

Explain the Messianic Hope. 5: David & Israel.

After the death of Moses, Joshua becomes the type of Christ to lead Israel into the Promised Land and fight the necessary battles against the Canaanite tribes whose condemnation was ripe. Indeed, 'Joshua' is another form of Jesus' name. After this there is the period of Judges, men raised up by God to be deliverers of the nation in a time when every man did what was right in his own eyes and God's word was much ignored. The greatest judge was Samuel who was also one of the greatest prophets, being given back to God from birth by his devout mother Hannah. He is a type of a man hearing God and doing righteousness. Then the people clamour for a king like the nations, which God never commanded them about. However, in God's grace he gives them a king and brings the idea of kingship centrally into his revealed purpose. However, Israel first has to suffer a fleshly king (Saul) who represents the old nature that has to die. So Samuel anoints David for kingship.

David's life was simple and pleasant before this, but after it becomes full of trials, difficulties and pain. But this is the necessary path God gives to the elect to train them for authority and ministry (Acts 14:22). David's suffering resulted in most of the Psalms, which have greatly benefited suffering saints for thousands of years. His first practical difficulty was Goliath, and his defeat of the giant was by grace (typified in the five smooth stones), shortly after he was persecuted by the king he had faithfully served. After Saul's death David is crowned king, a long time after Samuel anointed him. David then wins many battles and establishes Israel as a prominent Near Eastern nation. There are many valuable spiritual lessons in examining David's life, and he was the chief type representing the authority of Christ's dominion. He was also the man after God's heart; as his Psalms reveal, he was utterly consumed with desire to know God and his word. However, David's failures teach us nearly as much as his achievements. His chief sin, adultery with Bathsheba and arranging the killing of her husband, is a marvellous example of God's grace. After repenting and being punished for this God uses this relationship to bring the chosen heir, Solomon. Solomon inherits the fulness of David's work like Isaac inherited Abraham's. He is a symbol of the fulness of Christ's dominions and wealth, and also his wisdom – exemplified in his Proverbs which remain so helpful to believers today. But his main achievement was building the Temple, which David could not do as a man of war. The dedication was Solomon's high point and symbolises the greatness of Christ in many ways. However, he too fell into great sin and after him the united monarchy was split.

The main point here is the establishment of kingship representing Christ as the great King and Lord over all. Indeed, Christ inherits the Davidic Covenant; he is the Seed of David (Rm 1:3; 2 Tim 2:8) as well as the Seed of Abraham.

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