

Week 4 – Israel Today – The King is Still Coming – Bible Study Helps

Title: The Coming King

Sermon Summary: This sermon concludes a four-week series on "Israel Today" by examining biblical prophecies concerning Christ's second coming and millennial reign. The sermon emphasizes that just as prophecies about Christ's first coming were fulfilled literally, prophecies about His second coming will likewise be fulfilled literally. The message challenges replacement theology and affirms that God's promises to Israel remain valid and unfulfilled. Central to the sermon is the assertion that Jesus Christ will physically return to Jerusalem, sit on David's throne, and reign for a thousand years. The sermon encourages believers to take Scripture literally, live holy lives while waiting for Christ's return, and actively share the gospel. The sermon addresses growing anti-Israel sentiment worldwide and connects it to rejection of Jesus Christ as the Jewish Messiah.

Key Points:

- God means what He says and says what He means - the Bible should be taken literally unless impossible to do so
- Isaiah 9:6-7 contains both first coming (child born) and second coming (government on His shoulder) prophecies in the same passage
- If first coming prophecies were fulfilled literally, second coming prophecies will be fulfilled literally as well
- God's covenant promises to David regarding an eternal throne, kingdom, and seed remain valid and unfulfilled
- In Acts 1, Jesus did not cancel the kingdom promise to Israel but indicated it was postponed ("not for you to know the times")
- The angels at Christ's ascension confirmed He will return to the Mount of Olives in the same manner He left
- Replacement theology - the belief that the church has replaced Israel - contradicts clear biblical teaching
- Jesus Christ will physically reign from Jerusalem on David's throne for one thousand years
- Israel's continued existence despite empires rising and falling demonstrates God keeps His promises
- Many Christian denominations (Catholic, Reformed, Presbyterian, Lutheran traditions) spiritualize end-times prophecies rather than taking them literally
- Growing hatred of Israel is fundamentally rooted in hatred of Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah
- Believers should live waiting for Christ's return, live holy lives, and preach the gospel urgently

Scripture References:

- Isaiah 9:6-7 (For unto us a child is born... government on His shoulder... throne of David forever)
- Jeremiah 23:5-6 (Righteous Branch, King shall reign, execute judgment and justice)
- 2 Samuel 7:12-16 (God's covenant with David - throne established forever)
- Luke 1:31-33 (Gabriel announces Jesus will receive throne of His father David)
- Acts 1:4-11 (Disciples ask about restoring kingdom to Israel; Christ's ascension from Mount of Olives)
- Zechariah 14:1-4 (His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives)
- Psalm 2 (Why do the heathen rage; God sets His king on Zion)
- Isaiah 2:1-5 (Mountain of the Lord's house established; nations flow to Jerusalem)

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- Revelation 19:11-20:6 (Christ's return as King of Kings; thousand-year reign)
- Philippians 2:9-11 (Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess Jesus is Lord)
- Romans 11:1, 11 (God has not cast away His people; salvation comes to Gentiles)
- Titus 2:13 (Looking for blessed hope and glorious appearing)
- 1 John 3:3 (Everyone with this hope purifies himself)

Stories:

- Personal account from Seton Square ministry: The pastor shared about meeting with three people over 90 years old who witnessed World War II, Hiroshima, and Israel's restoration in 1948. One gentleman who had visited Israel twice expressed confusion about why people don't simply believe what the Bible clearly teaches about Israel and God's promises.
- Illustration of judgment day: The pastor painted a picture of future judgment where those who rejected biblical truth will be confronted by God asking, "Did you have a Bible? Did you read it? Why didn't you believe it?"
- The ongoing fulfillment narrative: The sermon traces the biblical narrative from God's promises to Abraham and David, through Christ's first coming, rejection by Israel, the church age, and ultimately to the future literal fulfillment when Christ returns to establish His kingdom from Jerusalem.

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Discipleship Questions

If God fulfilled every prophecy about Christ's first coming literally, what logical or theological basis would there be for interpreting prophecies about His second coming symbolically?

How does the promise of a literal throne and kingdom in Jerusalem impact the way we understand God's faithfulness to His covenant promises to us today?

In Acts 1, when the disciples asked Jesus about restoring the kingdom to Israel and He responded that it was not for them to know the times, what does this teach us about the difference between cancellation and postponement in God's plans?

What are the implications for our daily Christian living if we truly believe that Jesus Christ will return as a conquering King to reign from Jerusalem?

