

Sermon Brief, Important Cross References and Quotes, Helpful Links, Discussion Questions

May 30, 2021

Was it Not Necessary? How the Old Testament Prepares us for Jesus #5

“Eschatology”

Isaiah 2:1-4, 11:1-10, 65:17-25

Sermon Brief:

1. In a few weeks we are going to be looking at Jesus in the gospel of Luke.
2. But, to understand the specifics of what Luke has to say about Jesus, you have to understand the context given in the Old Testament.
3. For example, Luke writes his gospel to deal with a question people were asking about Jesus: How could someone who died on the cross be the one who God was sending to establish His kingdom?
4. The reason that question was so pressing has to do with the story of Israel that's told in the Old Testament.
5. The Old Testament tells the story of Israel in Genesis through Kings.
6. The book of Kings ends with Israel kicked out of the promised land.
7. Now, if you are familiar with the story of the Bible this is a very big deal and should cause you to ask all kinds of questions.
8. This is why we have the prophets. The prophets are not so much adding to the story as they are explaining the story.
9. One of the things they explain is why Israel got kicked out. The other thing the prophets explain is that Israel's judgment doesn't mean God's plan is over. The opposite. The reality is going to be even bigger and better and more glorious than Israel could have anticipated.
10. This is the fifth word you need to understand if you are going to understand the story of the Old Testament. First kingdom, second covenant, third Israel, fourth David and now fifth, **eschatology**. And the word itself doesn't matter as much as the idea. The prophets fully expected God to end things by fulfilling His promises to Israel and through Israel to the world.
11. And I'll try to summarize that hope by looking at one prophet in particular and quickly highlighting four key end times promises he makes. I thought I would take Isaiah because he kind of gives us the whole Old Testament in a book. So here's a little Old Testament eschatology, to help you understand what the prophets were telling people to expect. They would be judged, sent into exile, and after exile big things were coming. Specifically...
 - a. **Temple:** Isaiah 2:1-4
 - b. **Throne:** Isaiah 11:1-10
 - c. **Turf:** Isaiah 65:17-25
 - d. **Transformation:** Isaiah 1:21-23/Isaiah 66:10-14, Isaiah 6-Isaiah 12
12. Just as the prophets said, the people were allowed to return to Jerusalem and Judah after a period of exile. But when they returned to the land, they didn't see the fulfillment of all these promises immediately the way they might have hoped. And so, they still felt like they were in exile and in Jesus' day were hoping and longing that God would send the Messiah who would rescue them and establish God's kingdom.

13. How? By overthrowing Rome. They were looking for this great warrior who would enable them to establish the kingdom which is why they were having such a hard time understanding Jesus. Because on the one hand he had all the signs of being the great Davidic king. But on the other, where was his army?
14. One reason why the gospel of Luke was written was to help us understand Jesus' death is not a step backwards in God's kingdom plan. It is a step forward. It's not because His mission failed that He didn't overthrow Rome. It's actually a key step in how He's accomplishing that mission.
15. They were hoping that God would send a rescuer to deliver them. The problem was that they didn't understand the full extent of what they needed to be delivered from. They were thinking the real problem was Rome, when the real problem was much worse. Before Jesus could establish God's kingdom on earth and deal with our external problems, He had to come and deal with the fundamental problem. Sin.

Important Cross References and Quotes:

1. Luke 17:20,21
2. Luke 21:7
3. Exodus 40:34-38; 1 Kings 8:10-11; Ezekiel 10:18-19
4. Deuteronomy 30:1-6
5. Isaiah 1:2-6
6. "God plans to restore His creation that was marred at the fall. And God's plans are holistic. He will restore all things material and immaterial. This includes individuals, the nation Israel, and the nations of the world. The kingdom plan will be carried out through the eternal and unconditional covenants - Noahic, Abrahamic, Davidic and New. The Mosaic covenant was a temporary and unconditional covenant that Israel failed. Because Israel did not keep the Mosaic covenant, God's kingdom did not come in its fullness and there is a need for the superior New Covenant, which will enable Israel and others to obey the Lord. There is a Coming Day of the Lord when the nations of the earth will be judged and Israel will be saved. Kingdom conditions will follow when the ultimate Davidic ruler will reign from Jerusalem over a restored Israel and the nations of the earth will be blessed."
7. Isaiah 6:1-7
8. Isaiah 12
9. Jeremiah 31:31-34

Links: This is a little deep, but if you want to study further regarding the promises to Israel in the Old Testament, here are some places to start.

1. [An Assessment of Replacement Theology](#) by Walt Kaiser (You will have to scroll down to page 41 to 51)
2. [Has the Church Replaced Israel?, A Case for the Restoration of National Israel, Is Revelation 20 the only text for Premillennialism](#) by Michael Vlach
3. [Abraham as Heir of the World](#)

Discussion Questions: I am going to keep it simple this week. I've tried to give you enough in the sermon brief, the cross-references, the PDF, and the links to help you go deeper if you want. But for a starter, here you go:

1. What stood out to you from the message this Sunday?
2. Why is understanding the Old Testament so important for understanding the gospels? Can you think of one illustration of that?
3. What were some of the expectations the people in Jesus' day had about the kingdom of God?
4. Why did they have those expectations?
5. What is exile and how is it an important theme in the Old Testament?
6. What role did the writing prophets play in the Old Testament?
7. What two main things did those prophets say about the exile?
8. What were the four big promises we saw illustrated in Isaiah? Can you think of any other passages that refer to those promises?
9. Why was it confusing for the Israelites after they returned from exile?
10. What can you learn from Mary, Zechariah, Simeon and Anna at the beginning of Luke about what godly Jewish people were expecting the Messiah to do?
11. What were the Pharisees and others missing when it came to understanding what the Messiah needed to do to be able to establish the kingdom of God?
12. How does understanding all this help you better understand the Bible, appreciate Jesus, and love the gospel?