

**ACTS AT A GLANCE**  
*An Overview of the Book of Acts*

<b>Lesson Two – Prophecies About The King and the Kingdom</b>
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**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The fifty days between the death of Christ and the Day of Pentecost were the most momentous in all the history of the earth! They represented the fulfillment of God’s eternal purpose for the redemption of mankind through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, His resurrection, and His ascension to glory and kingship. Only ten days after His ascension, the sermon at Jerusalem on Pentecost announced the arrival of the long anticipated kingdom. On that day it was opened and began to be populated with those who believed and obeyed the King.
- 1.2. God’s Old Testament prophets from Moses to Malachi addressed the events of these fifty days extensively (Acts 3:21). Then, in the Book of Acts, the apostles and preachers of the gospel frequently referenced these fulfilled prophecies as evidence that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah.
- 1.3. To fully understand the sermons of Acts we need to be familiar with the prophecies being referenced and to their fulfillment. In this lesson we will look at prophecies about the Messiah-King and His kingdom. While the scope of this lesson is somewhat broader than the prophecies referenced in Acts, I believe the material covered will be helpful and faith-building.

**2. General Information About the Kingdom**

2.1. When the Kingdom Came

- 2.1.1. During the days of Jesus on earth the kingdom was anticipated but not yet in existence
  - When Jesus was just a baby, Simon and Anna were anticipating the King and His kingdom (Luke 2:25, 36-38).
  - John and then Jesus preached that the kingdom was “*at hand*” (Matt 3:2; 4:17). But John was not in the kingdom (Matt 11:11).
  - Eight days before His transfiguration, Jesus told a Jewish crowd, “*But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.*” (Luke 9:27).
  - At the time of the death of Jesus, “*Joseph of Arimathea ... was himself waiting for the kingdom of God*” (Mark 15:43).
  - Even just before His ascension, Jesus indicated to His apostles that the kingdom was yet to come (Acts 1:6-7).
- 2.1.2. The kingdom was established after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. This is when Jesus, the King of the Kingdom was coronated.

- *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Heb 2:9). “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb 11:2).*
- *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name” (Phil 2:8-11).*
- *When Jesus ascended, “a cloud received him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9) and “he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God” (Mark 16:19). “Daniel prophetically adds, “I saw ... one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” (Dan 7:13-14).*
- *Another way to clearly see that the kingdom came at the time indicated above is to consider when its predecessor kingdom ended. Paul wrote to the Colossians, “And you, being dead in your sins and the un-circumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Col 2:13-14).*

2.1.3. The Kingdom Began to be Rolled out on Earth on Pentecost – On the Day of Pentecost the Lord opened the doors to His kingdom on earth and began to populate it with citizens.

- *All passages prior to Acts 2 spoke of the coming of the kingdom as a future event and all after Acts 2 speak of it as being in existence. So only ten days after the coronation of Jesus in heaven, He began the administration of His kingdom on earth.*
- *The first act of this new King was to send the Holy Spirit. “This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear” (Acts 2:32-33).*

- Then, the Holy Spirit worked with and through the apostles to populate the new kingdom with special citizens.
  - Remember that these citizens were not conscripted nor forcible compelled to submit to the new king and become a part of His kingdom. Instead, they came of their own free will. They were “volunteers” (Psalms 110:3).
  - The Holy Spirit revealed and confirmed the gospel by which men and women with good hearts were “called” into the kingdom (2 Thes 2:14, 1 Thes 2:1).
  - As a result of this presentation of the gospel, 3,000 accepted the Lord’s call and were gathered into the kingdom (Acts 2:41, 47).
- Note the following sequence of passages that also show that the kingdom was activated on Pentecost.
  - Jesus said that the kingdom was to come with power (Mark 9:1).
  - And the power was to come when the Holy Spirit came (Acts 1:8).
  - The Holy Spirit came, as promised by Jesus, on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
  - Therefore, the kingdom came on the Day of Pentecost.

