

We Believe in Jesus

Lesson 5

The King

Lesson Guide



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HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE

This lesson guide is designed for use in conjunction with the associated video. If you do not have access to the video, the lesson guide will also work with the audio and/or manuscript versions of the lesson. Additionally, the video and lesson guide are intended to be used in a learning community, but they also can be used for individual study if necessary.

- **Before you watch the lesson**

- **Prepare** — Complete any recommended readings.
- **Schedule viewing** — The Notes section of the lesson guide has been divided into segments that correspond to the video. Using the time codes found in parentheses beside each major division, determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may also want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions.

- **While you are watching the lesson**

- **Take notes** — The Notes section of the lesson guide contains a basic outline of the lesson, including the time codes for the beginning of each segment and key notes to guide you through the information. Many of the main ideas are already summarized, but make sure to supplement these with your own notes. You should also add supporting details that will help you to remember, describe, and defend the main ideas.
- **Record comments and questions** — As you watch the video, you may have comments and/or questions on what you are learning. Use the margins to record your comments and questions so that you can share these with the group following the viewing session.
- **Pause/replay portions of the lesson** — You may find it helpful to pause or replay the video at certain points in order to write additional notes, review difficult concepts, or discuss points of interest.

- **After you watch the lesson**

- **Complete Review Questions** — Review Questions are based on the basic content of the lesson. You should answer Review Questions in the space provided. These questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
- **Answer/discuss Application Questions** — Application Questions are questions relating the content of the lesson to Christian living, theology, and ministry. Application questions are appropriate for written assignments or as topics for group discussions. For written assignments, it is recommended that answers not exceed one page in length.

Notes

I. Introduction (0:27)

King: a human being established by God to exercise rule on God's behalf over his kingdom.

II. Old Testament Background (2:56)

When Israel's kings feared God and followed his precepts, the nation received blessings.

When Israel's kings rebelled against God, the nation suffered judgment.

A. Qualifications (3:58)

1. Law of Moses (4:21)

Moses explained that God would eventually appoint a king over Israel.

Moses' four principles relating to the qualifications for kingship:

- Chosen by God

Only God could delegate his own authority.

- Israelite

The king had to be a native of God's chosen nation.

- Depend on God

The king was *not* to depend on human strategies for securing peace and prosperity.

- Forbidden to acquire large numbers of horses

- Banned from returning to Egypt

- Prohibited from acquiring many wives

- Commanded not to accumulate large amounts of gold and silver

- Covenant fidelity

The king was required to receive, copy, and meditate on God's covenant law.

2. Covenant with David (11:30)

This covenant established David's descendants as Israel's permanent dynasty.

B. Function (13:53)

Old Testament kings exercised faithful rule over God's people primarily by executing and administering God's law.

The most important characteristics of the law are justice, mercy and faithfulness

1. Justice (15:36)

Judging every person as he deserves in accordance with God's law.

- International
 - Peacefully negotiating with other nations
 - War

- National
 - Protecting the weak
 - Defending against the wicked
 - Prosecuting criminals
 - Establishing stability
 - Not distorting justice to favor one group or another

2. **Mercy (20:45)**

The imitation of God's compassion toward his creatures.

- International

Kings applied mercy to those nations and people who submitted to God.

Gentile nations would eventually submit to Jerusalem.

Sometimes God demanded that kings withhold mercy from wicked nations.

- National

Kings were required to treat God's people mercifully.

Mercy is one of the more important matters of the law.

3. **Faithfulness (26:27)**

Loyalty to God demonstrated through heartfelt trust and obedience.

- International

Kings were to lead God's people toward fidelity so the surrounding nations would repent and serve God.

- National

The king was to promote faithfulness within the nation of Israel by ensuring and providing for purity in worship.

When kings were not faithful to God, the people often suffered.

Faithful kings were often able to reform and restore the nation's worship.

C. Expectations (30:01)

The Old Testament established many expectations for future kings, and especially for the Messiah.

1. Historical Development (30:42)

- Before the Monarchy:
 - God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to serve as his vice-regents over creation.
 - Cultural mandate: Humanity's obligation to fill and subdue the earth.
 - Adam and Eve and their descendants strayed from their original responsibilities.

- After Noah and his family exited the ark, God reaffirmed the cultural mandate.
- God redeemed Abraham and made him the father of his chosen people, Israel.
- Under the rule of Moses and Joshua God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt and empowered them to conquer Canaan.
- The leadership of judges and Levites was not adequate to move Israel toward success as God's leading nation.
- During the Monarchy:
 - Israel refused to wait for God to raise up a king in his own time.
 - God appointed Saul as king over Israel.

- After Saul's failure, God gave Israel David as their king.
- When David died, his son Solomon succeeded him as king.
- The Lord divided the kingdom in the days of Solomon's son Rehoboam.
- Eventually both Israel and Judah came under God's judgment and were exiled from their lands.
- The last legitimate king was David's descendant Jeconiah.
- After the Monarchy:
 - Israel and Judah lived in exile and there was no Davidic king.
 - The Persian emperor Cyrus decreed that the Israelites could return to the Promised Land.

