Bible, the metanarrative, the Gospel: Creation (Gen 1-2); Fall (Genesis 3); *in between is the rest of the Old Testament story, all leading to Jesus*; Redemption (the Gospels: Christ's death and resurrection); *in between is where we are now, all of Church History until Jesus comes back*; Restoration/Consummation (Revelation).

Scripture tells us that we are ambassadors of the kingdom of God (2 Corinthians 5:17-20). We are citizens of heaven walking around on this earth. We are living in this in-between time, between Redemption and Consummation. We individually have been made New Creations in Christ, but all of Creation has not yet been made new. The kingdom of God is here already in the Church – in the lives of people who follow Jesus, who are Temples of the Holy Spirit. But the kingdom is not yet here in all its fullness, and will not be until the Consummation, when all things will be made new. This is our mission in life – to be ambassadors for His kingdom. In the ancient world, ambassadors were an envoy sent into enemy territory with a message of peace. We are sent into this enemy territory – the world, which is ruled by Satan and the powers and principalities of this present darkness (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 6:12). We bring a message of peace (Romans 10:14-15), reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-20), and hope (Romans 8:18-24). This is our ministry. The ministry of reconciliation.

Spend some time reflecting on how you can share this good news with friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, whoever else you know who are still walking in the kingdom of darkness.

- How can we present the Gospel afresh to people who have “heard it all their lives”?
- How can we show the *good* news that the Gospel really is to people who have had negative experiences with the American Church in the past?
- How can we explain what the Gospel really says to people who may have heard a view that focused more on religion than relationship or a legalistic distortion of the Gospel?
- How can we SHOW more than TELL the Gospel to others?
- How can we combat the lies of the world all around us with the truth of the good news?

Spend some time in prayer, asking God to give you opportunities to share the Gospel in the coming weeks. Specifically pray for friends and family who don't know Jesus and pray for opportunities to share the Gospel with them in a way that they can hear it as good news, whether that's through words or actions or both. Pray for opportunities to SHOW the love of Christ to others so that they may feel the goodness of God and ask you about it.