

## **Fifth Story of Creation to Culmination: The Coming King, the Coming Savior**

### First Third:

Express joy in Christ together

Vision 100

Questions:

How are you doing?

How did you obey last week's teaching?

Who are you witnessing to?

Who has come to faith? Are they witnessing to those in their circle?

Who are you training to become a reproducing disciple? Are they training others?

### Second Third:

Pray briefly for God to open up His message to us.

DO stick to the story.

DON'T talk about politics; DON'T chase rabbit trails; DON'T focus on minor points in the passage.

DON'T talk about religion. DON'T dominate the conversation.

*This is a true story from the Bible.*

Several hundred years after God gave the people of Israel the Ten Commandments, He raises up a king named David from the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The following verses consist of God's words to David (spoken through a prophet) and David's response after he proposed building a temple for God:

2 Samuel 7:8 This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. . . . 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.

(David's reply) 25 "And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, 26 so that your name will be great forever. Then men will say, 'The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!' And the house of your servant David will be established before you."

David wrote many Psalms, or poems praising God. Several of these look forward to a descendant of David who will fulfill the promises we have just read, as well as the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In particular, Psalm 22 prophesies that a coming king will suffer. The psalm begins with the king speaking words of distress – "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" – and continues to describe his execution. However, the psalm concludes with a powerful promise from God, including these words:

Psalm 22:27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him.

David's son Solomon builds the temple for God that his father desired to build. But even Solomon in his old age worships other gods in addition to the one true God. The people of Israel continue to offer sacrifices for their sins, but many do this only as a ritual; they love neither God nor their fellow man. And God tells them time and again that He hates such meaningless sacrifices.

God sends a number of prophets to His people to call them to repentance, and to tell them more about His promises. These prophets say that God will destroy the very temple of Solomon because of the evil the people are committing. However, many of the prophets speak of a coming King, a Son of David, who will right all wrongs, bringing in an era of righteousness and peace.

The prophet Isaiah lived about 300 years after David (around 700 BC). He prophesies clearly about the coming King:

Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 11:9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah also speaks of a coming, suffering servant who will pay for the sins of the people.

Isaiah 53:5 He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

So the people are rebellious and deserve judgment. But God promises a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who will bless all the nations of the earth. God also promises a coming Son of David who will reign in justice and righteousness. And He promises a coming suffering Servant who, like the sacrificial animals, will shed His own blood for the forgiveness of the sins of the people.

How will God fulfill these promises? We'll see in the weeks ahead.

*This is a true story from the Bible.*

Have someone read the story, and then another person tell it.

What does this story tell us about God? About His promises? About His purposes in choosing David?

About His purposes in keeping His promise to David?

What does this story tell us about men? Our obligations to God? About our sinfulness? About how we can be forgiven before God? If the system of animal sacrifices covered the people's sins, why does

God say He will put the sins of the people on this servant?

Are there sins to avoid? Promises to claim? Examples to follow? Commands to obey?

Last Third:

Practice telling the story

What will you do differently this week because of this story?

Who will you witness to or share this story with next week?