

LESSON THREE: THE EXTREME MAKEOVER

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A. What is the goal of Scripture's plot when it comes to humans?
That we would become all that God intended for us to be.

B. What happens to the image of God after the Fall?

C. _____ shows us what humanity was always supposed to be. Luke 3:23-38; Matthew 4:1ff

Christianity "claims, all the way back to the Adam-and-Abraham nexus in Genesis 12 and elsewhere and on to 1 Corinthians 15 and Revelation 21-22, that to become part of God's people is to become a genuinely human being. So many Christians suppose that 'normal humanness' is one thing and that 'Christian living' is a rather odd and perhaps distorted form of being human, whereas part of the point of being Christian is to be genuinely human.

"Of course, it's important to realize that there are many distorted ideas of what being 'genuinely human' might consist of. But at this point, the Christian church ought to be able to look the wider world in the eye and say, *Look: isn't this what being human was supposed to be all about?* The fact that that seems a long way off indicates how far the churches have sunk down from the New Testament's ideal...

"In particular, the biblical vision of being human is that of being God's Image-bearers: which means being like an angled mirror, reflecting God's wise, stewardly love into his creation. The Christian vision is of Jesus as the true image and of Jesus' followers, shaped by his Spirit, being transformed 'into the same image' (2 Cor. 3.18). Thus being truly Christian and being truly human ought to come to the same thing."

N. T. Wright, from interview with Trevin Wax on his new book, *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters* (due out March, 2010).

D. God promises (and has been at work on!) a really extreme
_____ . Jeremiah 31:31-34, 1 John 3:2-3

E. A Son of God is: _____

F. When is our adoption complete? Romans 8:15-25, esp. verse 23.

G. OUR NEW POWER:

Galatians 4:4-7 (Romans 8:15, 23)

Genesis 1:2

Exodus 35:30-35

Judges 11:1-5, 29

Isaiah 11:2, 6-8 (9:6-7); 42:1-4

Ezekiel 36-37

Matthew 3:14-17

1. WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE AND YOUR DESTINY?
2. HOW HAVE WE MISJUDGED OUR DESTINY THANKS TO OUR "DENSITY"?
3. GOD HAS GIVEN US A HUGE PURPOSE AND A HUGE DESTINY:

MATTHEW 6:33 AND "THE SEARCH"

Part One: The Kingdom is the Mission

**WHAT IS GOD? WHAT METAPHOR BEGINS
TO ADEQUATELY DESCRIBE HIM?**

Perhaps the best metaphor for who God
is = **KING, EMPEROR GOD.**

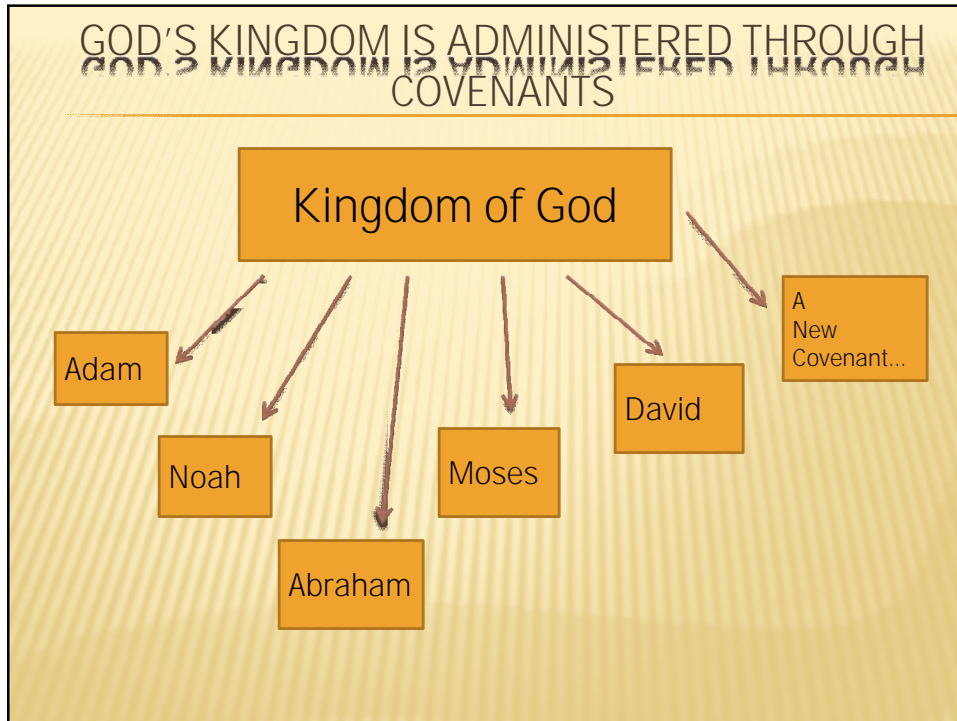
Isaiah 6:5

**God's mission is his REIGN: the
extension of his Kingdom.**

**The Emperor God creates
covenants to administer his
kingdom and to define his
relationships with his
subjects, his servants, or
“vassal kings”**

- ò How do we best describe God's relationship to his world and his role in the story?
- ò Can be summarized in one useful term, providing a central theme for the Bible's story.