- The period of restoration:
 - Re-consecrated the altar of God
 - Built a new temple
 - Rebuilt Jerusalem's walls

- Israel's apostasy continued to delay the restoration of kingship in Israel.

The faithful people of God looked forward to the time when God would send a righteous Davidic king to rescue them.

2. **Specific Prophecies (44:35)**

- Davidic Dynasty

Old Testament prophets predicted that God would restore the Davidic dynasty.

God would send a righteous Son of David to restore Davidic kingship to Israel.

- Freedom and Victory

God would conquer his enemies on behalf of his faithful people.

- Everlasting Kingdom

When the great Son of David ruled over Israel, they would enjoy God's blessings forever.

- Worldwide Kingdom

The future Davidic kingdom would expand to fill the entire earth.

III. Fulfillment in Jesus (51:56)

The New Testament clearly teaches that Jesus is the Davidic king promised in the Old Testament.

A. Qualifications (53:50)

Jesus met each of the Old Testament qualifications for kings.

1. Chosen by God (54:26)

God selected and designated Jesus to be king over Israel.

2. Israelite (55:41)

Jesus was born into an Israelite family.

3. Depend on God (56:26)

Jesus depended entirely on God's power to establish security and prosperity for his people.

4. Covenant Fidelity (57:04)

Jesus adhered to God's law and its requirements.

5. Son of David (1:01:49)

Jesus' membership in David's house is clearly taught in Scripture.

B. Function (1:01:49)**1. Justice (1:03:25)**

- International

Jesus waged war against Satan and freed his people from sin.

Jesus received a peaceful tribute from the eastern magi.

- National

Jesus frequently exhorted justice among his people.

Jesus indicated he was keeping track of good and evil works in order to repay them.

2. Mercy (1:06:02)

Jesus demonstrated royal mercy by imitating God's compassion toward his creatures.

- International

Jesus healed many Gentiles who were outside the nation of Israel.

Jesus ministered in several Gentile areas.

- National

Jesus showed tremendous mercy to Israel as their king:

- Instructing and exhorting
- Performing countless miracles
- Forgiving sins

Jesus had the authority to grant forgiveness, so he could apply God's mercy to his people.

3. Faithfulness (1:15:33)

- International

Jesus preached the kingdom of God to the Gentile nations.

Jesus commanded his followers to make disciples of all nations.

- National

Jesus promoted faithfulness in Israel through preaching the gospel.

C. Expectations (1:16:11)**1. Davidic Dynasty (1:21:48)**

Jesus is identified as the prophesied Son of David.

Jesus restored a faithful remnant within national Israel.

2. **Freedom and Victory (1:23:28)**

Jesus acted decisively to give his people freedom through victory over their spiritual enemies:

- Sin
- Death
- Demons

When Jesus returns, he will completely defeat every enemy that opposes him and his people.

3. **Everlasting Kingdom (1:26:23)**

The New Testament affirms that Jesus' rule as king will last forever.

Jesus established his kingdom before he ascended to his throne in heaven.

4. Worldwide Kingdom (1:32:06)

When Jesus returns, the entire new earth will be part of his kingdom.

IV. Modern Application (1:33:37)

The Westminster Shorter Catechism, answer number 26 describes the modern implications of Jesus' kingship.

A. Builds His Kingdom (1:34:58)

1. Goal (1:35:16)

God plans for his rule on earth to reflect his rule in heaven.

The goal of Jesus' kingdom building is to turn the world into God's earthly kingdom.

God is like an ancient Near-Eastern suzerain, and Jesus is his vassal king.

We should make God's kingdom the main goal for our lives.

2. Manifestation (1:38:01)

The manifestation of Jesus' kingdom is often associated with the church.

For example, Matthew 16:16-19:

- Jesus said, "I will build my church."
- Peter applied the title "Christ" to Jesus.
- Jesus intended the church to participate in the warfare between hell and the kingdom of heaven.

The kingdom is a much larger concept than the church.

The church is the core of God's kingdom on earth in the present age.

3. Methods (1:46:04)

Jesus builds his kingdom in two primary ways:

- Adding more people to the church
- Expanding the church's geographical borders

The church participates in Jesus' kingdom building through:

- Evangelism
- Baptism
- Biblical teaching

B. Governs His People (1:48:51)**1. Rules (1:49:06)**

Jesus' rule is focused on our eternal good:

- Mercy and pardon
- Adoption as heirs
- Covenant blessings
- Grace

Jesus' rule provides us with temporal good in the present world.

