

THE PROGRESS OF REDEMPTION

Lesson 9 – Final Step (11) in the Making of the Nation (Act 1)

The Progress of Redemption - Dave Sturkey

Intro: God breaks into human history in 1 Samuel 16 and provides the final step in his plan of “making from Abraham a great nation” by providing a THEOCRACY.

Step 11 - The Great Theocracy (1 Samuel 16 - 2 Kings 10)

David’s Call

The most famous story of David is the story of DAVID AND GOLIATH in 1 Samuel 17. Let’s turn there and learn some important concepts.

Let me begin by asking, “What is the story of David and Goliath really about?” And let me warn you, before you answer, that this is a very difficult question.

We always put ourselves in the character of DAVID in this story.

Let’s look at what happened.

- 1 Samuel 17:1-11 = The Introduction of Goliath and Saul’s Reaction
- 1 Samuel 17:12-30 = The Introduction of David and His Reaction
- 1 Samuel 17:31-39 = The Interaction between Saul and David
- 1 Samuel 17:40-54 = The Deliverance of David (from Goliath and for the People of Israel)
- 1 Samuel 17:55-58 = The Rise of David in Saul’s House

The story is deeper than this. Think with me. WHO IS DAVID IN 1 SAMUEL 17?

The Background to the Story – David’s Identification (1 Samuel 16)

- 1 Sam. 16:1 = God’s Call of Samuel
- 1 Sam. 16:5-7 = Samuel sees Jesse’s son Eliab’s “appearance and height of his stature”, but the Lord looks at the heart.
- 1 Samuel 16:10 = The rejection of the 7 sons of Jesse
- 1 Samuel 16:11-14 = The Spirit comes upon David to empower him for KINGSHIP

This means that the story of David and Goliath is NOT about how a little guy can beat up a big guy, or how a man of faith can conquer his problems and trials, but instead, this is a story of how God’s _____ defeats the _____ of God’s People.

Whenever we come to Scripture, we should learn this.

- _____ are not the heroes of the Scripture stories.
- _____ is the main content of the Bible. He is the hero of the stories.
- In the story of David and Goliath, WE are represented by the people of God who are afraid and unable to defeat Goliath. Jesus is represented by the chosen King of God who defeats the enemies of God's people.

The problem in the book of 1 Samuel is that the MONARCHY still existed under Saul and it took time for God's choice for a THEOCRACY to come to power.

H2. David was a fugitive in the wilderness for many years as Saul sought his life, what do we learn about David's heart from 1 Samuel 24:1-7?

We learn very clearly that David here is a theocratic leader.

H3. Saul dies in 1 Samuel 31:1-9, and the throne was finally empty.

What does 2 Samuel 2:1 show us about David's attitude towards the Kingship? Why does he ask God IF he should go up and WHERE he should go up?

H4. Read the Davidic Covenant in 2 Samuel 7:4-17 and compare and contrast it to the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 12:1-3.

Abrahamic Covenant 1 - "I will make you a great nation." 2 - "I will bless you" 3 - "I will make your name great" 4 - "I will make you into a blessing" 5 - "I will bless the ones who bless you, and curse those that curse you." 6 - "I will bless all the families of the earth through you".

Davidic Covenant 1. You shall be ruler over my people Israel. 2. I will make you a great name. 3. I will make a place for Israel and plant them. 4. I will give rest to Israel (no war). 5. When you die, I will raise up your son after you, and he will reign. 6. Your son will build me a house (temple), and his kingdom will last forever. 7. When he sins, I will correct him. 8. David, your throne and your kingdom will endure forever.

A son of David will have an eternal kingdom that will endure forever.

THE THEOCRACY MUST BE SEEN IN TWO PICTURES, IN DAVID AND IN SOLOMON. WHAT DOES A THEOCRACY LOOK LIKE?

THE LIFE OF DAVID

2 Samuel 5:10 ¹⁰ And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

A. DAVID'S REIGN WAS CHARACTERIZED BY GREATNESS AND THE LORD'S PRESENCE.

The Philistines attack David, and we see David's response in 2Sam 5:19

2 Samuel 5:19 ¹⁹ And David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?" And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand."

B. DAVID'S REIGN WAS CHARACTERIZED BY A THEOCRATIC UNDERSTANDING AND WISDOM.

2 Samuel 8:6 ⁶ Then David put garrisons in Aram of Damascus, and the Syrians became servants to David and brought tribute. And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went.

2 Samuel 8:14 ¹⁴ Then he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went.

C. David's reign was characterized by MILITARY VICTORY EVERYWHERE HE WENT.

2 Samuel 8:15 ¹⁵ So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people.

D. David's reign was characterized by JUSTICE.

But that is only part of the GREATNESS OF THE NATION THAT GOD HAS BUILT.

THE LIFE OF SOLOMON:

H5. What does 1 Kings 3:3-15 tell us about Solomon?

:3 - Solomon loves God and will later compromise by worshiping other gods.

:7 - Solomon realizes that he is not able to lead the people of God.

:8 - Solomon sees the greatness of the kingdom that God has built.

:9 - Solomon does not ask for riches, but for wisdom from God so that he may lead the people. (illustration of the wisdom, is the splitting of the baby).

READ 1 Kings 3:28 *"and all Israel saw ... that the wisdom of God was in him."*

A. SOLOMON'S REIGN WAS CHARACTERIZED BY GREAT WISDOM, THE GREATEST EVER ON PLANET EARTH.

Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs - a portable expression of wisdom.