## 2.2. Definition of Kingdom:

2.2.1. Names for the Kingdom – In the scriptures God’s spiritual kingdom is given several different names.

- *“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt 4:17).*
- *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matt 6:33).*
- *“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Col 1:33).*

2.2.2. The word “kingdom” is used in several different ways in the scriptures:

- It sometimes refers, in a secular sense, to a sovereign country ruled by a king (e.g., Jos 13:30).
- It sometimes refers to the boundless and eternal reign of God over all His creation (Psalms 103:19).
- It sometimes refers to heaven (e.g., Gal 5:21; 2 Pet 1:11).
- It sometimes refers to a spiritual kingdom where Christians are the kingdom citizens and Christ is the King (e.g., Col 1:13, 4:11). This is the usage most prevalent in the New Testament and is the one of interest to

our study. This usage is consistent with the secular usage of the word today where it is defined as ‘a state or people ruled by a king or queen.’

- To refers more narrowly to the citizens of the kingdom, i.e., the church.
- 2.2.3. So broadly, as used in this study, the Heavenly Kingdom is composed of the King (Jesus), the kingdom citizens (Christians), the laws of the kingdom (the Word of God), and the domain or territory of the kingdom (the hearts of believers – Jer 31:33). So anytime we read a prophecy that speaks of the coming kingdom, both the king and the citizens are necessarily implied. Similarly, any mention just of the king necessarily implies the existence of kingdom citizens and any mention just of the citizens necessarily implies that there is a king.
- 2.2.4. In a more limited sense, the word kingdom is often used to refer narrowly to the citizens of the kingdom – that is Christians who are known collectively as the church.
- 2.3. Distinctions of God’s Kingdom – We have noted that the kingdom of the New Testament is like an earthly kingdom in that it has a king, citizens, law, and territory. But it is quite different in other ways:
- 2.3.1. God’s kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. Jesus told Herod, *“My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”* (John 18:36). This is why it is often referred to as *“the kingdom of heaven”* (e.g., Matt 18:23).
- 2.3.2. The citizenship of this kingdom is not on the basis of genealogy (like the old kingdom of Judah) nor will it be compelled by force. As the psalmist wrote, *“Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; in the beauties of holiness”* (Psalms 110:3).
- 2.3.3. Citizenship is open to men and women of all nations and circumstances.
- Anyone can become a part of God’s kingdom (Acts 10:34-35). All they have to do obey the entrance requirements. For example, Jesus told Nicodemus, *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”* (John 3:5).
  - Then, as kingdom citizens, they must obey the laws of the kingdom. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, *“For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God”* (Eph 5:5). Also, *“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear”* (Heb 12:28).
  - ‘Anyone’ certainly included *“all the world”* (Mark 16:15) – both Jew and Gentile. As Paul reminded the Roman Christians, *“As He says also in Hosea: “I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who*

*was not beloved.’ And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ There they shall be called sons of the living God” (Rom 9:25-26).*

- Passages like those above clearly show that just as anyone can voluntarily meet entrance requirements and enter the kingdom, so they can also lose their citizenship and all related benefits if they refuse to obey the laws of the kingdom.