The Kingdom of God



THE PROBLEM...

- Dramatic tension created because of rebellion...
- Psalm 97:1-6
- Psalm 98:4-9
- Psalm 99:1-5

**So God's MISSION is to rule over
all in the future**

ZECHARIAH 14:9

MICAH 4:1-5:8

ISAIAH 52:7

DANIEL 2:34-35, 44-45; 7:13-14, 18, 27

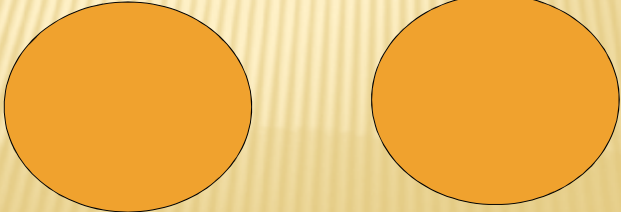
**KINGDOM FOCUSES ON ONE PEOPLE—AND
EVENTUALLY ONE PERSON...**

- As one Rabbi put it, "I will make Adam first, if he goes wrong Abraham will come to restore everything again." *Gen Rab* 14:6
- Jesus the representative Israelite, representative human

THE MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION FOR FIRST CENTURY JEWS:
 ΠΕΡΙ ΤΗΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣΗΣ

○ How can we get from "old age" to "new age" (or "latter days")? How will the KINGDOM Come? When and how will God reign over all?

Ⓜ Old Age New Age



The Jewish Expectation of the Restoration of Israel and the World

PRESENT AGE AGE TO COME

*Sin;
Nations rule over Israel;
Death,
Evil,
Satan*

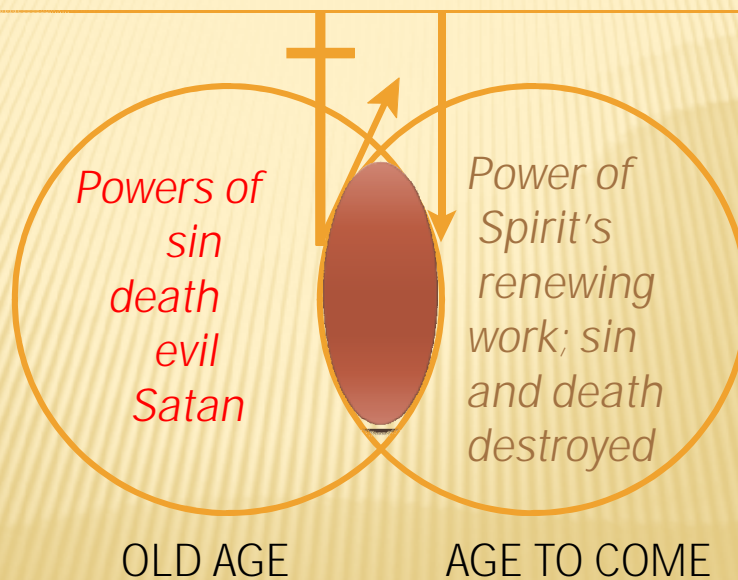
*Holy Spirit;
Knowledge of God; rez; Israel rules nations; David; Love; Prosperity; Righteousness; Judgment Peace Justice Joy*

Israel waits for the Spirit and Messiah to move the world from the old age to the new

HOW DID THE NEW AGE HAPPEN?

- o "who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age" Galatians 1:3-4
- o . . . thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:12-14

New Testament Fulfillment



WHAT HAD ARRIVED IN THE NEW AGE?

The Kingdom of God:

**The power of God in Christ by
the Spirit to restore humanity
and creation to life under the
rule of God.**

Acts 2 quoting Joel 2, Amos 9

Hebrews 9:26-28 But now he has appeared once for all *at the end of the ages* to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself...Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."

Hebrews 6:5: we have "tasted...the powers of the *age to come*."

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, *on whom the end of the ages has come*.

STILL WAITING ON FULLNESS OF KINGDOM

God put his [new creation] power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

. . . he has put all things under his feet . . .

