

Greater Than: David

Genesis 1:27-28; 1 Samuel 8:4-9, 13:13-14, 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Isaiah 55; Psalm 51:7-12; Acts 13:16-41

Jesus is the fulfillment of every role we need. From Adam to David, God revealed His plan through people who pointed forward to something greater. In Jesus, it all comes together—He is the true Man, the eternal Priest, the final Prophet, and the forever King. This series invites us to see how every promise finds its completion in Him.

Today we will be studying David and how Jesus is the eternal King that no man could ever be.

Israel Asks for a King:

Read Genesis 1:27-28. God created man to be able to rule over themselves and the rest of creation. At Mt Sinai, God invites His people to be a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19) and they fail. It is then that the Levitical priesthood is established.

Once Israel was settled in the promised land, the people asked their new mediator (Samuel) for a king. By asking for a king, they were rejecting God as their king because they want to be like the other nations. Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9.

Saul is then anointed as king, but he fails. Read 1 Samuel 13:13-14.

David, King of Israel:

God sends Samuel to anoint a new king from the sons of Jesse. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Even though David is 'a man after God's heart' (1 Samuel 13:14), he also fails. The difference between the failure of Saul and the failure of David was David's repentance. Read Psalm 51:7-12.

No person or position was able to be enough. Even though David was a good king and loyal to God, he still was not enough. No person could ever be enough and God knew that.

God loved David and David loved God. David did his best to honor Him. So God made David a promise. Read 2 Samuel 7:12:13.

After David's Rule:

After David's death, things went from bad to worse. About 40 years after David's rule, Israel split into two kingdoms and the people were forced into exile in Babylon. The times were dark and felt hopeless. Prophets served as mediators between God and humanity...but few listened. Then God went silent for nearly 400 years.

Some still followed the Law and sought God but there was no king or kingdom. That is until Jesus came. He was more than the mediator; He *is* the direct connection. He was more than the messenger; He *is* the message. He was more than the king; He *is* the arrival of the Kingdom.

Acts 13:16-41 Summary:

In Acts 13, Paul stands in a synagogue and tells the story of Israel, but he tells it with one clear purpose: to show that God always keeps His promises.

He begins at the beginning. *God* chose Israel. *God* delivered them from Egypt. *God* carried them through the wilderness. *God* gave them the land. *God* raised up judges. *God* gave them King Saul. Then *God* raised up **David**, a man after His own heart.

The emphasis is clear: **God is the main character of the story.**

Then Paul makes the turning point: From David's line, God brought a Savior — Jesus — just as He promised. The people in Jerusalem didn't recognize Him though they read the prophets every Sabbath. *They fulfilled those prophecies by condemning Him.* Jesus was crucified and laid in a tomb, but God raised Him from the dead. And that changes everything.

Paul explains that David died and was buried. His body saw decay. But Jesus did not decay. He was resurrected! The resurrection proves He is the promised Holy One.

Then comes the heart of the message in Acts 13:32-39. Through Jesus, forgiveness of sin is proclaimed to you. Through Him, everyone who believes is justified and freed from what the Law of Moses could never fully free you from. The Law reveals sin. Jesus removes it.

Paul ends with a warning: Don't miss what God is doing. Don't be like those who heard but refused to believe.

The Takeaway:

God keeps His promises. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan. Forgiveness and freedom are found in Him and the only right response is belief.

The Eternal Kingdom:

So we understand that Jesus is the King of the eternal Kingdom, but what is the Kingdom? What does that mean for us right here and now?

Read Isaiah 55:1-2. The invitation is free. No money required; grace is enough. No merit is needed; it cannot be earned. Water, milk, and wine are symbols of life, nourishment, and joy/abundance. Jesus identifies Himself as the source of living water. The abundance promised in Isaiah 55 is fulfilled in Him. The King Himself satisfies the thirsty. Entrance into the Kingdom is not earned, but freely offered to us by God's grace.

Read Isaiah 55:3-5. This refers to God's promise to David of an eternal throne (2 Samuel 7). Isaiah looks forward to a ruler from David's line, a kingdom that draws nations, and a reign that never ends. This promise is fulfilled in Jesus. He is the Son of David, inaugurates the everlasting covenant, and reigns over a Kingdom that includes all nations.

Read Isaiah 55:6-7. Entering the Kingdom requires turning from sin, abandoning self-rule, and submitting to God's reign. In Kingdom terms, repentance is a transfer of allegiance. David gave us an example of repentance in Psalm 51. The Kingdom is open but requires reorientation toward God (a new heart).

Read Isaiah 55:8-9. God's Kingdom operates differently from earthly kingdoms. Grace is over merit. Humility is over power. Mercy is over vengeance. Jesus' life and teaching embody these higher ways: a crown of thorns before a crown of glory, a cross before a throne fully revealed. The eternal Kingdom is not established by force but by redeeming love.

Read Isaiah 55:10-11. God's Word feeds, nourishes, and allows us to flourish. It is life-giving (like rain) and produces growth and transformation. God's Word accomplishes His purposes. Jesus proclaims the arrival of the Kingdom and speaks with divine authority. (see John 1 - Jesus is the living word of God) Jesus forgives sins, calms storms, raises the dead, transforms hearts. The Kingdom advances through the living Word of the King.

Read Isaiah 55:12-13. The chapter closes with the imagery of eternal generativity (flourishing). This points beyond initial salvation to the full realization of the eternal Kingdom. The King's reign culminates in total restoration. The curse is reversed, creation is healed, the relationship with God is restored, and God is glorified.

The Invitation:

Isaiah 55 is an invitation to join the eternal Kingdom of God.

- **Come** - Accept Jesus as the King because grace and love are offered freely.
- **Listen** - Enter the covenant through Jesus into eternal kingship.
- **Respond** - Repent and transfer allegiance. Submit to His reign.
- **Trust** - His ways are higher ways. Trust His Kingdom wisdom.
- **Live** - Experience restoration and joy in the Eternal Kingdom life.

Jesus is King. The Kingdom is eternal. The Kingdom is here and now. It arrived with Jesus and remains in the world in us. The Kingdom is God's saving reign breaking into human history.

We have the responsibility to learn from Jesus how we too can be greater. We are:

- Created in His Image - human
- Called to commune with Him - priest
- Commissioned to carry His message - prophet
- Connected to each other in His kingdom

His Kingdom grows when we recognize our place in it and live how he created us to live.

Reflection Questions:

- David was a "man after God's own heart." What does that mean? What steps can you take to be a 'person after God's heart'?
- In Acts 13, Paul explains that many missed who Jesus was despite the prophecies being read and studied each Sabbath. Paul then presents a warning to not miss what God is doing.
 - What does this warning mean for us?
 - How can we be more open and aware of what God is doing?
- Jesus came to establish His eternal Kingdom. The Kingdom is here now but will be fully realized in the future.
 - Have you accepted Jesus's invitation to join His Kingdom?
 - What does living in the Eternal Kingdom look like for you now?
 - Have you been convicted to make any changes?