### **3. The Kingdom of God in Prophecy**

#### **3.1. The Revealing of Mysteries**

- 3.1.1. God’s kingdom was a part of His eternal purpose conceived before the world and mankind were created (Eph 1:3-6, 3:9-11). His eternal plan was to that *“in the fullness of time”* (Gal 4:4; Eph 1:10) He would send His Son as the King who would invite the nations to enter this spiritual kingdom.
- 3.1.2. Throughout the centuries God revealed clues about this coming King and His kingdom. But these clues were designed to give only limited and veiled views of God’s wonderful plans. For those of Old Testament times, such matters were a “mystery” (Rom 16:25). According to Peter, even the prophets who spoke of this kingdom did not understand the implications of what they were saying. *“Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into”* (1 Peter 1:10-12).
- 3.1.3. Only in Christ were the “mysteries” fully revealed. Paul wrote, *“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory”* (1 Cor 2:7). In his epistles to the Ephesians, Paul wrote extensively about this mystery in Eph 1:9, 3:3-4, 9, 5:32, and 6:19.
- 3.1.4. What is the benefit of kingdom prophecy?
  - Perhaps one might answer, ‘Not much’ – especially to those of Old Testament times. Mostly they would have been confused. But while the details of the prophecies fulfillment might be obscure, they could still have been encouraged knowing that God had good things planned for those who love Him.
  - But for us the value is obvious. We can look back into the ancient words of prophecy and then look to their flawless fulfillment in the New Testament. In this we can see more clearly God’s eternal purpose, the inerrancy of the

scriptures, and the awesome unity of all that is written in the Bible. As a result our faith can be made to grow stronger.

- For example, remember the prophecy of Psalms 34:20 *“He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.”* Also Zechariah 12:10 – *“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced.”* It is unlikely that the original readers of such prophecies would see a crucified Messiah with hands and feet nailed to a cross yet no bones broken. But after this actually happened to Jesus, John reminded his readers of these prophecies and said, *“And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled”* (John 19:35-36). So the prophecies and their fulfillment are intended to produce faith in those of the Christian era, like us, who learn about them.
- So the faith-building benefit of prophecy is not for those who hear the original prophecy but rather those who see its fulfillment. Notice the Lord’s words in Ezek 33:27, 33: *“Say thus to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “As I live, surely those who are in the ruins shall fall by the sword ... And when this comes to pass--surely it will come--then they will know that a prophet has been among them.””*
- Perhaps those first reading Moses’ words of Gen 3:15 about a struggle between the woman’s seed and Satan would have been baffled. But not us. We have the benefit of the words of Paul and other inspired New Testament writers as they unveiled what had previously been inscrutable mysteries. So as we continue with this review of Old testament prophecies about the King and His kingdom, we will do so with the insight provided by related New Testament scriptures.

### 3.2. Prophecies of the King and Kingdom in the Old Testament Books of Law

3.2.1. The Bruised But Victorious One – Following the destructive work of Satan in the Garden of Eden that led to the fall of Adam and Eve, God made this prophecy: *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel”* (Gen 3:15). This prophecy alludes to an epic war between the followers of Satan and a descendant of Eve (that is, Jesus). In this struggle, Jesus will be slightly wounded by Satan but will ultimately be victorious and will totally vanquish the devil and his followers. This passage gives the first hint about the Bible of God’s plan for the redemption of mankind. Some label it the “proto- evangelium” – i.e., the first gospel.

- These passages show the fulfillment of the prophecy through Jesus:
  - Jesus was a seed of woman – “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman” (Gal 4:4).

- The torture and death of Jesus was described by Isaiah as being bruised – *“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities”* (Isa 53:5). Satan was working behind the scenes to cause this ‘bruising’ (i.e., John 13:27).
  - The final victory of the Lord over Satan and his servants is described by many passages such as Matthew 25:41 – *“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”*
  - While not explicitly referring to the coming King and His kingdom, it does speak to the benevolent work of that King to redeem mankind from the kingdom of Satan and into His kingdom – *“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love”* (Col 1:15).
- 3.2.2. Blessings Through Abraham’s Seed – Because of Abraham’s faith, God chose him to be the fountainhead of a great blessing – not just for himself but also for all mankind. In the words of Gen 22:16-18, *“For because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, your only son: That in blessing I will bless thee ... and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.”*
- This promise and prophecy, sometimes called the Abrahamic Covenant, is of greatest significance and is referenced a number of times by New Testament writers including Luke (e.g., Acts 3:25).
  - We are not left to wonder what it means or how it was fulfilled. The scriptures tell us plainly:
    - The *“Seed”* referred to is Jesus Christ. *“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ”* (Gal 3:16; also Acts 13:32-33).
    - The *“blessing”* being referred to is forgiveness of sins. *“You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.”*
    - So what specifically is the prophecy made to Abraham some 1,800 before Christ? A descendant of Abraham, Jesus Christ, would provide the ultimate blessing to mankind – that is, forgiveness of their sins, salvation, and everlasting life.
  - The Lord later promised that this *“Seed”* would be a descendant of Isaac (Gen 26:4) and Jacob (Gen 28:1-4).