Ephesians 1:20-22

JESUS'S MINISTRY: KINGDOM SIGNS

◦ Blind see; lame walk; deaf hear; sick healed; dead raised; poor/lost/dirty are received and cared for; sins forgiven; cursed creation restored; demons cast out; lives changed, relationships healed (cf. Lk. 7:21-23); people were told that God was reigning after all; de-humanized people are "re-humanized" (Mark 5:15); receive true law versus false law (Matt 5-7)

The Gospel of the Kingdom

- ò Restoration of humanity
- ò Change of kingdom, from darkness to light (Col. 1:12-13).
- ò Restored to true life, whereas demons/Satan lead to death (cf. Genesis 3)

PART THREE:
GOD'S MAKEOVER:
GOD'S CHILDREN
RENEWED FOR
GOD'S KINGDOM

Lesson Three

1. A King and his Story
2. God's People in his Kingdom
3. A REALLY EXTREME
MAKEOVER

**3. The Bible as the story of
Humanity:**

**Plot goal: renewed identity,
restored to our royal role**

**The goal:
becoming *truly*
human**

**Jesus' ministry: remaking humanity
and undoing what sin had wrecked**

What happens to the image...

- . . . after the Fall?
- Genesis 5:1ff, 6:1-8, 8:17, 9:6-7, 12:1-2; 17:6, 17
- God's intention to bless humanity and his program of geographical and numerical expansion is reestablished by God after disaster of Abel's murder; after flood; after Babel. Israel gets same mission of growth and blessing after near-death in Egypt.

Image of God in Literary Context

- Genesis 5:1-3 and 12:1ff do suggest some limitation: God's intention for his Image will be fulfilled especially through Seth and his line, then Abraham and his family, rather than Cain and his line.
- Humanity, especially Seth's line, will rule creation on God's behalf (Gen 1:26-27); Passes through Noah...

....through Abraham....

**Abe and family (Gen 12ff)
receive covenant and mission
(fill, multiply, reign) as “true
humanity,” the answer to
humanity’s failure**

**As one Rabbi put it, “I will
make Adam first; if he goes
wrong Abraham will come
to restore everything
again.” *Gen Rab* 14:6**

The Covenant People become the focus of God's Kingdom (Deut 33:5; Ex 15). His presence, Israel's holiness, *shalom*, righteousness, and human dignity are meant to represent him to the world.

....to his people Israel...

**Israel *my firstborn son*
(Exodus 4:22-23)**

....to Davidic KING...

- **The king represents God's people, who represent Humanity and humanity's destiny.**
- **“The Story [=the Old Testament] is about the reclamation of a lost human dominion over the world [carried through Adam, Noah, Abraham, Israel] through a Davidic dynasty. In short, it is about the kingdom of God, and it is unfinished.”**

And to the TRUE HUMAN

Jesus as SECOND ADAM, David's true Son, the True Son of God and the True Human, the True King

Luke 3:23-38: the image of God is the Son of God

**JESUS SHOWS US
WHAT HUMANITY WAS
ALWAYS SUPPOSED TO
BE. REIGNING son of
God. God's Spirit in him.
Sinless. IN fellowship
with God. OBEDIENT.**

- The Possibility...
- God's Image as the Ruling Children of God

The Problem...

We are rejecting a Father:
Deut 32:1-6, 16-25

The Promise...

...a Makeover!!!

[NTW quote; "new covenant"
promises in OT]

Like God?

- **Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.**
- **And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**
- **(1 John 3:2-3 ESV)**

**our identity and
role
Children of God**

A Son of God is...

BELOVED (Eph 5:1)

An IMITATOR (Matt 5:9,48, 1 Peter
1:15-16)

A RULER (Rev 21:1-7)

In a FAMILY

- Romans 8:14-25
- *We are not yet fully adopted!* Because the original image is not yet repaired so that we can do the original glorious task that God has for us.
- Why is creation “groaning”? Wants us to be remade so that our role can be fulfilled

- **What will these glorified, Spirit-filled, New Creation, Resurrected humans do *forever*? What will happen when Creation is done waiting for SONS to be revealed?**
- **Revelation 22:1-5. Humans rule over New Creation. God's kingdom is fully come on earth.**

G. OUR POWER

Restored to our ROLE: The Bible as the story of humanity

**How are we adopted as
ROYAL sons and united to
Christ as co-heirs?**

Galatians 4:4-7

Romans 8:15, 23

**Who was present at
creation?**

What role did the Spirit play in Israel?

How do you know God is with his people, ruling over them, leading them and protecting them?

How does renewal of Israel happen? Isaiah 11:2, 6-8. (note context: 9:6-7); Isaiah 42:1-4

How does Restoration and Resurrection happen (Ezekiel 36-37)?

Who comes on Jesus as he is declared to be God's (royal!) Son?

(RE)NEW(ED) IDENTITY

- **Not so much totally new...what you were always meant to be**
- **If that is now true of me, I can give up...**
- **...worrying about justifying my existence or judging myself.**
- **...judging my spouse or my kids or my parents or my church**

MAKEOVER IN PROCESS . . .

. . . results may vary!!!

BE WHO YOU ARE

- **God's handiwork, "created for work" (Genesis)**
- **"God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Ephesians)**