

The History of the Kingdom of God **From the book Has Your King Died? chapter 7**

The previous chapter of this book had to do with the history of Satan's world system of government and religion. A study of history is important because it tends to reveal the root of an institution or spiritual force. This chapter is going to give the history of the Kingdom of God. I believe, as you will see in the chapter, that the House of David as described in the Old Testament eventually was renamed and became the Kingdom of God.

One of Jesus' missions was to re-establish His reign on earth through man, which was temporarily compromised when Adam sinned.

Psalm 8:4-6 says,

4 "What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?"

5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels [elohiym God], And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet."

The establishment of the Kingdom of God here on earth that Jesus spoke about so often was not only extremely important to Him, but it is also very important to us. God's original idea was to create an earth, put man in charge of it, but at the same time rule that earth through man for His purposes. When we thought that we could operate our own lives without being in intimate contact with God, God's authority over the earth, through man, was temporarily compromised. It is only with the re-establishing of His Kingdom that His rule is restored, and that happens through you and me.

We need to know that there are two purposes for operating in the Kingdom of God while still on this earth, in this lifetime.

1. To allow God's rule and purposes to return to this earth, which will permit His Kingdom to expand. This includes helping the poor and oppressed, and paying more attention to them than to our own needs.

2. God will supply our needs in this life on earth.

The Lord spoke to me years ago when it looked like my business was about to fail completely. I had tried everything in my power to work it out, but at that time it looked like my family would just have to go without the normal provisions we needed to eat and live. I said to the Lord, "Okay, take it, take it all. I will just pitch a tent under the nearest tree and move my family in there. We can eat the grass."

The Lord spoke and said, "Larry, you are working for Me, you are My employee. I take care of My employees. I need you." I said, "You need *me*?" Of course I took great

caution on what “need you” really meant. It was more like, “I want to use you.” The recovery took a long time and was gradual and painful. He restored our business, which gave us funds for ministry and for our living expenses. However, it was clear to me that God was not just prospering me because He loved me. He loves everybody. He chose to prosper me because I had agreed to be used to bring His Kingdom to earth. Are you one of God’s employees, or are you “self-employed”?

Remember, the Lord’s Prayer linked bringing His Kingdom here with our daily bread.

Matthew 6:10-11 says,

10 “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.”

The primary and original purpose of the House of David was to execute judgment (mercy and help) for the poor and oppressed of Israel.

I believe that the beginning of the revival of God’s reign on earth through the Kingdom of God was instituted with King David. I believe that when the House of David is referred to in the Old Testament, that it is a foreshadow of the Kingdom of God. Therefore, I would like to dig into its history as a history of the beginnings of the Kingdom of God and how it developed over the centuries.

The promise to David.

2 Samuel 7:1-17 says,

1 “Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around,

2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, ‘See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.’

3 Then Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.’

4 But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,

5 ‘Go and tell My servant David, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?’

6 For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7 Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes 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 shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.

9 *And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth.*

10 *Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously,*

11 *since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.*

12 ***When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will 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 his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.*

15 *But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.*

16 ***And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”””***

17 *According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.”*

The Lord spoke very clearly to David and about David’s kingship, stating that it would last forever. God had in mind that Messiah Jesus would sit on the throne through this promise. This was even more than a promise; it was a covenant with David. Thus, the House of David was a foreshadow of the Kingdom of God. Since this is a house that God is to dwell in then we need to know that God’s heart is toward the poor and oppressed.

Psalm 89:35-37 says,

35 *“Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David:*

36 *His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me;*

37 *It shall be established forever like the moon, even like the faithful witness in the sky.” Selah”*

2 Chronicles 21:7 says,

7 *“Yet the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that He had made with David, and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.”*

Since David's immediate descendants did not keep the original purpose of the House of David, God removed the anointing from them, as stated in the following Scriptures. However He also promised a future revival of the House of David.

God began to speak, through the prophet Isaiah, Jeremiah and Amos, about reviving the House of David.

Jeremiah 22:1-9 says,

1 "Thus says the LORD: 'Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and there speak this word,

2 and say, "Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, you who sit on the throne of David, you and your servants and your people who enter these gates!"

3 Thus says the LORD: 'Execute judgment and righteousness, and deliver the plundered out of the hand of the oppressor. Do no wrong and do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, or the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.

4 For if you indeed do this thing, then shall enter the gates of this house, riding on horses and in chariots, accompanied by servants and people, kings who sit on the throne of David.'

5 "But if you will not hear these words, I swear by Myself," says the LORD, "that this house shall become a desolation."

