



the Greatness of -

Solomon's Kingdom

by Tim Kelley

Have you ever taken the time to think about the Kingdom of God? What it is? Where it is? What it's like? Your part in the kingdom?. What will people do? Will they farm? Fish? Use electricity? Drive cars? If you think about it, there are a lot of questions, but there doesn't seem to be many answers.

Where do we find information about The Kingdom? Yeshua hinted at The Kingdom when He said,

"With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it?" **(Mark 4:30),**

but He only explained that the Kingdom continues to grow. He didn't give much information about how it would be run, or any of the answers we would normally want to ask. Why is it that we know so little about God's kingdom?

Did you know that the *Kingdom of God* is mentioned 68 times in the New Testament – 52 times in the gospels alone. It was at the forefront of Yeshua's teachings as well as the message of the apostles. It is also a focal point of many of Psalms and the Prophets. King David said:

"All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, and your saints shall bless you. ¹¹ **They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,** and talk of your power, ¹² to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and **the glorious majesty of His kingdom.** ¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,** and Your dominion endures throughout all generations." **(Psalm 145:10-13)**

If we are speak of the glory of His kingdom, why do we know so little about it?

Yeshua knew a little bit about The Kingdom. It's presumed, at least I believe, that He had a part in planning it. We know that He'll have a part in implementing it. He once told His disciples to –

". . . seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you", **(Matthew 6:33)**

Yes, the Kingdom of God is one of the most important topics in the scriptures. The restoration of Israel and the coming of the kingdom of God with a great king ruling over her is probably the most pivotal prophecy of all time. Would it stand to reason that God would have such an event in the plans without giving us a glimpse of it?

After spending 3 ½ years with The Master, the disciples were still looking for the restoration of the kingdom to Israel. They seemed to know much more about it than we do today. For them, The Kingdom wasn't something new, it was something that had happened before. Maybe these words of the prophet Jeremiah instilled in their heart this thought of a prior kingdom –

And I will cause the captives of Judah and the captives of Israel to return, and will rebuild those places **as at the first.** **(Jeremiah 33:7)**

Whatever it was, we know that they thought God's Kingdom, or at least a facsimile of it, had existed on the earth at one time. Indeed, the last question they asked their teacher, Messiah Yeshua, before He was taken into the heavens was -

" . . . Lord, will You at this time **restore** the kingdom to Israel?" (**Acts 1:6**)

I submit that the disciples were looking forward to the restoration of something they already had a wealth of knowledge about. They had read about the kingdom in the scriptures, had heard about it in the synagogue, had heard legends about its greatness, and had within their midst an icon that represented its greatness (the Temple). I'm speaking about the greatness of the Kingdom of Israel itself under the reign of two righteous kings – King David and his son Solomon – The GLORY DAYS of Israel.

So - why were the disciples so concerned about the "restoration of the kingdom". Wasn't Israel always just a little small nation stuck in the Middle East, just a little "oasis of God's people?"

How many of you get a little proud when you read the history books and you see the way the United States was able to win world wars, be a leader among nations. I do. I love America, not just because I live here, but because it's a great nation, and I believe God's hand was involved in making it great.

I believe the disciples, and many of the Jewish people who were living in the land of Israel during Yeshua's time, people that were under Roman occupation, were longing to see the nation as it was, as they'd heard about. They longed to see the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel as it was under the reign of the great kings, David and Solomon.

Why is it we know so little about the greatness of Ancient Israel? Why are our history books filled with information about the great ancient kingdoms like Babylon, Egypt, Greece, and Rome, but never a word about Israel? Why do our preachers gloss over the story of Solomon and pass him off as a young king who went bad? I submit that there is an agenda – an agenda to bury the knowledge of this great kingdom in order to support the concept of Heaven being the reward of the saved. I also believe that HaSatan needs to smother the greatness of Israel in order to portray God as a failure when it comes to fulfilling His promises.

Whatever the reason, that was then, and this is now. YHVH is restoring the understanding of Israel in many significant ways, and the understanding of Israel's greatness is just one of those ways. We are in the days when YHVH is beginning to reveal the mysteries of His kingdom to us. Yeshua told His disciples –

. . . "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God . . ." (^{NKJ} **Mark 4:11**)

So let's begin to expose some of the secrets about the Kingdom of Israel that have been kept under wraps for 2000 years. As we do, we'll begin to realize that the mainstream understanding of Israel is incorrect. We've been told that:

- The Ten Lost Tribes of Israel are no more. Today, all Israelites are Jews.
- Israel was never a major player in world history
- The Church, not Israel, will play the major role in end time events.