How does the growing hatred toward Israel in our world today connect to the spiritual reality of opposition to Jesus Christ as the Jewish Messiah?

When Revelation 19 describes Christ returning as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, how should this reality shape our priorities, ambitions, and use of time?

If replacement theology denies a literal future kingdom for Israel, what does this suggest about how people approach biblical interpretation more broadly, and where might this lead?

How can we effectively share the truth about Israel's prophetic significance with people who have been taught that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan?

What does it mean practically to live waiting for Christ's return, to live holy as we wait, and to live preaching while we wait?

Given that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, how should this certain future reality affect the way we view current world events and cultural opposition to biblical truth?

Small Group Guide:

Israel Today - The Coming King

Study Overview

This guide concludes the "Israel Today" series, focusing on the literal return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom on earth. The study emphasizes that if prophecies about Christ's first coming were fulfilled literally, we should expect His second coming prophecies to be fulfilled literally as well.

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question:

- When you think about Jesus Christ ruling and reigning on earth for 1,000 years, what comes to mind? What questions do you have about this?
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Key Scripture Passages

- **Isaiah 9:6-7** - The Child and the Government
 - **Jeremiah 23:5-6** - The Righteous Branch
 - **2 Samuel 7:12-16** - God's Promise to David
 - **Luke 1:31-33** - Gabriel's Announcement to Mary
 - **Acts 1:6-12** - Jesus' Ascension and Promise to Return
 - **Revelation 19:11-20:6** - The Return of the King
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Main Teaching Points

1. The King Was Promised

God promised David a throne, a kingdom, and a seed—forever. This promise was not symbolic but literal, to be fulfilled in Jerusalem.

2. The King Was Rejected (But Not Defeated)

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Israel rejected their Messiah at His first coming, but this did not cancel God's promises. The kingdom is postponed, not canceled.

3. The King Is Returning

Jesus Christ will literally return to the Mount of Olives, establish His throne in Jerusalem, and reign for 1,000 years.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message (15 minutes)

1. **Read Isaiah 9:6-7 together.** How does this passage describe both the first and second coming of Christ in the same verses? What does this tell us about how to interpret prophecy?
2. **Why is it significant that Jesus didn't correct His disciples in Acts 1:6-7** when they asked about restoring the kingdom to Israel? What does this reveal about God's future plans for Israel?
3. **What does "replacement theology" teach,** and why is it incompatible with a literal reading of Scripture? (Reference: God's promises to Israel have not been transferred to the church)

Going Deeper (20 minutes)

4. **Read Zechariah 14:4 and Acts 1:9-12.** How do these passages work together to confirm the literal return of Jesus to the Mount of Olives? Why is this important?
5. **The sermon stated: "God means what He says and says what He means."** How does this principle help us interpret difficult or confusing passages of Scripture?
6. **Why do you think there is growing opposition to Israel** in our world today? How does this relate to opposition to Jesus Christ Himself?
7. **Psalm 2 describes God laughing at those who rage against Him.** What does this teach us about God's sovereignty and our response to a chaotic world?

Personal Application (15 minutes)

8. **The sermon gave three practical applications:**
 - Live waiting for Christ's return
 - Live holy as we wait
 - Live preaching about the coming King

Which of these three areas is most challenging for you personally? Why?

9. **How does believing in the literal, physical return of Christ change the way you:**

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- Make decisions?
 - Spend your time?
 - Use your resources?
 - Share the gospel?
10. **Have you encountered people who don't believe in a literal millennial reign of Christ?** How would you respond to them based on what we've studied?
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Key Takeaways

✓ **If God kept His promises about Christ's first coming literally, He will keep His promises about the second coming literally.**

✓ **The kingdom is postponed, not canceled.** God has not replaced Israel with the church.

✓ **Jesus Christ will physically return to Jerusalem, sit on David's throne, and reign for 1,000 years.**

✓ **Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

✓ **If God keeps His promises to Israel, He will keep His promises to you.**

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose **ONE** of the following to implement this week:

1. **Study the Promises** - Read through the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12, 15, 17) and note what God promised. Reflect on how these promises are still being fulfilled.
 2. **Share Your Hope** - Have a conversation with someone about the return of Christ. Be prepared to explain why you believe in a literal second coming.
 3. **Live Like He's Coming** - Identify one area of your life where you're not living as if Jesus could return at any moment. Make a specific change this week.
 4. **Pray for Israel** - Commit to praying daily for Israel and for the Jewish people to recognize Jesus as their Messiah.
 5. **Examine Your Beliefs** - Research what your church or denomination teaches about the end times. Compare it to what Scripture clearly states.
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Memory Verse

Isaiah 9:6-7 *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."*

Closing Reflection (5 minutes)

Quiet Reflection:

- Is Jesus Christ your Savior or will He be your Judge?
- Are you living for the coming kingdom or just passing time in this world?
- What needs to change in your life this week in light of Christ's return?

