

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Series: the End Times – Bible prophecy about future events and periods

Teaching Summary for Week 30

The Kingdom and the Covenants

Part 6. The future Messianic Kingdom in Old Testament prophecy

Five major subjects in the future prophesied Kingdom

5. The **Temple**: Worship in the Millennial Kingdom
 - a. The **character** of the worship

Jer 33:9-11

' It will be to Me a name of joy, praise and glory before all the nations of the earth which will hear of all the good that I do for them, and they will fear and tremble because of all the good and all the peace that I make for it.'

10 "Thus says the Lord, 'Yet again there will be heard in this place, of which you say, "It is a waste, without man and without beast," that is, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast, 11 the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say,

*" Give thanks to the Lord of hosts,
For the Lord is good,
For His lovingkindness is everlasting";
and of those who bring a **thank offering** into the house of the Lord. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were at first,' says the Lord.*

Ezek 20:40-41

40 "For on My holy mountain, on the high mountain of Israel," declares the Lord God, "there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land; there I will accept them and there I will seek **your contributions and the choicest of your gifts**, with all your holy things. 41 " As a soothing aroma I will accept you when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered; and I will prove Myself holy among you in the sight of the nations.

- b. The Temple in Jerusalem will be the **world center of worship**. The entire world will unite in the worship of God and His Son the Messiah.

Isa 56:6-7

6 "Also the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
To minister to Him, and to love the name of the Lord,
To be His servants, every one who keeps from profaning the sabbath
And holds fast My covenant;

7 Even those **I will bring to My holy mountain**
And make them **joyful** in **My house of prayer**.

Their **burnt offerings** and **their sacrifices** will be **acceptable on My altar**;
For My house will be called **a house of prayer for all the peoples.**"

Isa 66:18-23

18 "For I know their works and their thoughts; the time is coming to gather **all nations and tongues**. And **they shall come and see My glory**. 19 "I will set a sign among them and will send survivors from them to the nations: Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have neither heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they will declare My glory among the nations. 20 "Then they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations **as a grain offering** to the Lord, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem," says the Lord, "just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. 21 "**I will also take some of them for priests and for Levites,**" says the Lord.

22 "For just as the new heavens and the new earth
Which I make will endure before Me," declares the Lord,
"So your offspring and your name will endure.
23 "And it shall be from new moon to new moon
And from sabbath to sabbath,
All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the Lord.

Mal 1:11

11 "For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among **the nations**, and in **every place incense** is going to be offered to My name, and **a grain offering** that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations," says the Lord of hosts.

- c. The **Levitical priests** will return as the ministers of the Lord. They will present offerings and prepare sacrifices to the Lord.

See Isa 66:20-21 above.

Jer 33:17-22

17 "For thus says the Lord, 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; 18 **and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to prepare sacrifices continually.**'"

19 The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, 20 "Thus says the Lord, 'If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time, 21 then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and **with the Levitical priests, My ministers.** 22 'As the host of heaven cannot be counted and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.'"

Ezek 44:9-17

*9 'Thus says the Lord God, " No foreigner uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, of all the foreigners who are among the sons of Israel, shall enter My sanctuary. 10 "But **the Levites** who went far from Me when Israel went astray, who went astray from Me after their idols, shall bear the punishment for their iniquity. 11 "Yet **they shall be ministers in My sanctuary**, having oversight at the gates of the house and ministering in the house; they shall slaughter the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister to them. 12 "Because they ministered to them before their idols and became a stumbling block of iniquity to the house of Israel, therefore I have sworn against them," declares the Lord God, "that they shall bear the punishment for their iniquity. 13 "And **they shall not come near to Me to serve as a priest to Me, nor come near to any of My holy things, to the things that are most holy**; but they will bear their shame and their abominations which they have committed. 14 "Yet I **will appoint them to keep charge of the house, of all its service and of all that shall be done in it.***

*15 "But **the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok**, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the sons of Israel went astray from Me, **shall come near to Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer Me the fat and the blood,**" declares the Lord God. 16 "**They shall enter My sanctuary; they shall come near to My table to minister to Me and keep My charge.** 1*

d. The Priest-King

The Old Testament prophets teach that in the future Kingdom, the Ruler will exercise the functions of **both King and Priest**.

All governmental and worship activities will be under the authority of one supreme head, the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Zech 6:11-15

*"Take silver and gold, make an ornate crown and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. 12 "Then say to him, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Behold, a man whose name is **Branch**, for He will branch out from where He is; and **He will build the temple of the Lord**. 13 "Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the Lord, and **He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne**. Thus, He will be **a priest on His throne**, and the counsel of peace will be between **the two offices**.'"*

14 "Now the crown will become a reminder in the temple of the Lord to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah and Hen the son of Zephaniah. 15 " Those who are far off will come and build the temple of the Lord." Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. And it will take place if you completely obey the Lord your God.

Ps 110:4-5

4 The Lord[Yahweh] has sworn and will not change His mind,

*"You are **a priest forever***

According to the order of Melchizedek."

5 The Lord [Adonai] is at Your right hand;

***He will shatter kings** in the day of His wrath.*

Today, the Messiah sits at the right hand of God on the Father's throne.

In the coming Kingdom, the Lord Jesus Christ will sit as King and Priest on His own throne.

- e. **Building the Millennial Temple** (not to be confused with the Tribulation temple)
 - i. **The Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah**, will build the Millennial Temple.

