

Luke 2:1-7
A Tale of Two Kingdoms

1. The Great Caesar

- A. Augustus- Son of a god.
- B. Expanded Roman Control
- C. Organized a “new” Rome

”As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” -Genesis 50:20 ESV

- D. Senate Made Him a god after His Death

2. The City of David

- A. O Little Town of Bethlehem

“The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.” Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.” And

he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.”
1 Samuel 16:1-5, 7, 10-13 ESV

- B. A Covenant with David

”When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”” -2 Samuel 7:12-16 ESV

- C. The Promise Did not age well

3. The Promise of One Greater on David’s Throne

- A. Jesus, Lord at Thy Birth

”And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.””
Luke 1:31-33 ESV

- B. Son of David

”One of the most important titles of Jesus in the New Testament is “Son of David.” Jesus Christ is great David’s greater Son.... Today, we can praise Him and proclaim Him King. We can declare that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:10–11)!”

Timothy C. Tennent, *The Fulfillment*

C. Where are you kneeling this Christmas?

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." -Philippians 2:9-11 ESV

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: 1 Samuel 16:1-13. What was the LORD asking Samuel to do? What was his fear and how did the process proceed? What was the particular instruction God gave in the qualifications Samuel was to consider?

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 7:1-16. What did David want to do and what did the prophet Nathan instruct him to do? What was the substance of the promise God made to David?

Wednesday: Luke 1:31-33. Who is interacting with Mary in this text? What is the promise in these verses?

Thursday: Psalm 110. In the first verse who is the LORD speaking to? What other positions does this king occupy according to verse 4? The New Testament writers and early church leaders saw this Psalm as a direct reference to Jesus. What ways can you see this to be consistent with what you have learned about Jesus?

Friday: Philippians 2:9-11. Who will bow before Jesus eventually? Why is that important?

Saturday: We are encouraging everyone to read through the Bible in 2024! Pick up a paper copy of a reading plan at the church building on the table outside the office door or start a plan on your phone or tablet. Download the Gideon Bible App, YouVersion Bible App, or the Biblegateway App for a guided Bible plan to read through the Bible in 2024.