Group Prayer:

- Pray for boldness to stand for biblical truth
 - Pray for Israel and the Jewish people
 - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel
 - Pray for holy living as we wait for Christ's return
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Additional Resources

- Review the sermon handout notes
 - Study the prophetic timeline from the sermon series
 - Read Revelation 19-20 this week for personal study
 - Consider reading a book on biblical prophecy (ask your pastor for recommendations)
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Leader Notes

- **Be sensitive** to group members who may come from traditions that teach replacement theology or amillennialism
- **Focus on Scripture** rather than arguing about denominations
- **Emphasize hope** - this study should encourage believers, not create fear
- **Keep it practical** - help people see how this truth affects daily living

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- **Be prepared** for questions about current events in Israel

"The King is coming like a freight train. Whether they like it or not."

5-Day Devotional:

The Coming King and His Kingdom

Day 1: The Promise of the King

Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7

Devotional: God's promises span eternity. The same prophecy that foretold Christ's birth as a child also declared His future reign as King. This dual fulfillment reminds us that God means what He says and says what He means. When Isaiah wrote of government resting on His shoulder and His throne lasting forever, he wasn't speaking symbolically—he was declaring literal truth. Just as Jesus fulfilled every prophecy about His first coming with precision, we can trust He will fulfill every promise about His second coming. If God keeps His promises to Israel, He will keep His promises to you. Your salvation is secure, your sins are forgiven, and Christ will return exactly as promised. Live today with confidence in God's unchanging Word.

Day 2: Rejected but Not Defeated

Reading: Acts 1:4-11

Devotional: When the disciples asked Jesus if He would restore the kingdom to Israel, His answer is profound: "It is not for you to know the times." He didn't cancel the promise—He postponed it. Israel's rejection of their Messiah opened the door for Gentile salvation, but God's covenant with His chosen people remains intact. The same Jesus who ascended from the Mount of Olives will return to that exact location. His feet will literally stand on that mountain, just as Zechariah prophesied. This isn't symbolic language; it's divine certainty. As you wait for His return, remember that postponement isn't cancellation. God's timing is perfect. What He has promised, He will perform. Live expectantly, knowing the King who left is the same King who's coming back.

Day 3: The Throne of David Forever

Reading: 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Luke 1:30-33

Devotional: God promised David a throne, a kingdom, and a seed—forever. Centuries later, the angel Gabriel confirmed this promise to Mary: Jesus would sit on the throne of His father David and reign over the house of Jacob forever. This wasn't poetic language or spiritual metaphor. God's covenant with David remains unbroken, and Jesus Christ is the fulfillment. Though we don't see this throne occupied today, we live in the parenthesis of the church age. When the fullness of the Gentiles comes in, God will turn His attention back to Israel, and the King will take His rightful place. Your hope isn't built on shifting political landscapes but on the unchanging promises of God. He who promised is faithful.

Day 4: The King Who Conquers

Reading: Revelation 19:11-21

Devotional: The Jesus who came as a lamb will return as a lion. Revelation 19 paints a vivid picture: eyes like flames of fire, many crowns, a robe dipped in blood, and a name—King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He will judge righteously, make war against evil, and rule the nations with a rod of iron. Every knee will bow, every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This isn't allegory; this is prophecy. The same precision that marked His first coming will characterize His second. As believers, we will return with Him, clothed in white, victorious. This reality should transform how we live today. Are you living for the coming kingdom? Does your life reflect the certainty that the King is returning?

Day 5: Living for the Coming King

Reading: Philippians 2:9-11; Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 3:2-3

Devotional: The King is coming—this truth demands a response. We must live waiting for Christ's return, looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing. We must live holy as we wait, purifying ourselves even as He is pure. And we must live preaching, proclaiming the gospel to every creature before it's too late. The coming King is either your Savior or your judge. For believers, He has already judged our sin at Calvary. Now we await His return with joy and anticipation. Let this reality reorder your priorities. What occupies your time? What consumes your attention? The King who rules from heaven will one day rule from Jerusalem. Live like you believe it. Share this hope with a world desperately in need of the King.