

Your Kingdom Come! - 14

We have seen that the expectation of the apostles, with the devout among the Jews, was for the restoration of the Kingdom of God, whose king will be the “anointed” - Messiah or Christ, the promised descendant of David.

The source in common to both groups are the Scriptures of the Old Testament, which Jesus both endorsed and amplified. Of these Jesus declared, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” - Matthew 5:17. What do the prophets say about him?

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel” - Micah 5:2. Although he was called Jesus of Nazareth because he grew up there, we know where he was actually born. Here then is prophetic assurance that he was the future “ruler in Israel.”

Jeremiah the prophet reveals some core facts about his reign in 23:5 “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely...”

How could any devout Jew, living as he was at that time under the Roman boot, not be animated in his national hope for better days to come that are promised here? It was Jesus who afterwards declared, “I, Jesus,...am the Root and the Offspring of David ...” - Revelation 22:16. The opening verse of the New Testament shows that as the branch grows from the tree, so was born the promised descendant of David - “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham...” - Matthew 1:1. This promise of the righteous ruler is not an isolated Old Testament prophecy -

- “In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth...David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel” - Jeremiah 33:15.
- “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this” - Isaiah 9:6 .
- “...Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out,... and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both” - Zechariah 6:12.
- “He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” - Isaiah 2:4.
- “The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name” - Zechariah 14:9.