

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 7

Hosea 3:3-4

Introduction: Last week in our study of the kingdom we looked at how God had set up a model of the theocratic kingdom with the nation of Israel as a way to show the world what He desired to do.

Exodus 19:5-6

⁵ *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:*

⁶ *And ye shall be unto me a **kingdom** of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

When the Law was given, and Moses was the Theocratic Administrator over the people of Israel. After Moses it was Joshua and then the Judges. Following the Judges the office of Theocratic Administrator was passed to the kings. The first three kings ruled over a united kingdom. The kings were Saul, David and Solomon. Solomon violated the standards which God had established for the king which are found in Deuteronomy 17.

Deuteronomy 17:15-20

¹⁵ *Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.*

¹⁶ *But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.*

¹⁷ *Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.*

¹⁸ *And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:*

¹⁹ *And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:*

²⁰ *That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.*

God would bring judgment because of all that Solomon did and after Solomon the kingdom divided. There were ten northern tribes known as Israel and two southern tribes known as Judah. The northern tribes were carried into captivity in 722 BC by the Assyrians. The two southern tribes were carried into captivity in 586 BC by the Babylonians. When Nebuchadnezzar carried the Jews into captivity two significant events happened.

1. The Theocratic Administrator disappeared from the earth.
2. The Shekinah Glory departed from the temple.

This brings us to where we are in our study.

"Times of the Gentiles"

The Babylonian Captivity takes Israel into a period of time known as the Times of the Gentiles. This is a time period when Israel has no king from the line of David sitting upon the throne. There is no Theocratic Administrator ruling during this period.

Hosea prophesied concerning this time.

Hosea 3:3-5

³ *And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee.*

⁴ **For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king,** and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:

⁵ *Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.*

Hosea speaks of a time when Israel will have no king for many days. This is the time which Jesus spoke of.

Luke 21:21-24

²¹ *Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.*

²² *For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.*

²³ *But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.*

²⁴ *And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

The Times of the Gentiles is a time when Israel is trampled under the rule of Gentile world powers and has no Davidic king sitting on the throne. We can see a picture of this in the book of Daniel.

Notice Daniel 2:31-45

All of these world powers take place during the Times of the Gentiles.

Notice Daniel 7:1-14

The Times of the Gentiles started with Nebuchadnezzar when he carried away Zedekiah. Let us notice how this all unfolded.

Notice 2 Kings 24:15-20

Notice 2 Kings 25:1-12

Now let us notice how the Times of the Gentiles will come to an end.

Daniel 2:43-45

⁴³ *And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.*

⁴⁴ *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

⁴⁵ *Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold;* the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

The Times of the Gentiles will end when the Anti-Christ is defeated and Jesus ushers in His Kingdom. When He returns, He will destroy all the Gentile kingdoms of the world.

Revelation 11:14-16

¹⁴ *The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.*

¹⁵ *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

¹⁶ *And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,*

Conclusion:

From all of this there are two points that we need to keep in mind.

1. The Kingdom cannot be established until the Times of the Gentiles are complete.
2. When Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom, it will be SUDDEN destruction of the world kingdoms.

These two points make it impossible for the Kingdom to exist today. Neither of these have transpired.