As we will see in the next few teachings, all the above statements are not true. We will see that the Lost Tribes are alive and well, just as they were in first century Israel. We'll see that Israel played a major

role in shaping the Middle East some 3000 years ago, and we'll see that Israel will play the major role in the end time events soon to come upon us.

So, just how great was the kingdom of Israel during the days of David and Solomon? Remember, God had asked Solomon "what shall I give you (1 Kings 3:5). Instead of asking for things to satisfy his lusts, Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge (2 Chron 1:10)" and an understanding heart (1 Kings 3:9). Then God said –

"Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days." **(1 Kings 3:11-13)**

God granted his request, plus he added to it "riches and honor (vs. 13)", more than any king before or after him (2 Chron 1:12). In a nutshell, God provided this:

- A United Kingdom
- Peace
- Wealth
- Happiness
- Fulfilling Their Purpose
- God in Their Midst

We'll briefly cover each of these points.

A United Kingdom - From the time the children of Israel crossed the Jordan until seven years into the reign of King David, Israel was a somewhat divided nation. For four hundred years, there were skirmishes between the tribes. When David became king, he reigned over Judah from Hebron while Saul's son, Ishbosheth reigned over Israel. There were wars between Israel and Judah until finally, the northern tribes relented to have David as their king.

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. ² "Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.' " ³ Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel. **(2 Samuel 5:1-3)**

It was shortly after that event that David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and placed it in a tent. Some thirty-three years later, David died and his son Solomon became king. It's important to realize that when Solomon became king, the Kingdom of Israel was one nation –

Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established. **(1 Kings 2:12)**

Peace – *Strength is Power, and Power preserves Peace* - Once Israel became united and Judah was no longer at war with the Northern Tribes, David no longer had to direct his military forces toward fighting his brothers. He could now set out to control all the lands promised to Israel by God's covenant with Abraham. As a focused leader, and with a common goal and a common enemy, David would have found it easy to recruit a large army capable of rooting out the Philistines as well as the other enemies of Israel. Thus David was able to recruit an army of over 1.5 million men.

Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to David. All Israel had one million one hundred thousand men who drew the sword, and Judah had four hundred and seventy thousand men who drew the sword. **(1 Chronicles 21:5)**

In his book Israel's Lost Empires, Steven Collins pictures David as a zealous and somewhat ruthless military leader. His zeal to bring about the fulfillment of the covenant promises to Israel led him to crush any nation that stood in his way. On the other hand, those nations that willingly submitted to David were blessed. Such is the case with King Hiram of Tyre who later entered into a treaty with Solomon and as a result, received abundant blessings through trade with Israel.

Thus, the fear of David led to enduring peace throughout the 40 years of Solomon's reign.

²¹ Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt . . . ²⁴ For he had dominion over all the region west of the Euphrates from Tiphseh to Gaza, over all the kings west of the Euphrates. And he had peace on all sides around him. ²⁵ And Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon. **(1 Kings 4:21-25)**

Wealth – Yeshua said to seek the Kingdom of God, and God would provide for your needs.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. **(Matthew 6:33)**

Such was the case of King Solomon. He asked for wisdom to judge righteously and God gave him wisdom and much more. He was blessed with an abundance of food, precious metals, building materials . . . anything you could imagine. For instance –

- Gold was as common as stones

2 Chronicles 1:15 ¹⁵ Also the king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland.

- Silver was considered as nothing –

1 Kings 10:21 ²¹ All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.

- Solomon's wealth alone was greater than the combined wealth of all the kings all the earth

2 Chronicles 9:21-22 ²¹ For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram. Once every three years the merchant ships came, bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys. ²² So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

It is estimated by some that the combined wealth of Israel and its vassal nations was greater than that of the USA in its zenith.

I want to interject here a little history of the small nation that historians call Phoenicia. The Phoenicians are credited with the first written alphabet. They were a seafaring people who rose to greatness between 1100 BC and 800 BC. Their vast maritime empire allowed them to trade their resources (lumber) with the nations along the Mediterranean Sea as well as the western coasts of Africa and Europe, yet they were a nation that was only 15 miles wide (thus they had to import food¹).