A real warning!

6 For thus says the LORD to the house of the king of Judah: "You are Gilead to Me, the head of Lebanon; yet I surely will make you a wilderness, Cities which are not inhabited.

7 I will prepare destroyers against you, everyone with his weapons; they shall cut down your choice cedars and cast them into the fire.

8 And many nations will pass by this city; and everyone will say to his neighbor, 'Why has the LORD done so to this great city?'

9 Then they will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshiped other gods and served them.'"

Isaiah 22:20-25 (New Living Translation) says,

20 "And then I will call my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah to replace you – (Shebna – the secretary of King Hezekiah).

21 I will dress him in your royal robes and will give him your title and your authority. And he will be a father to the people of Jerusalem and Judah.

22 I will give him the key to the house of David – the highest position in the royal court. When he opens doors, no one will be able to close them; when he closes doors, no one will be able to open them.

Notice how this Scripture matches Revelation 3:17 which says,

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, ‘He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens.’”

This idea of the key to the house of David is important to understand. In Isaiah 22 it talks about giving Eliakim the key to enter King David’s house. In Revelation 3:17 it refers to giving the key to enter King Jesus’ house, or the Kingdom of God.

Bear in mind that there were seven “churches” mentioned in this part of the book of Revelation. I believe that also refers to the seven different types of believers. The key to Jesus’ house, or to the Kingdom of God, is offered to the type of believer mentioned in the church of Philadelphia. They were different the other types of believers.

Peter’s experience with Jesus was a great example of the key for us to enter the Kingdom of God, as did the Philadelphia believers.

Matthew 16:15-19,

“15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.””

Notice Jesus gave Simon son of Jonah a new name, Peter, which means rock. Peter had a divine God given revelation of who Jesus was in verse 16. This divine revelation was the key for Peter to access the Kingdom of God even prior to Jesus’ death and resurrection. It was also a prophetic word for us. As Jesus reveals Himself to us and we acknowledge who He is, we also gain access into the Kingdom of God.

Verses 18-19 shows the authority that we have gained to overcome satanic influences of all types, to build His church, and to pray His Kingdom to earth.

The prophet Amos spoke about the days when the House of David would be rebuilt.

God spoke through the prophet Amos to expand the purpose of the House of David to include the Gentiles. He spoke that the House of David would eventually reach to the poor and oppressed Gentiles, or the nations. He also expanded the purpose to include the dispersed Jews by bringing them back to Israel and giving them businesses and farms. Amos was speaking about the days we are in now, the days just before the second coming of Jesus.

Amos 9:11-15 says,

11 *“On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old;*

12 *That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” says the LORD who does this thing.*

13 *“Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.*

14 *I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.*

15 *I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,” says the LORD your God.”*

If a plowman overtakes the reaper, and the treader of grapes overtakes him who sows the seed, then something supernatural must be going on!

That just does not happen in the natural. Moreover, this type of increase cannot be measured by addition, nor multiplication, but only by exponential math.

We have seen the reality of this in our lives, much to our amazement. It had little to do with our abilities, and everything to do with God’s power coupled with our submission to His plan.

Do you live by the House of David standards– later to be transitioned into the Kingdom of God (also the Church of Philadelphia)?

There is a valuable personal application here for all of us. Are you going to live like people in the world by always focusing on your own needs? Or are you going to live according to God’s heart, which is to help the poor and oppressed?

When you live putting God’s ways first, He will take care of your needs. Jesus said of the Pharisees that they coveted money and material things, but neglected the poor, and even persecuted them. Even if you are in a desperate financial situation, you can still live God’s way. Find someone that needs some help and give whatever you can. If your church needs cleaning, clean it. If your neighbor is hungry, share what little you have. Each and every time my wife and I have met a financial challenge, the first thing we did was to look for some way to give something! It has always paid off.

The Gentiles come in.

In Acts 15, at the Jerusalem Council, James prophetically announced that the Amos prophecy was being fulfilled because he was watching the Holy Spirit fall upon the Gentiles.

Acts 15:12-18 says,

12 *“Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.*

13 *And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men and brethren, listen to me:*

14 *Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.*

15 *And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:*

16 ***‘After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up;***

17 *So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the LORD who does all these things.’”*

18 *Known to God from eternity are all His works.’”*

The Jews have not been replaced!

The oppressed Gentiles coming in through the anointing of the House of David did not exclude nor replace the Jews. The oppressed Jews are still candidates for the House of, the Key of David.