- His presence through the Holy Spirit
- Clear direction in the Bible
- Leadership for the church

2. Defends (1:51:22)

- Temptation:
 - Jesus warns us of temptations ahead of time.
 - Jesus strengthens us to resist sin.
 - Jesus protects us from situations that would overwhelm us.
- Corruption:
 - Jesus disciplines and corrects us when we sin.
 - Jesus grants us forgiveness and cleanses us from sin when we repent.
- Accusation:
 - Jesus intercedes for us with God.

Because Jesus defends us, we can have great confidence in our battles with sin.

C. Conquers His Enemies (1:54:20)

Jesus punishes his and our enemies according to justice:

- To exact retribution
- As an act of blessing toward us

Jesus will complete his enemies' judgment when he returns.

Jesus' rule as king will include a future day of judgment.

The warnings of the last judgment allow the unfaithful to repent and receive forgiveness.

Christ's judgment will destroy every form of evil and will result in the purged and perfect world.

V. Conclusion (2:02:46)

Review Questions

1. What qualifications for kingship are revealed in the Old Testament?
2. Describe the functions of Old Testament kings.

3. What expectations were established in the Old Testament for future kings?

4. How did Jesus meet the qualifications for kingship?

5. How does Jesus fulfill the functions of the office of king?
6. Explore how Jesus satisfies the Old Testament expectations for the future messianic king.

7. How does Jesus build his kingdom?
8. Describe the ways Jesus governs his people within his kingdom.

9. How has Jesus already conquered his enemies, and what will he do when he returns?

Application Questions

1. In the Old Testament, kings who feared God and followed his precepts benefited the nations they ruled. How does fearing God and following his precepts benefit those in your sphere of influence today?
2. How can you deepen your dependence on God rather than relying on human strategies in your current circumstances?
3. Are you more likely to employ justice or mercy when dealing with others' wrongs against you? Is one more important than the other? Explain your answer.
4. How has your personal faithfulness and/or unfaithfulness to God affected those around you?
5. What are some ways you have experienced the freedom and victory God has given you over your enemies?
6. How can we show our commitment to God's covenant and law amongst our families, friends, colleagues, and others?
7. What can we learn from Jesus' demonstrations of justice, mercy, and faithfulness during his earthly ministry, and how should we apply these lessons to our lives today?
8. What are some things you are looking forward to when Jesus consummates his kingdom at his return?
9. How can you make seeking God's kingdom the main goal in your life?
10. What are some helpful strategies we can use in our battles with sin?
11. Is it important to include a warning of judgment in our presentations of the gospel to unbelievers? Why or why not?
12. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?

Glossary

Christ – From the Greek word "*christos*" meaning "the anointed" or "anointed one"; closely tied to the Old Testament Hebrew term "messiah"

church – The covenant people of God; his congregation; the visible manifestation of the kingdom of God on earth

Cyrus – Persian emperor from 559-530 B.C. who decreed that the Israelites could return to the Promised Land

David – Second Old Testament king of Israel who received the promise that his descendant would sit on the throne and reign forever

exilic period – Era of Israel's exile from the Promised Land

faithfulness – Loyalty to God, demonstrated through heartfelt trust and obedience

Great Commission – Christ's appointment of the eleven faithful apostles as his authoritative representatives and his charge to spread the kingdom of God throughout the whole world (Matthew 28:19-20)

Immanuel – Name meaning "God with us"; used in reference to Jesus

Judah – One of the twelve tribes of Israel; Jacob's fourth son from whose offspring the promised Messiah was to come; name of the southern kingdom after the nation of Israel was divided

justice – Judging every person as he deserves, in accordance with God's law

king – A human being established by God to exercise rule on God's behalf over his kingdom

last judgment – Also called final judgment; the eschatological event when God will formally declare the guilt of his enemies and pronounce their everlasting punishment, and formally declare the innocence of those who are in Christ and pronounce their everlasting rewards

mercy – The imitation of God's compassion toward his creatures

monarchical period – Era when kings ruled Israel

Moses – Old Testament prophet and deliverer who led the Israelites out of Egypt; man with whom God made a national "covenant of law" and who administered the Ten Commandments and the Book of the Covenant to the Israelites; also appeared with Elijah at Jesus' transfiguration

pre-monarchical period – Era before kings arose in Israel

Rehoboam – Son of King Solomon who reigned after him and mistreated the northern tribes of Israel, leading to the divided kingdom

restoration period – Era after Israel returned from exile to their ancestral land; also called "post-exilic" period

Saul – First king anointed by God to rule over the nation of Israel

Solomon – Son of King David and third king of Israel who was known for his wisdom and wealth; expanded Israel's borders and built the first temple in Jerusalem

suzerain – A powerful emperor or king that ruled over smaller nations; the more powerful party of a covenant, the one to whom it was necessary to submit

vassal – A king or nation that must submit to a more powerful emperor or king (suzerain)

vice-regent – A person who acts in place of a regent or other ruler

Westminster Shorter Catechism – A traditional Protestant summary of Christian teaching, originally published in 1647