### 3.2.3. The Lion of Judah

- As Israel (previously Jacob) approached death, he called in his sons and blessed them. One in particular is of interest in this study. Israel said, *“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people”* (Gen 49:10).
- That this is a reference to Jesus, the Messiah-King is clear. Note John’s words in Rev 5:5; *“... Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”*
- So now we know that the Seed of Abraham will be a king and that He will be of the tribe of Judah. Jesus, of course, was of the tribe of Judah (Heb 7:14).

### 3.2.4. Prophet like Moses

- Another prophecy of the coming Messiah-King is found in the words of Moses in Deut 18:18-19; *“I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.”*
- Peter quoted this very prophecy in Acts 3:22 and applied it to Jesus. Also note Isaiah 33:22; *“For the LORD is our Judge, The LORD is our Lawgiver, The LORD is our King; He will save us.”*
- What do we learn about coming king? He will be a lawgiver speaking words directly from God. His words must be heard and obeyed.

## 3.3. David’s Seed to Rule the Eternal Kingdom

3.3.1. In the times of the judges and the first king (Saul), there are no explicit prophecies about the coming King and His kingdom.

3.3.2. But this changes when King David, *“a man after God’s own heart”* (Acts 13:22) came on the scene. The Lord promised David that, one of his seed would rule as king over an eternal kingdom.

- *“Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”* (2 Sam 7:11-13).
- A number of passages show clearly that this prophecy refers to the coming Messiah-King and His eternal spiritual kingdom. Consider Acts 13:22-23: *“He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who*



*will do all My will.’ From this man’s seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior--Jesus.”*

- This promise, sometimes called the Davidic Covenant, is of immense importance and is referred to many times in New Testament books – including Acts.
- In later passages, the Lord reveals that this promise would be fulfilled through the descent of Solomon and Rehoboam (1 Kings 11:13, 34-36; 12:17, 20).

3.3.3. This promise (and kingdom prophecy) is mentioned over and over by other Old Testament writers. For example:

- In the wisdom literature – For example: *“For Your servant David’s sake, do not turn away the face of Your Anointed. LORD has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: “I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body ... There I will make the horn of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed”* (Psm 132:10-11, 17). Also see Psalms 18:50; 89:19-20, 26-27.
- In the Books of Prophecy – For example *“Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.”* (Jer 23:5). Also see Isa 11:1-2, 10-12; Jer 33:15, 30:9, Jer 33:17-22; Ezek 34:23-24, 37:24-26

#### 3.4. Summary of Prophecies About the Genealogy of Jesus

3.4.1. At the risk of some duplication, note that the material studied thus far has indicated that the Messiah-King would be the descendant of a woman, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, David, Solomon, and Rehoboam.

3.4.2. And inspired New Testament writers indicate that Jesus fulfilled every such prophecy (1 Chron 28-34, 2:3-15; Matt 1:17; Luke 3:23-31).

#### 3.5. Prophecies About the Life of the Messiah-King

3.5.1. He was to:

- Come in the days of the Roman Empire (Dan 2:44 —> Luke 2:1)
- Be born to a virgin (Isa 7:14 —> Matt 1:23; Luke 1:27)
- Born in the city of Bethlehem (Mic 5:2 —> Luke 2:4-7)
- Spending time in Egypt before His ministry (Hos 11:1 —> Matt 2:12-15)
- Minister in Galilee (Isa 9:1-2 —> Matt 14:12-13, 23)

3.5.2. The passages above clearly indicate that Jesus fulfilled every all of these prophecies about the life of the Messiah.