The House and the Key of David is also for those Jews who are poor and oppressed who are returning to Israel in the last days.

It is also for Jews everywhere who are “spiritually poor.” God knows the hearts of the Jew who has not believed in Jesus, but have a love for the God they know. He respects that kind of heart and will reveal ultimate truth to them. I have witnessed this more than one time.

God spoke to Zechariah about Jesus coming to remove sin.

Zechariah 13:1 says,

1 *“In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.”*

How does this apply to you and me?

The House of David has matured into the Kingdom of God in our time.

The Lord took me by surprise when He revealed this to me. I had not intended to study about the House of David, and really did not ever give much thought to it. He began speaking to me through Revelation chapter 3 regarding the Church in Philadelphia. My understanding about the seven churches in the Book of Revelation has always been that they represent the seven types of believers. Obviously both the Church at Smyrna and the Church at Philadelphia are without rebuke from the Lord. I have not, at least not yet, identified with the Church at Smyrna as that depicts today’s martyrs. I have always identified with the Church at Philadelphia, believers who are at least attempting to walk in

the Spirit and stay close to the Lord. However, I had never known what the Key of David represented until the Lord just all of a sudden revealed it to me.

The Key of David is for the House of David. This key opens the door for the anointing to make us God's "employees."

Revelation 3:7-13 says,

7 *"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, **He who has the key of David**, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens:*

8 *"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.*

9 *Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie – indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.*

10 *Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*

11 *Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.*

12 *He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name."*

13 *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"*

I believe that the "name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem" that God will write on you is the Kingdom of God.

Jesus has the Key of David, which opens a door that no one can shut. Since Jesus lives within us, we also have that same anointing, that same key, provided of course that we overcome the sufferings and tribulations that Satan would put on us to forget about and abandon the Key.

Supernatural increase.

Matthew 6:33 says,

33 *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

What things? Jesus had just mentioned that the Gentiles, the people who have no blood covenant with God, have to spend their lives seeking things, much like the wild animals do. However, as a blood covenant child of God we are called to a higher life. Jesus will pay us for seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness. His righteousness

includes two things: first, His imparted righteousness to us, and second, our righteous lifestyle, defined as “walking in the Spirit.” Our lifestyle may not be perfect, but as we walk in the Spirit, we repent our way through life.

Those who are cooperating with God to bring His will to earth, or in other words, as I mentioned earlier in this chapter, those who are “employed by God,” can expect supernatural increase. I am not referring only to those who work full time as church employees. The potential for being a God’s employee applies to all believers, from young people, to mothers, to widows, and to corporate executives.

Finally, notice how one of David’s last prayers, his prayer for his son Solomon, reflects God’s plan for the Kingdom of God.

Psalm 72 (Amplified Bible) says,

“[A Psalm] for Solomon.

1 GIVE THE king [knowledge of] Your [way of] judging, O God, and [the spirit of] Your righteousness to the king’s son [to control all his actions].

2 Let him judge and govern Your people with righteousness, and Your poor and afflicted ones with judgment and justice.

3 The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the hills, through [the general establishment of] righteousness.

4 May he judge and defend the poor of the people, deliver the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor,

5 So that they may revere and fear You while the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.

6 May he [Solomon as a type of King David’s greater Son] be like rain that comes down upon the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

7 In His [Christ’s] days shall the [uncompromisingly] righteous flourish and peace abound till there is a moon no longer.

8 He [Christ] shall have dominion also from sea to sea and from the River [Euphrates] to the ends of the earth.

9 Those who dwell in the wilderness shall bow before Him and His enemies shall lick the dust.

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the coasts shall bring offerings; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

11 Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him, all nations shall serve Him.

12 For He delivers the needy when he calls out, the poor also and him who has no helper.

13 He will have pity on the poor and weak and needy and will save the lives of the needy.

14 He will redeem their lives from oppression and fraud and violence, and precious and costly shall their blood be in His sight.

15 And He shall live; and to Him shall be given gold of Sheba; prayer also shall be made for Him and through Him continually, and they shall bless and praise Him all the day long.

16 There shall be abundance of grain in the soil upon the top of the mountains [the least fruitful places in the land]; the fruit of it shall wave like [the forests of] Lebanon, and [the inhabitants of] the city shall flourish like grass of the earth.

17 His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun [indeed, His name continues before the sun]. And men shall be blessed and bless themselves by Him; all nations shall call Him blessed!

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who alone does wondrous things!

19 Blessed be His glorious name forever; let the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen and Amen!

20 The prayers of David son of Jesse are ended.