

# The Kingdom: Fulfilling the Law and the Prophets

Myles Munroe gives us an overview of the Kingdom message in the OT which is mostly missed by people who read or have studied the Bible without a Kingdom mindset.

The starting point is Jesus' statement:

**Matthew 5:17-18** Amplified Bible (AMP) – *“Do not think that I came to do away with or undo the Law<sup>1</sup> [of Moses] or the [writings of the] Prophets; I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For I assure you and most solemnly say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke [of the pen] will pass from the Law until all things [which it foreshadows] are accomplished.*

The Law and the Prophets were not superseded when King Jesus arrived on planet Earth – they were fulfilled in him. These OT writings were the knowledge about the Kingdom, but Jesus brought the application of that knowledge in the reality of the Kingdom.

So, what was written and predicted?

- The Pentateuch<sup>2</sup>: i.e. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy contain the ceremonial laws for the Jews (Judaism).
- Joshua describes the Israelites after they had come into the Promised Land. Joshua settles the people and teaches them the ways of God's Kingdom.
- The Kingdom story unfolds where every prophet, judge and king had something to do with preparing the way for the coming of the King.
- The judges and kings embodied justice and the divinely given human rights that the Kingdom upholds.
- The prophets looked into the future and declared that a messiah-king would come.
- The book of Judges gives us a picture of leaders who protected the people being attacked by an invading enemy. They exercised their power to establish the rights of the citizens of Israel.
- Ruth describes the earthly lineage of the messiah-king.
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings introduce Elijah and Elisha who demonstrated the power of the Kingdom of God.
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel is about the time when the people of Israel asked to be ruled by a king like the other nations. God wanted them to have him as their King, and to wait for the messiah-king, but they wouldn't.
- King David, who loved and pleased God gave us many illustrations of the Kingdom of God – e.g. The psalms which are all about Kingdom living.
- David was part of the lineage of the Messiah and he established a kingdom that would become the model for understanding the Kingdom of Heaven.
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles are historical records of the political and military activities of Israel and give us some insights into the Kingdom.
- The prophets, starting Ezra, presented the common theme: “Even though your kings and your countries are messed up, there is another King coming. He will set things right.”
- Nehemiah is a book about restoration and hope.
- Esther exercised her authority to preserve the seed of the messiah-king who was to come through the nation of Israel.
- Job teaches us that no matter what God the king does, he is always right. The Kingdom cannot be stopped by adverse conditions or by human stubbornness because the Kingdom of God is durable.

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1 – i.e. the Pentateuch

2 – Meaning “five books”

- Proverbs shows how Kingdom life is supposed to be.
- Ecclesiastes lampoons the way people live without God not knowing what they are missing out on.
- Song of Solomon, or the Song of Songs, highlights the intimate relationship Kingdom citizens have with their beloved king.
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi demonstrate the power of the messiah-king.
- Malachi ends with an announcement that there will be an Elijah-like prophet (i.e. John The Baptist<sup>3</sup>) before the appearance of the messiah-king.

*“Jesus came to earth to set the people of the Earth back on course by bringing in His Kingdom, to fulfill all of the predictions and the foreshadowings that had come since the time of Adam. The prophets had spoken about a coming King. All of the earlier earthly judges and kings had portrayed Him to some extent. Suddenly He was here, and He won back men and women everywhere, inviting them to become His brethren, citizens of the Kingdom in the fullest sense.*

*Far from being as limited in scope and power as a new religion, His mission was to restore the Heaven to Earth. He came to render the application of the Law and the Prophets, to bring divine wisdom where only knowledge and understanding had been before. Here, listed for you, is a list of what Jesus’ coming means for us. Jesus came to Earth:*

1. *To restore the government of God. "For unto us...a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder...Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice"<sup>4</sup>.*
2. *To bring back to Earth the laws of that government. Every country is built on laws. The Kingdom is built on God’s Law as given to Moses.*
3. *To bring the values of Heaven. Every colony reflects the values and culture of its parent government, and the Kingdom of God is no exception.*
4. *To bring the citizenship of Heaven. Once you get citizenship, you get all the others and once you get all the others, you have citizenship.*

*So when Jesus said to the people, ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of God has arrived’<sup>5</sup>, He was saying, ‘Change your thinking, because another country has come back to Earth. It used to be here when Adam was alive, but Adam got rid of it. The prophets have been telling you that I would be coming, and now I have come. The reason I came is to bring that country back. That country is called the Kingdom of Heaven’.”<sup>6</sup>*

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6-1-2019

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3 – Matthew 17:11-13

4 – Isaiah 9:6-7

5 – See Matthew 4:17

6 – Myles Munroe (2016) “The Principle and Power of Kingdom Citizenship” Destiny Image Pub. [Kindle] p:82-83