It's amazing that historians have studied and written about Phoenicia's greatness, but have failed to recognize that at the peak of their greatness, they were a vassal nation to King Solomon's Israel. Take their alphabet, the one that's credited with being the source of all other alphabets. It looks amazingly similar to ancient Paleo-Hebrew, includes 22 letters (as does Hebrew), and contains no vowels (again, as does Hebrew). Because we know YHVH told Moses to *write* the words of the Torah down on paper 400 years prior to Solomon, and we know that his (Moses') language was Hebrew, should it not alert these "historians" that maybe the Phoenician alphabet may have been inspired by the Hebrews? Just a thought.

Happiness – Because of its boisterous economy, there was probably no unemployment in Israel. With rains in due season, they had bountiful harvests which allowed them to trade with their neighbors for resources not native to Israel, thus increasing the overall wealth of the people. They also had a law, the Torah, that gave them great freedom, not like the laws of other nations. And of course, they had peace. But most importantly, they had a king that judged righteously. The Torah was executed in wisdom, just as YHVH had intended, and because of that, the people were blessed. Notice the Queen of Sheba's comments –

"And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, ⁴ the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers and their apparel, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her. ⁵ Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. ⁶ "However I did not believe their words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told me. You exceed the fame of which I heard. ⁷ "Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!" (**2 Chronicles 9:3-7**)

This statement by the Queen of Sheba is a partial fulfillment of a prophecy recorded in Deuteronomy that said if Israel walked in God's ways, even the nations would want to obey YHVH², which leads into our next point . . .

¹ **Ezekiel 27:17** ¹⁷ "Judah and the land of Israel *were* your traders. They traded for your merchandise wheat of Minnith, millet, honey, oil, and balm.

² **Deuteronomy 4:5-8** See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ⁶ Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' ⁷ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call

Fulfilling Israel's Purpose – Israel was called to be a light to the nations (the Gentiles). During this brief 40 – 60 year span of world history, Israel fulfilled that purpose. Kings sought the wisdom YHVH had given Solomon –

1 Kings 10:23-24 ²³ So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. ²⁴ Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

Keeping in mind that one of the purposes of the festivals was to bring the tithes and offerings of the people, Israel may have even had the opportunity to teach the nations about the festivals by having them bring tribute during the festivals. This may be what is spoken about in Zechariah 14:17 – 18.

1 Kings 10:25 ²⁵ Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year.

But, of all the blessings, both physical and emotional, that Israel enjoyed during this time, they were surpassed by the opportunity to have –

YHVH in Their Midst – In Deuteronomy 4:7, Moses talks of the tremendous blessing of having God near – dwelling in their midst. To be able to consult God and get immediate answers would be a blessing beyond imagination. King David was able to consult God about going to war, and in fact, God would actually direct David in how to organize the attack.

At the completion of the Temple, YHVH told Solomon –

¹² "*Concerning* this temple which you are building, if you walk in My statutes, execute My judgments, keep all My commandments, and walk in them, then I will perform My word with you, which I spoke to your father David. ¹³ "And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel." **(1 Kings 6:12-13)**

As we know, YHVH did dwell in Solomon's temple³ throughout his reign. It was not till later, after Judah had defiled the Temple, that YHVH departed (Ezekiel 10).

So, as we see, Solomon's kingdom was greater than anything the earth had ever seen. Not even our own nation (USA) has reached this pinnacle of greatness. In his wisdom Solomon said -

What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. ¹⁰ Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us. **(Ecclesiastes 1:9-10)**

upon him? ⁸ And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

³ **1 Kings 8:10-11** ¹⁰ And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy *place*, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹ so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Maybe he knew that the kingdom that YHVH gave him, a kingdom inherited from his father David, was a picture of something yet to come. God will restore the greatness of Israel. His kingdom will once again be established. This is the mystery spoken of by all the prophets.

In an often repeated millennial passage, the prophet Isaiah states that –

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. **(^{NKJ} Isaiah 2:2)**

The words "shall be established" are derived from the Hebrew word koon (כּוּן 3559) which has as its primary meaning "firm and stable". I believe that Isaiah is telling us that at the end of days, the kingdom of God will be firm and stable, not that it will be new. Israel, under King Solomon, had become the greatest of all nations, they just had an unstable king. When Israel's greatness is restored at the end of days, it will have a stable and unchanging King – Yeshua our Messiah.

Shalom Aleichem