

# The Relationship Between Israel's Repentance and the Kingdom of God

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**Thesis:** The kingdom of God coming to earth is contingent upon Israel's repentance

**Contingent:** conditions must be met before an event can happen

**Anti-Thesis:** Amillennialist Riddlebarger states, "But the New Testament knows nothing of a kingdom offered and kingdom withdrawn according to the whims of unbelieving Israel."

## Outline

### I. Contingency and Nations (Jer 18:1-11)

a. Rom 9:20-23

b. Jon 3:4-10

### II. Contingency of Israel's Enjoyment of Kingdom Blessing in the OT

a. Lev 26:40-45

i. Blessings vv 1-13

ii. Cursings vv 14-39

iii. Repentance vv 40-41

iv. Remembrance vv 42-43

Relationship of Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenant

v. Restoration vv 44-45

Basis of restoration is Abrahamic Covenant (also cf Rom 11:28-29, 26)

Purpose of chastisement is always restoration

Pattern: Disobedience → Exile from Land → Obedience → Restoration to Land

b. Deut 4:25-31

i. Contingency not stated but implied

ii. Same pattern: Disobedience → Scatter among Nations → Repentance → Restoration

c. Deut 30:1-10

i. Blessing under Solomon

ii. Cursing among nations

- iii. Return to obedience
- iv. Regathering (intimations of the NC)
- v. Contingency stated

d. Jer 3:12-18

- i. Call to return...His anger is limited
- ii. acknowledge...
- iii. NC fulfilled continually in the millennium
- iv. Ark not thought of anymore because it symbolized God's presence but in the millennium they will enjoy God's presence directly
- v. Not two divided kingdoms but one kingdom under the Lord

e. Hos 3:4-5

- i. Israel many days without a king (beginning with Zedekiah's removal from throne in 586BC; entirety of times of the Gentiles)
- ii. Israel will then return and seek the Lord and David...in the last days

f. Hos 5:13-6:3

- i. Both kingdoms into exile
- ii. God will go away from their face until they acknowledge guilt (repentance)
- iii. Same pattern: depart from Lord → Lord departs from them → seek the Lord → Lord comes to them

f. 2 Chron 7:13-14

g. Zech 12:10

### III. Contingency of Israel's Enjoyment of Kingdom Blessing in the NT

a. Matt 3:2; 4:17; 10:5-7

- i. Kingdom contingent on Israel's repentance
- ii. These passages rely on all OT passages
- iii. salvation is not = the kingdom but the pre-condition for entering the kingdom

b. Luke 19:41-44

- i. Wept because of the coming consequences of rejection
- ii. "This day" is emphatic
- iii. "peace" = the kingdom which is a time of peace

- iv. Pattern: National Rejection → National Catastrophe (AD70)  
National Repentance → National Peace

“Jesus’ announcement at 19:41-44 need not represent a definitive or final break between God and Israel—as in the Old Testament, the aim of chastisement visited upon Jerusalem is restoration.” – Kinman

c. Matt 23:37-39

- i. It was a genuine offer, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...”
- ii. Israel was unwilling (cf Rom 10:25)
- iii. A messianic greeting stemming from Ps 118:26
- iv. The best view is this is expressing contingency. When Israel Greets/Welcomes their King then the Messiah will come in His kingdom
- v. If willing rejection then willing acceptance

d. Acts 3:12-26

- i. Directed to “men of Israel”
- ii. In light of 1:6
- iii. Kingdom nearness miracle
- iv. Statement of condition for Israel to meet for Jesus to return and kingdom to come (this is contingency)
- v. The way into the kingdom is through the cross (Toussaint). Not a second re-offer of the kingdom but a second offer of the Messiah to Israel ??? There are some definitive statements against that generation in the gospels. They were going to judgment in AD70 so what would a re-offer of the kingdom mean at this time?
- vi. That Messiah had to return to heaven before returning in the kingdom was known from the OT (see Ps 110:1-2)
- vii. Pattern: Repent → Forgiveness → Return of Christ → Kingdom of God

e. Rom 11:11-15

- i. If transgression is a willful rejection then acceptance is a willful acceptance

IV. Israel’s Repentance Precedes the Second Coming

a. Zech 12:10-14 “all tribes mourn” = repentance

b. Matt 24:29-31 “tribes of land mourn” = repentance (not see Him visibly but look to Him). (Isa 27:13; Rom 11:26-27)

c. Consistent with all OT prophets, repentance precedes the kingdom. Those who do not repent will not do so at His coming as some suggest. It will be too late at the return. They must repent before the return. Those who have not repented at the return go to the judgment.

V. Israel's Repentance Mediates Blessing to the World in the Kingdom

a. Gen 12:2-3; 22:18

b. Jer 4:1-2 also presented as contingent

c. Rom 11:12, 15

There is a genuine offer of the kingdom to the nation Israel just as there is a genuine offer of salvation to individuals. The knowledge that the nation would not repent or an individual would not believe do not negate the genuineness of the offer. Contingency is a part of how God has designed history.