

23rd of April 2017

## God's chosen people – Pt 6 Their kings.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. God promised David and Solomon – a man will rule upon the throne of Israel.

“Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel” (1Kg.9: 5).

See also 2Chr.6: 16.

God's chosen people rejected the Lord from reigning over them and demanded a king to rule over them like unto the nations (1Sam.8: 5–7). God appointed Saul, and then after him David, a man after His own heart (1Sam.13: 14), and then Solomon his son. But Solomon's heart was turned by his wives, and the kingdom rent in two, and subsequently there were two kings reigning, one over Judah (“for David my servant's sake” – 1Kgs.11: 13), and the other over Israel.

2. It is prophesied that the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king.

“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” (Hos.3: 4).

We now read a prophecy that foretells how the children of Israel “shall abide many days without a king...and without a sacrifice”. Has God's promise to David and Solomon failed? NO, because it was given with the word “IF”. Turn back to 1Kgs.9: 5 and look at the previous verse “If thou wilt walk before me...in integrity and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded”. God knew that the kings would disobey His word, and His people would turn away from Him.

3. Jesus came to reign.

“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David” (Lk.1: 32). C.f. “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory” (Matt.25: 31 & 24: 30).

From Zedekiah who reigned over Judah, and Hoshea who reigned over Israel until the time God sent His Son, there was no king in Israel. And when the Lord Jesus came to reign on “the throne of his father David” the elders of Israel said, “We have no king but Caesar” (Jn.19: 15) and they crucified Him and so rejected God reigning over them, as did their fathers.

Additional comments on our three points.

As a consequence of their sin Israel were first removed from off their land, and taken into captivity, and then they no longer had a king reigning over them.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

On the 14th of May 1948 the state of Israel was established and since then Jews have been gradually returning to their land. But today Israel are still without a king, and without a sacrifice.

Question to think about.

Why is there is no king in Israel at present yet the people are returning to their land?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Today we live in the age known as the “times of the Gentiles”, a period that was previously a mystery – when Jew and Gentile shall be “fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ” (Eph.3: 6), and Israel as a nation has been put aside – “until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in” (Rom.11: 25). Therefore, even though the people are returning to the land, there is no temple, no sacrifice, and the remnant is one body that believes that Jesus Christ is Messiah, and He died for their sins, was buried, and rose from the dead according to the scriptures (1Cor.15: 1–4). Today, Israel's king is the risen Lord Jesus, who, after this age and the tribulation age, will return to earth to rule from the throne of His father David in Jerusalem. Amen!