

DAVID – RIGHTEOUS RULER

Introduction

- 'last words' – in an official capacity
 - 'oracle' – prophetic – as in his Psalms
 - David was conscious of expressing God's message given to him – we can't share experience
- We also need to think about what it means for us in practice – since this is prophecy it is being fulfilled 'as we speak'

Prophecy given

- David referred to in NT as a prophet – not official role but occasional function
- A righteous ruler – verse 3b
 - This finds echoes in later writings especially Isaiah
 - Is. 32:1-2
 - Is. 24:43
 - Is. 49:6-7
- Compare this with David's experience
 - Injustice of neighbouring lands
 - Injustice of Israel's first king
 - Key is 'ruling in the fear of God'
 - 'beginning of wisdom'
 - Regard to his ways – just laws and mercy – integrity – fairness to all
 - Experience of his own reign
 - Generally just
 - Failure re Amnon and Absalom
 - We recognise as similar to Christian experience – in the main but with imperfections
- How could he be so sure?
 - It contradicted universal human experience
 - Only because of God's covenant promise – 2 Samuel 7:10-16
 - A promise of a permanent royal house
 - How permanent is 'permanent'?
 - David foresaw the resurrection – Psalm 16 quoted in Acts 2
 - Jewish nation awaited the 'Son of David' – e.g. when the wise men asked about 'the King of the Jews'
 - That has always been the basis of Jewish and Christian hope – God's Word
 - First Advent and second Advent
 - That should inform us as we look out at the world today

Prophecy being fulfilled

- Do we see this prophecy fulfilled yet?
 - The answer is mixed
 - Consider the world's rulers today –
 - Mix of integrity and corruption – mix of brutality and compassion. We give thanks; we also long for the Righteous Ruler – 'Lord, how long?'
 - Consider the church and Christian experience.

- We find prayers answered.
 - We find intractable situations resolved.
 - We see judgements taking place – e.g. our society abandoned to depraved practices (Romans 1)
 - We long for Christ Jesus to work more – ‘Lord, how long?’
- What does the Bible say about God’s King?
 - Teaches us to pray – ‘Your Kingdom come’ – that is the Father
 - 1 Cor. 15 – ‘Jesus must reign till he has put all his enemies under his feet’
 - Evidently it is progressive rather than instant
 - ‘All power is given unto me – go therefore – with you to end of the age’
 - Phil. 2 – ‘Wherefore God has highly exalted him and given him ... bow ... confess ... Father’
 - Col. 1 – ‘head of the church’
 - Psalm 8 / Heb. 2:5-9 – ‘all things put under him’
 - Revelation
 - 1 ‘among the lampstands’ – authority in church
 - 5 ‘Lamb upon the throne’ – power over all things
 - 19 ‘King of kings and Lord of lords’ – authority in society
- How does Jesus rule?
 - By external constraints and internal influences
 - The Bible
 - A word external to us
 - We are responsible to study it and live by it – and accountable to him
 - The Bible is in the church but he has commanded it to be shared throughout society
 - ‘salt and light’ – ‘go into all the world’
 - God’s call, grace, and standards are for humanity as such, not confined to one group
 - The Holy Spirit
 - The significance of Pentecost is that God’s Spirit was to be poured out on all nations, not only the Jews
 - It is the promise that God will work internally – external command becomes internal desire – ‘I delight to do your will’ – not only Jesus but believer also
 - He uses the Word – we need both – don’t make excuses (‘how shall they believe in whom they have not heard?’) – and don’t forget to pray for the Spirit (‘Without me you can do nothing’).
 - Opens the blind eyes
 - Gives a new heart
 - Convicts of sin
 - Converts to Christ
 - Sanctifies progressively
 - Enables cheerful obedience
 - Thus churches and societies transformed
- How do we see Jesus’ rule in Christian experience?
 - Answers to prayer
 - Judgements
 - Herod – Ananias and Sapphira – ‘Sleep’ in Corinth
 - Individuals and societies

- Letter to the 7 Churches – ‘Remove candlestick’ – ‘Spew’ – unless repent
 - ‘the nation that will not serve you shall perish’ – Is. 60:12
 - Conversions to Christ
 - Do we long for it? – pray for it – work for it? if not, what are we doing? Jesus – ‘Meat to eat that you know not of’ – how can we face our Master at the end of the day if we did not at least try? Remember the napkin hidden in the ground.
 - The growth and welfare of the church and individuals
 - Image of body – parts working together to build up the body
 - Prompted to help another – Spirit of Jesus as we respond to his Word
 - Fulfilling our daily tasks
 - The benefits we receive – Bible, prayers, practical help – ‘Lord’s doing and marvellous in our eyes’.
 - We know the difference between godliness and sin when we see it – is the Lord among us or not? How careful we should be to respond to the Word of God – a tender conscience and meekness to accept when he tells us to change
- What can we expect of the future?
 - Preceding raises big questions
 - We don’t see much of this – where is God when ...?
 - Does that disprove the teaching that Jesus Christ is Lord?
 - It should make us ask,
 - ‘Has the Lord forgotten to be gracious?’ – ‘This is my weakness ... I will remember’
 - ‘Why have you hardened our heart from your fear?’ – i.e. allowed us to backslide in heart
 - Remember Letters to 7 Churches
 - That is not whole story
 - Jesus spoke of terrible experiences – wars, persecutions, etc – end not yet
 - Romans 8 – ‘birth pangs’
 - ‘Evil men will grow worse and worse’ – 2 Tim. 3:13
 - ‘Be faithful unto death’
 - But at same time pray ‘Your Kingdom come’ ‘Go into all the world’ ‘Salt and light’
 - Therefore we see two processes taking place at the same time
 - Evil grows – while God’s kingdom grows alongside it
 - Parable of tares in field – judgement will come
 - Our ‘blessed hope’ is the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - He has been ruling
 - He has been preparing his Bride
 - The time will come to thrust evildoers aside forever
 - 2 Samuel 23:6-7

Conclusion

Our task is

- receive the Word of Christ and ask for his Spirit
- respond in love and humble obedience praying for his kingdom to come

- wait patiently for his glorious appearing
- that is our faith – working and waiting
- our encouragement is, ‘Behold, I come quickly’