

Hymns: 91 Crown Him with Many Crowns 56 Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Scripture: Psalm 47:1-7; 137:1-4

Big Idea: Only one King matters,  
The arm of flesh will fail you.

Genesis 1

[27] *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

[28] *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over **every living thing** that moveth upon the earth.*

“Wait a minute!” you say. We started this study of dispensations nearly two years ago! We’ve endured 15 sermons covering Innocence, Conscience, Human Government, Promise, and Law working our way from Genesis through Judges only to arrive back in Genesis chapter one? “Will this never end? What’s going on?”

Keep in mind, just as these sermons start with a theme and usually return to the start at the finish (technically called bookending), so the Bible, in my opinion, traverses a huge circle. As we travel this road together, no doubt you will see it too. God is a Master of order. It’s all around us. So it is with His Word and His plan.

Fear not! We just stopped by Genesis to pick up *one word*. That word is *dominion*. Man and woman were created with *dominion* – a kingship of sorts – over **all** the earth. When Adam sinned, he forfeited that dominion to Satan now (Luke 4:6-7) *the god of this world* (II Corinthians 4:4).

A key word to follow in the Old Testament is *Messiah* (mä·shē'·akh) which means *anointed one* or simply *king*. Today we’re going to look at **kings**. Here’s a list from everyday life. See if you can guess who or what they are:

of the Apes	King Kong
of Rock ‘n Roll	Elvis Presley
of Late Night Comedy	Johnny Carson
of the world	Cassius Clay
of fast food burgers	Burger King

Last time, we saw how God gave the Israelites *judges* (or more correctly governors) in an act of **mercy** to give them victory over oppressors who rose up in their land. The most **famous** of these *judges* was Samson. In the end, he demonstrated **great faith** and defeated many of the enemy in his death. The Book of Judges ends with a **very telling statement**:

[25] *In those days there was **no king** in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes. (Judges 21:25)*

The Israelites looked around and saw all of the other nations. They were ruled by *kings*. They concluded that their troubles stemmed from their form of government. If they only had a **king**, then life

would be better and their nation would prosper.

I Samuel 8

[4] *Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel ...,*

Note Samuel was the man of God – the one who delivered the word of the Lord to the people.

[5] *And said unto him, **Behold,***

*thou art old,*

Don't you just love that? Wouldn't you enjoy having someone walk up to you and say "Behold, thou art old",

*and thy sons walk **not** in thy ways:*

*now make us **a king** to judge us like **all** the nations.*

[6] *But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us **a king** to judge us.*

Note it doesn't say Samuel was displeased by being called an old man.

*And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.*

[7] *And the LORD said unto Samuel,*

*Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee:*

[why?]

*for they have **not** rejected thee,*

*but they have rejected **me**,*

*that I should not **reign** over them.*

[8]

*According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith*

*they have forsaken me,*

*and served other gods,*

*so they [do] **also** unto **thee**.*

[9]

*Now therefore hearken unto their voice:*

*howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them,*

*and sh[o]w them the manner of the **king** that shall reign over them.*

[10] *And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked [] him [for] **a king**.*

Samuel proceeded to tell the Israelites what an earthly king does:

1. **Takes** their sons to serve him and fight his wars.
2. **Takes** their daughters to serve him as maids and cooks.
3. **Takes** their prime property and possessions for his enjoyment.

4. **Takes** 10% of their earnings as a tax.

*[18] And ye shall **cry out** in that day because **of** your **king** which ye shall have chosen...;  
and the LORD will **not** hear you in that day.*

*[19] Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said,  
Nay; but we will have **a king** over us;*

*[why?]*

*[20]*

*That we also may be like all the nations;  
and that our **king** may [govern] us,  
and go out before us,  
and fight our battles.*

Samuel repeated these words to the LORD.

*[22] And the LORD said to Samuel, Harken unto their voice, and make them **a king**.*

#### I Samuel 9

*[1] Now there was a man of Benjamin [that's the tribe of Benjamin], whose name was Kish, ...,  
a mighty man of power.*

*[2] And he had a son, whose name was Saul,*

*a choice young man,  
and a goodly [nice, appealing]:  
and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he:  
from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.*

Literally, he was someone they all could look up to.

*[15] Now the LORD [] told Samuel ...,*

*[16] To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou  
shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the  
hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.*

#### I Samuel 10

So Samuel obeyed the Lord and privately anointed the head of Saul with oil to formally designate him **king**. Then Samuel said to the Israelites:

*[19] And ye have this day **rejected your God**, who himself **saved** you [from] **all***

*your adversities and  
your tribulations;*

*and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set **a king** over us. Now therefore present yourselves before  
the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.*

Then he used a dramatic selection process to present the **king** to an assembly of all of the Israelites by first picking the tribe, then the clan, then the family, and finally the individual.

*[24] And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.*

Things went well for a while. Saul defeated the enemies plaguing Israel. Then he chose to disobey the LORD:

I Samuel 15

*[1] ... [Samuel] said unto Saul, ... hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.*

*[3] ... go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.*

Saul defeated Amalek, but failed to utterly destroy them.

*[9] But Saul and the people spared*

*Agag [the defeated king],  
and the best of the sheep,  
and of the oxen,  
and of the fatlings,  
and the lambs,  
and all that was good,*

*and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.*

Do you see what was happening here? They couldn't bring themselves to give up the booty – the good stuff, the spoils of war.

*[10] Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,*

*[11] It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king:*

*[why?]*

*for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.*

*And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.*

*[12] And ... Samuel rose early [in the morning,] to meet Saul [...]*

*[13] And Samuel came to Saul:*

*and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD:*

*I have performed the commandment of the LORD.*

[14] *And Samuel said, What meaneth then this  
**bleating** of the sheep in mine ears, and the  
**lowing** of the oxen which I hear?*

Samuel exposed Saul's lie and disobedience and then declared God's judgment.

