

Kingdom of God, November 13, 2013

The Storyline of the Old Testament From Dr. Michael Vlach, TMS prof

1. God created the universe and is King over all things (recall, the Universal Kingdom started the moment of creation and never ends) – Genesis 1-2.
2. God created man in His own image as a son and king so that man would represent God on the earth and rule over (“radah” – see Psalm 110:2) God’s creation on His behalf. Adam’s purpose was to be a mediator between God and creation, a mediatorial ruler in God’s stead. Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:3-9. He was to be good and great.
3. Man failed in his task of ruling creation by sinning against His creator. Adam abdicated his role of headship over Eve and dominion over the serpent and submission to God, in one bite of fruit. Genesis 3
4. The consequences of the Fall are a cursed creation in which man is subject to death and the creation itself is subject to futility, thorns, thistles and groaning. Genesis 3-5.
5. God promised a future Savior, a Satan-crusher and curse-remover from the seed of the woman who would save man and restore the creation. Genesis 3:15.
6. Through the Noahic Covenant, God promises stability of nature as a platform for carrying out His restoration plan of man and the earth. Genesis 8:21-22; Jer. 33:19-26
7. Through the Babel incident God instituted ethnic and national diversity as part of His original plan for man to multiply and fill the earth. Genesis 10-11.
8. God’s plan for restoration and a worldwide kingdom is mediated through Abraham via the Abrahamic Covenant; Abraham and the nation that would come from him (Israel) would be the vehicle for blessing to the nations of the earth. Genesis 12, 13, 15, 17, 22.
9. God saved His people, Israel, so they could be a kingdom of priests and a light to the other nations; Israel along with its promised land would be the platform through which God would bless other nations. Exodus 19:6; Deut. 4:5-8.

10. The Mosaic Covenant was the means through which the nation Israel could be a set apart nation for God's purposes and the way the people of Israel could be related to the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant. Exodus 20
11. Israel was promised spiritual and physical blessings for keeping the Mosaic Covenant and curses and dispersion for disobeying the Mosaic Covenant. Deut. 28-29
12. God predicted that Israel would possess the land of promise only to be dispersed because of covenant disobedience. This would be followed by a restoration of Israel from the nations with both spiritual and physical prosperity. The basis of this restoration would be a circumcised heart. Deut. 30:1-10.
13. God's kingdom on earth was mediated through Moses, and then Joshua, and then through the judges and eventually through the kings of Israel and Judah. Joshua – Chronicles.
14. With the Davidic Covenant God promised an eternal kingdom for Israel through the line of David with physical blessings and rest from enemies; this covenant would also bring blessings to all mankind. 2 Samuel 7
15. The kingdom in Israel flourished under David and Solomon but then was divided and came to an end with Assyrian and Babylonian captivities. I Sam. – 2 Chronicles.
16. With the end of the kingdom in Israel the prophets became the spokespersons for Israel and proclaimed both judgment for covenant disobedience and future restoration under a restored Davidic Leader and kingdom. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel.
17. Because of Israel's failure to be a kingdom of priests for God's glory, God will raise up an ultimate Israelite, a Servant, who will restore the nation Israel and bring blessings to the Gentiles. Isaiah 42; 49; 52-53
18. God will mediate a New Covenant through Israel that will grant a new heart and indwelling Spirit to God's people so that they will obey God. Jeremiah 31-34 and Ezek. 36-37
19. The prophets reveal that there is a coming Day of the Lord in which God will judge the nations of the earth and purge His people Israel; this will be followed by the Davidic kingdom on earth, centered in Jerusalem, under the Messiah in which both Israel and the nations will be the people of God. Isaiah – Malachi.