1 Chron 17:10-15

Moreover, I tell you that the Lord will build a house for you. 11 "When your days are fulfilled that you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up **one of your descendants** after you, **who will be of your sons**; and I will establish his kingdom. 12 "**He shall build for Me a house**, and I will establish **his** throne forever. 13 " I will be **his father** and he shall be **My son**; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. 14 "But I will settle **him** in My house and in My kingdom forever, and **his throne** shall be established forever.""
15 According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

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As we learned previously, the Davidic Covenant includes both a near and far fulfillment. The near fulfillment is now a historical fact: David's son Solomon ruled on David's throne, and built the Temple for the Lord.

1 Chron 17:10-15 is a parallel passage to 2 Sam 7:12-17.

As we shall see, 2 Sam 7:12-17 focuses on Solomon.

1 Chron 17:10-15 focuses on the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ.

This becomes clear when we consider the differences between the passages.

2 Sam 7:12-17

12 " When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up **your descendant** after you, who will **come forth from you**, 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 **a father** to him and he will be **a son** to Me; **when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men**, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 " **Your** house and **your** kingdom shall endure before Me forever; **your** throne shall be established forever.""
17 In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

1 Chron 17:12 says that He shall build for Me (the Lord) a house. But **who is “He”**? There are two options: Solomon, or the Messiah.

First of all, in 2 Sam 7:12, the Lord says He will raise up your (David’s) descendent after David who will come forth from David.

But 1 Chron 17:11, the descendant in view will be of David’s sons. In other words, this descendent will proceed out of one of David’s sons. So this descendent cannot be Solomon.

1 Chron 17:12, the Lord will establish **His** throne forever. This throne is associated with his **descendant**. This is the Messiah’s throne which will be His forever.

What 2 Sam 7 says is different. Here the Lord will establish the throne **of his kingdom** forever. Here the throne is associated with the kingdom, not the descendant.

1 Chron 17:13 the Lord says that He will be His father, and He shall be My Son. This refers to the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the other hand, 2 Sam 7:14 says that the Lord will be a father to him and he will be a son to me. This is not the exclusive relationship described in 1 Chron 17:13.

The clincher here is found in the second part of 2 Sam 7:14. Significantly, this statement is not found in 1 Chron 7.

When this son – when, not if – when this son commits iniquity... stop right there. Our Lord Jesus Christ never committed iniquity, but of course Solomon did.

Finally, 1 Chron 17:14 states that the Lord will settle **this descendant** in the house of the Lord and His kingdom forever. His throne will be established forever.

However, 1 Sam 7:16 says that **David's** house and David's kingdom will endure forever, and David's throne will be established forever. This refers to the dynasty of David, not David himself. It will be fulfilled by the Messiah our Lord Jesus Christ when He returns to build the Millennial temple and establish His kingdom in Jerusalem.

Therefore, the "He" in 1 Chron 17:12 can be none other than our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will build the Millennial Temple. This means that He will ordain the work and oversee the construction.

The prophets also identify who will be providing the labor to do the construction.

We are going to go to Zechariah next, but to set this up, we first need to see a passage in Jeremiah:

Jer 23:5-6

5 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord,

*"When I will raise up for David **a righteous Branch**;*

*And He will **reign as king** and act wisely*

And do justice and righteousness in the land.

6 "In His days Judah will be saved,

And Israel will dwell securely;

*And this is **His name** by which He will be called,*

'The Lord our righteousness.'

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This passage in Jeremiah reveals the identity of the Branch: the descendent of David who will reign as king. He will be called the Lord. So **the Branch is our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Zech 6:11-15

*11 "Take silver and gold, make an ornate crown and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. 12 "Then say to him, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Behold, **a man whose name is Branch**, for He will branch out from where He is; and **He will build the temple of the Lord.***

The man whose name is Branch is our Lord Jesus Christ. He will build the temple of the Lord.

*13 "Yes, it is **He who will build the temple of the Lord**, and **He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne.** Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.'" 14 "Now the crown will become a reminder in the temple of the Lord to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah and Hen the son of Zephaniah. 15 " **Those who are far off will come and build the temple of the Lord.**" Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. And it will take place if you completely obey the Lord your God.*

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This passage in Zechariah confirms that the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, will build the Millennial temple. He will sit and rule on His throne, and He will also hold the office of priest. He will be the priest- king.

And men who were far off will come and build this temple of the Lord.

These will be **men from the Gentile nations** who will travel from their lands far away to come and build (provide the labor to construct) the temple of the Lord.

This is confirmed by Isaiah:

Isa 60:10-13

10 " **Foreigners will build up your walls,**
And **their kings** will minister to you;
For in My wrath I struck you,
And in My favor I have had compassion on you.

11 "Your gates will be open continually;
They will not be closed day or night,
So that **men may bring to you the wealth of the nations,**
With **their kings** led in procession.

12 "For the nation and the kingdom which will not serve you will perish,
And the nations will be utterly ruined.

13 "The **glory of Lebanon** will come to you,
The **juniper, the box tree and the cypress** together,
To beautify the place of My sanctuary;
And I shall make **the place of My feet** glorious.

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Isaiah prophesies that the Gentile kings will provide the labor and materials to construct the Millennial Temple and the city of Jerusalem.

By the way, that expression "the place of My feet" refers to the Temple:

Ezek 43:4-7

And the glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate facing toward the east. 5 And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into **the inner court;** and behold, **the glory of the Lord filled the house.**

6 Then I heard one speaking to me from the house, while a man was standing beside me. 7 He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and **the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever.**

ii. The **Tribulation temple** is not the same as the Millennial Temple