### 3.6. Prophecies About the Work of the Messiah

- 3.6.1. Since our study is primarily of the kingdom, we might limit ourselves to the kingship of Jesus. But the Bible used many other labels of the position and work of Jesus to fill out our understanding of Him. The more we understand about the nature and work of the King, the more we will understand and appreciate the kingdom.
- 3.6.2. The Messiah-King was God – The first fact that should be noted about the prophesied Messiah is that He was to be God; not a god but the God. The Psalmist wrote regarding the Messiah, *“You are my Son”* (Psm 1:7) In this passage, God the Father speaking regarding the Messiah. Also, the Psalmist wrote in Psalms 146:6 about Jesus, *“Your throne, O God is forever and ever. A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”*
- 3.6.3. He was to serve as a:
- King – The Messiah was prophesied to be a great King in countless Old Testament passages. For example, God the Father is quoted in Psalms 1:6 as saying, *“Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Jerusalem.”* As such He was to have great power as sovereign ruler of His kingdom. John speaks of His awesome power as the *“King of kings and Lord of lords”* (Rev 19:16).
  - Prophet – The Messiah was to be a prophet, that is, one who speaks for God.
    - Remember the words of Moses: *“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,”* (Deut 18:15).
    - Notice the Hebrew writers opening words: *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds”* (Heb 1:1-2). Jesus Himself said, *“I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.”* (John 8:28).
  - Judge – Another role of the Messiah included one of judging.
    - *“For the LORD is our Judge, The LORD is our Lawgiver, The LORD is our King; He will save us”* (Isa 33:22).
    - Paul wrote, *“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom”* (2Ti 4:1).

- Servant – While on this earth, the role of the Messiah was to be a servant – subject to the will of His master.
  - The Father said, *“Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles” (Isa 42:1).*
  - Remember the words of Jesus in John 8:28: *“I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.”* Just before His crucifixion, Jesus taught His disciples to also be servants by washing their feet (John 13:14).
- Priest – The Lord prophesied of His Messiah, *“You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”* (Psalms 110:4). The Hebrew writer speaks extensively of the priestly work of Jesus on our behalf (e.g., Heb 7:24-28, 9:11-14, 26).
- Sacrifice – Not only is the Messiah our Priest our Priest, but He is also the sacrifice offered by that Priest. In addition to the passages in Hebrews notes above, note 1 Pet 1:18-19: *“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*
- Savior – Another term used to describe the role of the Messiah was Savior.
  - For example: *“And it will be for a sign and for a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the LORD because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them” (Isa 19:20).*
  - At the birth of Jesus the angel told Joseph, *“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins”* (Matt 1:21). And Peter later said, *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12).
- Shepherd – Ezekiel prophesied, *“I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them--My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd”* (Ez 34:23-24). Jesus said, *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”* (John 10:11).

### 3.7. Prophecies About The Death, Resurrection, And Coronation Of The King

#### 3.7.1. Prophecies about the death and burial of Jesus

- He was to be betrayed by a friend (Psm 41:9 → Matt 26:14-16).
- The betrayal price would be 30 pieces of silver. The silver would be thrown into the temple then later used to buy a potters field (Zech 11:13 → Matt 26:14-16, 27:3-10).

