

## God's Promise of a King

*The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne." (Psalms 132:11)*

*"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David." (Luke 1:32)*

### **Jesus came to fulfill God's promise of a king.**

One of the great misconceptions about Israel's monarchy is that it was not one of God's desires. On the contrary, God had promised Abraham that his offspring would include a dynasty of *kings*. Later in Deuteronomy, the Lord anticipated Israel would someday yearn for a human king and gave directions for this future installment to conform to His purpose and plan so that the nation would be set apart and become a light to the Gentiles. God, in His purpose and in His promise to Abraham, *had* established that a king would reign over Israel.

The problem, actually the sin of Israel is they ignored the divine instructions about what kind of king they should have. Samuel warned Israel that the type of king they were seeking would be just like the Gentile rulers, like nations without God. They should not want such a leader. They minimized God's Word as a way to determine their way, but envied and coveted what the neighboring nations had. They looked around them instead of looking upward to God to discover His will. The Israelites insisted on their own inclinations and qualifications, despite God's warnings through Saul, and they got a dreadful and ungodly ruler in Saul.

After a while, Saul's rebellion became so heinous that God deposed him as king and anointed David. God promised David that, after his death, one of his great, great-grandsons would be raised up to forever inherit David's throne, and that this descendant would be son to God, and God would be a Father to him. We know, though, that the northern and southern kingdoms fell into exile and ceased to exist as a nation after David's death. How could God keep His promise?

During this time of exile, Israel slowly began to hope that God would restore their kingdom, that God would bring back the throne of David, and that God would be faithful to David's offspring and not to cast him off forever. That time of exile had continued for centuries by the birth of Christ. The nation was back within its boundaries, but in some ways were worse off. Everywhere they looked were

memories of God's blessing centuries past, but also everywhere they looked was standing a Roman soldier, reminding them that they were under the heel of Rome.

The angel, Gabriel tells Mary that Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise. He was Israel's salvation, in fact the salvation for the entire world. David wrote Psalms 16 and 132. Both Psalms explain that that the Messiah, the Christ would descend to Sheol, the place for the dead, but God would not abandon Him there. He would live again before God. The promise of a reigning Savior will be fulfilled through the resurrection of the Messiah from the dead. Jesus was raised from the dead in fulfillment of God's promise to David. Jesus came to fulfill God's promise of a king.