

1. In Psalm 2, God promised to adopt the reigning Davidic king as his own son. In what ways is Jesus sonship far greater than David's sonship?
2. In Isaiah 55, God promised to fulfill the promises he made to David for Israel, "I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David." How are those promises fulfilled in Jesus? How does Jesus offer us so much more than the blessings promised to David?
3. In Psalm 16, God promised that he would not abandon David to decay. How was this promise true for David? How is it even more true for Jesus?
4. Sum up how Jesus is the greater David?

E. A WARNING FROM THE PROPHETS (vv. 40-41)

⁴⁰ Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you:
⁴¹ "Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you."

1. Paul concludes his message with a quote from Habakkuk which warns the people of the impending doom of coming judgment. Why is judgment an appropriate topic at this point in Paul's message?
2. What role does Jesus play in the coming judgment?
3. Why is it important that we retain the idea of "God's judgment" in our understanding of the gospel?



When we think of the gospel, we usually think of a set of propositions, but when the early church thought of the gospel, they thought in terms of a larger story.

The story begins on the very first page of the Bible. God created us in his image to live and thrive under his gracious rule. We rejected God's rule in order to establish our own. We reserved the right to determine for ourselves what was right and good, rather than entrusting ourselves to one who created us and knows us better than we do ourselves. As a result of our rebellion we are broken beyond repair. We, a broken people, living in a broken world. We are alienated from God. We are alienated from each other. We are alienated from the rest of creation. Nothing works the way it is supposed to. From the moment we rejected God, he began to pursue us. God chose Abraham and through Abraham promised to raise up a people who would reflect his glory and goodness to their neighbors so that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through them. In David, God found an ideal but deeply flawed king—a man after his own heart. He promised that one day a greater David would rule the world in peace and righteousness and that the nations would prosper under his rule. In the darkest hours of Israel's history, when they were as far from God as they could possibly be, God promised to restore the fortunes of his people by giving them a new heart, and placing his Spirit in them—enabling them to be everything he created them to be, everything he called them to be, and everything he redeemed them to be.

Every time you hear the gospel in the New Testament you will hear a piece of this story. The simple truth of the gospel is that God is fulfilling all of his good promises to Israel and the nations in the person of Jesus. He is the true son of Abraham and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed. He is the true Israel, the perfect reflection of God's grace and glory. He is the true son of David and it is through his rule and reign that we experience a deep and abiding peace. He is the one through whom God has poured out his Spirit so that all of creation is being renewed and restored—beginning with those of us who by faith have placed our hope in him.

PAUL RETELLS ISRAEL'S STORY (vv. 14-41)

On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak." ¹⁶ Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me!

A. FROM EGYPT TO THE PROMISED LAND (vv. 17-20)

¹⁷ The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country; ¹⁸ for about forty years he endured their conduct in the wilderness; ¹⁹ and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance. ²⁰ All this took about 450 years.

1. How did God demonstrate his faithfulness to Israel during this period of their history?
2. How did Israel respond to God's faithfulness?
3. How does their response to God's goodness and grace reflect our own?

B. FROM JUDGES TO DAVID (vv. 20-22)

"After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. ²² After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

1. How was Israel's request for a king a rejection of their true king?
2. If Saul represents the kind of king the people wanted, and David the kind of king God wanted, how would you describe the difference between the two?
3. Why are we far better off under the gracious rule of Jesus than we are on our own?

C. FROM DAVID TO JESUS (vv. 23-25)

²³ "From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴ Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ As John was completing his work, he said: 'Who do you suppose I am? I am not the

one you are looking for. But there is one coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'

1. How did David prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah?
2. How did John prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah?
3. In what way could John's words apply to David as well?

D. RECENT EVENTS IN THE CITY OF JERUSALEM (vv. 26-31)

²⁶ "Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. ²⁷ The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸ Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead, ³¹ and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

1. What is the ultimate irony in the peoples condemnation and rejection of Jesus?
2. How did God vindicate Jesus?
3. What does Paul offer as the physical proof for the resurrection?

D. JESUS AS THE GREATER DAVID (vv. 32-39)

³² "We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: " 'You are my son; today I have become your father.'

³⁴ God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said, " 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.'

³⁵ So it is also stated elsewhere: " 'You will not let your holy one see decay.'

³⁶ "Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. ³⁷ But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

³⁸ "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹ Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.