[23] ... *Because thou hast  
**rejected** the word of the LORD, he hath also  
**rejected thee** from being **king**.*

Despite Saul's struggles to thwart God's will, he was **finished** and **David** was God's chosen man.

### Kings of Israel

In order to be a *king*, you must have a *kingdom*. The twelve tribes of Israel were united under its first three **kings**:

Saul  
David  
Solomon

#### I Kings 15

[5] ... *David did that which was **right** in the eyes of the LORD, and turned **not** aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.*

#### I Kings 11

[1] *But **king** Solomon loved many strange women, ...*

[3] *And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: ...*

[4] ... *[W]hen Solomon was old, ... his wives turned away his heart after other gods: ...*

[6] *And **Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD**, and went not fully after the LORD, as [] his father [David][did].*

So, **of** the three kings of the unified kingdom, only David, despite his sin, can be called a *good king*. After Solomon's death, God divided the **kingdom** into northern and southern parts as a judgment.

Israel the ten northern tribes under Solomon's son Jeroboam  
Judah (tribes of Benjamin, Judah, and later all of the Levites [II Chronicles 11:13-14]) under Rehoboam

Who was the most **famous** Bible character from the tribe of Benjamin?

Interestingly **Saul** of Tarsus -- renamed to Paul the apostle.

Who was the most famous Bible character from the tribe of Judah?

Jesus

As we study the Bible looking for good and bad kings, a couple of phrases pop out. We've already heard them:

1. *He did (that which was) **evil** in the sight of the LORD.*
2. *He did that which was **right** in the sight of the LORD.*

Bad kings contributed to or permitted idol worship and turned from the LORD.

Good kings destroyed idols and places of idol worship and restored worship of the LORD.

If you are ever given a test that asks you to name the good **kings** of the northern kingdom, the answer is easy. There were **none!**

The southern kingdom had both good and bad **kings**, but they were mostly bad also. Here's a list of the eight good ones:

1. Asa (I Kings 15:12,14)
2. Jehoshaphat (II Chronicles 17:3-6)
3. Joash (II Chronicles 24:2)
4. Amaziah (II Chronicles 26:4)
5. Uzziah (II Chronicles 26:4)
6. Jotham (II Kings 15:34; II Chronicles 27:2)
7. Hezekiah (II Kings 18:6-7; II Chronicles 31:20)
8. Josiah (II Kings 22:2)

II Chronicles 36

*[16] But they [the Israelites]  
mocked the messengers of God,  
and despised his words,  
and misused his prophets,*

*until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.*

*[17] Therefore he brought upon them the **king** of the Chaldees [Nebuchadnezzar], who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man,....*

*[18]*

*And all the treasures of the house of the LORD,  
and the treasures of the **king**,  
and of his princes;  
all these he brought to Babylon.*

*[19] And they*

*burnt the house of God,  
and broke down the wall of Jerusalem,  
and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire,*

*and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.*

*[20] And the[y] that [] escaped [] the sword [he] carried [] away to Babylon; where they were **servants** to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:*

*[21] To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, **until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths**: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.*

That's the 70-year captivity in Babylon.

They were supposed to not plant or harvest the land every seventh year. For 420 years, they ignored that law. God extracted the missed sabbath rests for the land with the Babylonian captivity.

*[22] Now **in** the first year of Cyrus **king** of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by [] Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus,*

*[to] ma[k]e a proclamation throughout all his **kingdom**, ..., saying,*

*[23] Thus saith Cyrus **king** of Persia,*

*All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me;*

Now there's a **real** king of the world.

*and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, ....*

*Who is there among you of all his people?*

*The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.*

So a remnant of Israelites returned to the land and rebuilt the temple – completing it twenty years later. Ezra restored worship. Esther saved the Israelites from annihilation. Nehemiah led the rebuilding of the Jerusalem wall. The wall was completed about a hundred years after the remnant returned. That brings us to the 400 years of silence awaiting the Messiah.

Now how's that for a whirlwind tour? – **kings** from Genesis to the end of the Old Testament in just a few minutes. While we catch our breath, let's pull it all together, wrap it up, and put a bow on it with a concluding story.

## **Application**

Born February 23, 1685, in Halle, Germany, George demonstrated superior musical talent at age eleven. Seven years later, he affirmed his skill by composing his first opera. At age 25, he moved to London and continued producing operas there. At age 56, George received from a man named Charles Jennens the text of what would become his most important work. A devout Christian, Jennens, compiled the words from the Bible and asked George to apply his creative genius to them. In just **24 days**, George produced his **classic** oratorio.

It premiered March 23, 1743, at the Music Hall of Dublin. Reportedly, King George II of Great Britain attended the packed house. The stirring words and composition brought the king and the entire audience to their feet. Why did they stand?

King of Kings! Forever and ever,  
And Lord of Lords, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
And He shall reign forever and ever. Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah!

Do you remember our guessing game earlier. Of course, we left out the most important one. Who is the King of Kings? The *Hallelujah Chorus*, from George Frederick Handel's *Messiah* gives us the answer.

Who is your King? Is it our president? Is it the god of this world? Or are you on the throne doing that which is right in your own eyes? Will you, like the Israelites, reject the only King who can save you?

As we saw, a key theme in the Bible relates to this idea of the **king**. Do you remember when Saul was announced **king** of Israel? The people shouted “God save the **king**!” We know better. God is the **King**!

**Benediction**

*[17] Now unto the **King** eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (I Timothy 1:17)*