- His followers would scatter (Zech 13:7 → Matt 26:56).
  - He would be insulted and beaten. Even the exact words of the insults were prophesied! (Psm 22:6-8; Isa 50:5-6, 53:1-5 → Matt 26:56, 27:38-44).
  - He would be crucified with His hands and feet pierced (Psm 22:16; Zech 12:10, 13:6 → Luke 24:39-40).
  - Wicked men would be crucified with Him (Isa 53:12 → Matt 27:38).
  - The guards would cast lots for His clothes (Psm 22:18 → Matt 27:35).
  - Not a bone of His body would be broken (Psm 34:20 → John 19:36).
  - He would be thirsty and be offered wine (Psm 22:15, 69:21 → Matt 27:34).
  - In His final hours He would say, *“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”* (Psm 22:1 → Matt 27:46).
  - He would be buried in the tomb of a rich man (Isa 53:9 → Matt 27:57-60).
- 3.7.2. Prophecies about the resurrection of Jesus – David wrote, *“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer Your Holy One to see corruption”* (Psalms 16:10). Peter indicated in Acts 2 that this prophecy referred to Jesus the Messiah (Acts 2:25-31) who was resurrected from the dead (Matt 28:5-7).
- 3.7.3. Prophecies about the ascension and coronation of Jesus
- Forty days after His resurrection Jesus ascended from earth to heaven. Luke recorded the event this way: *“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”* (Acts 1:9).
  - Some 500 years earlier, the prophet Daniel had foretold this event – even indicating what would happen as the resurrected Jesus entered heaven. *“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed”* (Dan 7:13-14).
  - Notice that following the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, His kingdom was in place and He was coronated as its king. This also fulfilled the prophesy of Psalms 1:6-7: *“Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’”*
- 3.7.4. Prophecies about the kingdom
- This was to be a new kingdom (Dan 2:44)
  - With a new king (Psm 2:6)

- With new kingdom rules (Jer 31:31-34)
- With a new type of kingdom citizens – volunteers (Psa 110:3).
- It was to start in Jerusalem (Isa 2:1-3) in the time of the Roman Empire (Dan 2:44).
- It would signal the start of a special age of Holy Spirit powered miracles (Joel 2:28-32).

### 3.8. Anticipation of the Kingdom in the New Testament Gospels

3.8.1. The prophecies of the Old Testament about the Messiah and His kingdom were, to a great degree, shrouded in mystery. But as the New Testament opened, it was evident that some understood those prophecies well enough to know that a savior was coming. For example ...

- Simeon – *“And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation” (Luke 2:25-30). Remember that the “Christ” is the Messiah-King who was to come as ruler of the new eternal kingdom.*
- Anna – *When Anna came into the temple and saw Jesus, “she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” (Luke 2:38).*
- Joseph of Arimathea – *“Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus” (Mark 15:43).*
- The Wise Men – *“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him’” (Matt 2:1-2).*

3.8.2. Also, as the New testament age dawned, God began to provide increasingly clear information about the King and His kingdom:

- The Angel Gabriel to Mary – *“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His*

kingdom there will be no end ... That Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:31-33, 35).

- The Angel to Joseph – “Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us (Matt 1:21-23).
- Mary to Elizabeth – “He [God] He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever” (Luke 1:54-55). It is very important to note that this passage ties the coming of Jesus to the ‘seed’ promise made to Abraham.
- The Angels to the Shepherds – “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).
- John the Baptist – “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’” (John 3:1). “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.’ And John bore witness, saying, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God” (John 1:29-34).
- Jesus Himself – “Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.’ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’” (Matt 4:12-17). He commanded His disciples, “Preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand!’” (Matt 10:7). “And He said to them [a Jewish audience in Galilee], ‘Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not

*taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power*” (Mark 9:1).

4. Conclusion – This consideration of general information about the kingdom and related prophecies should prepare us for a more effective study of the book of Acts.