Read 1 Kings 4:29,30

B. SOLOMON SPOKE AND STUDIED AND UNDERSTOOD AND HAD MORE KNOWLEDGE THAN ANY MEN.

- Solomon was an expert in Botany, Zoology, Ornithology (birds), Entomology (insects), and Ichthyology (fishes).
- Solomon also wrote over 5,000 songs, the average hymn book has about 500.

Read 1 Kings 5:4 - see also 1 Kings 4:25.

C. SOLOMON'S REIGN CHARACTERIZED BY PEACE.

H6. Read 1 Kings 10:21, 27, what does this tell you about the Kingdom?

D. Solomon's reign characterized by RICHES.

For something to be valuable, it must be rare. Silver was worthless in those days and gold not very valuable. THE RICHES ARE UNBELIEVABLE.

Read 1 Kings 10:24

E. SOLOMON'S REIGN CHARACTERIZED BY WHOLE EARTH COMING TO HIM.

H7. Read 1 Kings 8:1-11 and 1 Kings 9:3, what does this tell you about the Kingdom? How does this relate to God's great goal on the earth?

F. Solomon's reign characterized by THE GLORY OF GOD.

WAS THIS A GREAT NATION!!!! YES IN EVERY WAY. BUT WHY DID GOD WANT TO HAVE A GREAT NATION ON THE EARTH. YOU MUST REMEMBER, "SO THAT ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH MAY BE BLESSED" FROM ABRAHAMIC COVENANT.

THERE IS NOW A PLACE, A STRONGHOLD ON EARTH, WHERE GOD'S GLORY CAN BE FOUND. GOD IS A BEGINNING TO "FILL THE EARTH" WITH HIS GLORY.

But there is even more ...

H8. What is the significance of the temple? Let's look at Solomon's dedication prayer. Read 1 Kings 8:14-53. - Lord, when we want to pray, let us turn toward this temple.

- Lord, when we need your judgments, let us turn toward this temple. - Lord, when the enemy prevails, let us repent, let us turn toward this temple for forgiveness and restoration. - Lord, when there is drought because of sin, let us turn toward this temple for forgiveness. - Lord, when a stranger wants to know thee, let him turn towards this temple.

THE TEMPLE IS THE ONLY PLACE ON EARTH WHERE MEN MAY FIND GOD.

H9. If a Gentile wanted to be saved during these ancient times, what must he do?

He had to become a Jew, and offer sacrifice at the Temple. **THE TEMPLE WAS THE ONLY PLACE ON EARTH WHERE MEN COULD BE SAVED. THE ONLY PLACE ON EARTH WHERE MEN COULD MEET GOD. THE TEMPLE = THE ONLY PLACE ON EARTH WHERE MEN COULD FIND FORGIVENESS FOR SINS (SALVATION FOUND ONLY HERE).**

Is this a great nation? Do you see why scene one was necessary for providing salvation? There is now a place on earth where God may be found and where men can live under God's rule and command. But God doesn't want to only fill a nation with his glory, he wants to fill the earth with his glory. God started with a nation, because he wants to reach all the nations of the earth.

WHAT DO THESE FACTS TELL YOU ABOUT HOW GOD IS WORKING NOW?

- FILL A NATION WITH HIS GLORY TOOK **2,000 YEARS**.
- GOD **NEVER FALTERED**, BUT ALWAYS ADVANCED HIS PLAN, EVEN WHEN IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE.
- GOD **USED MEN** TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PLAN.
- THE ONLY THING THAT **EVEN SEEMED TO SLOW GOD DOWN WAS THE REBELLION OF HIS OWN PEOPLE**.
- BEING WITH GOD THEN WAS THE GREATEST THING TO EVER HAPPEN ON THE EARTH.

There was a nation glorifying God upon the Earth and a place where all men could come to know and glorify God. **BUT GOD'S GLORY IS NOT YET FILLING THE EARTH. IT IS PRESENT, BUT IT IS NOT FILLING THE EARTH.**

1. Solomon, the Theocratic King, disobeys God and breaks a sacred Covenant. What did he do? Compare Deut. 17:17,18 with 1 Kings 11:1- 8.

2. Scene 1 of Act 1 is now complete. God has built a great nation that has His Glory FILLING it. Only God could build such a nation. And now God begins one of the most confusing parts of all Scripture. He begins Scene 2 of Act 1, He now begins to _____ this nation. Read 1 Kings 11: 11 - 13.

3. Israel is split into TWO SEPARATE NATIONS. 10 TRIBES together are now known as "Israel" and 2 TRIBES are together and are known as "Judah". God predicts the future of the new nation of Israel in 1 Kings 14:15. What does God plan to do with Israel? What does God plan to do with Judah according to 2 Kings 21:10-15? What does he mean by saying "I will wipe them as a dish"?

4. Think for a while about God scattering this great nation over all the Earth and allowing his glorious temple to be inhabited by other unholy and wicked nations and you will understand why this is so confusing a time. If God always PROGRESSES towards His Great Goal, how can scattering his beloved nation be thought of as PROGRESS????

5. What do the prophets warn and tell Israel about? Obadiah 1:1-4 Habakkuk 3:16 Amos 2:4,5 Hosea 9:1,3,7

6. Read Psalm 137, this Psalm was written about Israel after their destruction as they cried in Babylon. What do you learn about Israel from this passage?

7. God, because Israel repented, promised to do something. What did he promise? Hosea 14:1-4 Joel 2:25-27. Amos 9:11

8. The _____ is rebuilt in the book of Ezra. The _____ is rebuilt in the book of Nehemiah.