



From Our Vicar

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Christ our King

Traditionally, history writing describes the rise and fall of kings and kingdoms. The Bible, similarly, develops this theme. In 'Covenant and Kingdom: the DNA of the Bible', Mike Breen describes the uniting thread of the whole bible as the rule of God over the earth and God's establishment of a covenant relationship with his people to restore his global rule.

Genesis 1-2 shows the creation of the world by God and his authorisation of human beings to rule the earth on his behalf. Genesis 3 depicts the deception of human beings by a usurper to whom the humans relinquish their rule, rejecting God as their king by their disobedience to God's word. God then established the people of Israel as a confederacy of tribes and made a covenant with them at Sinai. The Lord God, as their rescuer and sovereign, gave them commandments to be fully obeyed, so they would be 'his treasured possession, ... a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' However, Israel consistently rejected God as their king. The book of Judges repeats the theme, 'In those days Israel had no king, and everyone did what was right in his own eyes.'

Israel then demanded Samuel give them a king to lead them against their enemies, which was seen as another rejection of God as their king. And so followed Saul, then David, with whom God made a covenant that kingship from the line of David would endure forever. With Israel's exile, again for disobedience, and the end of kingship, prophecy arose around a Son of David who would come and bring back God's rule over his people and the nations.

Jesus came preaching 'the Kingdom of God is at hand' and demonstrating that kingdom by signs and wonders and ultimately his death and resurrection. Revelation speaks of the fruit of Jesus' passion saying 'To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood...has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father...'

So, we see how the story has come full circle. Those who follow Jesus, the 'King of kings', are called to exercise God's authority on earth through the humble service of a priestly ministry to all people and nations, so that all may come to know God 'as the waters cover the sea.'

As we bow, may we be emboldened, that all may stand.

God bless you,

Wayne