**ACTS AT A GLANCE**  
***An Overview of the Book of Acts***

<b>Questions on Lesson Two</b>
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5. What, in secular terms, is a kingdom? What are some of the ways the Bible uses this word?  
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6. What is the basis of membership in this kingdom? How is it different from membership in the Kingdom of Judea? (Psa 110:3) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who is the king? Who are the subjects? What is the territory of the kingdom? Where is its capital? What are its laws? \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. How do you know that the kingdom was not established in the days of the early ministry of Jesus and John the Baptist? (Matt 3:2, 4:17 Luke 7:27) \_\_\_\_\_  
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9. How do you know that the kingdom was established after the death of Jesus? (Phil 2:8-11)  
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10. Exactly when was the kingdom established? \_\_\_\_\_
11. When did the Lord begin to roll out His new kingdom on the earth? \_\_\_\_\_  
What was His first action in the administration of that kingdom? What was its purpose?  
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12. How did men and women come to be part of that kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_  
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13. Can prophecy have any value at the time it is uttered and before it is fulfilled? Explain.  
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14. Was it God's will that the utterances in the Old Testament about the Messiah and His kingdom be perfectly clear? What are such utterances called? (Eph 3:3) When was the veil removed? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What value does fulfilled prophecy have for us today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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16. What do you understand, with 20/20 hindsight, about the first Messianic prophecy in the Bible? (Gen 3:15) What was likely understood by those who first heard or read Moses' words? \_\_\_\_\_  
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17. What do you understand, with 20/20 hindsight, about the promise made to Abraham? (Gen 22:16-18; Gal 3:16; Acts 3:25-26) \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 18.** What do you understand, with 20/20 hindsight, about the prophecy of Moses about a Great Prophet who was to come? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 19.** What great Messianic promise did the Lord make to David? How does this prophecy illustrate the truth that some prophecies have both shorter-term and longer-term fulfillments?
- 20.** What do the Old Testament prophets reveal about the genealogy of Jesus?
- 20.1. Gen 3:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20.2. Gen 22:16-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20.3. Gen 26:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20.4. Gen 28:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20.5. Gen 49:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20.6. 2 Sam 7:11-13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20.7. 1 Kings 11:13, 34-36 \_\_\_\_\_
- 21.** What do the Old Testament prophets reveal about the life of Jesus?
- 21.1. When He would be born? (Dan 2:44) \_\_\_\_\_
- 21.2. About His mother? (Isa 7:14) \_\_\_\_\_
- 21.3. Where He would be born? (Mic 5:2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 21.4. His early travels? (Hos 1:1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 21.5. Where He would live? (Isa 9:1-2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 22.** What different roles are prophesied that the Messiah will fill?
- 22.1. Psalms 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 22.2. Deut 18:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- 22.3. Isa 33:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- 22.4. Isa 42:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 22.5. Heb 7:24-28) \_\_\_\_\_
- 22.6. Isa 53; 1 Pet 1:18-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- 22.7. Isa 19:20 \_\_\_\_\_
- 22.8. Ez 34:23-24 \_\_\_\_\_
- 23.** What are some prophecies about the death of Jesus
- 23.1. Who would betray Him? (Psalm 41:9)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 23.2. What would be the betrayal price? What would be done with the money? (Zech 11:13) \_\_\_\_\_

- 23.3. What would happen to His followers? (Zech 13:7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 23.4. What would happen to His hands and feet? (Psalms 22:16, Zech 12:10, 13:6)  
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- 23.5. Who would be crucified with Him? (Isa 53:12) \_\_\_\_\_
- 23.6. What would happen to His clothes? (Psalms 22:18) \_\_\_\_\_
- 23.7. What about His bones? (Psalms 34:20) \_\_\_\_\_
- 23.8. What was Jesus given on the cross and why? (Psalms 22:15, 69:21)  
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- 23.9. What is prophesied about His burial place? (Isa 53:9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 24.** Was the resurrection of Jesus prophesied? (Psalms 16:10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 25.** What did Daniel prophesy about the coronation of Jesus? (Dan 7:14) \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 26.** Were there those who read these Old Testament prophecies and looked forward to the kingdom? Examples? (Luke 2:25-30, 38; Mark 15:43) \_\_\_\_\_
- 27.** Were there New Testament prophecies about the Messiah? \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 1:31-35, 2:10) Explain? \_\_\_\_\_