

LESSON 5

The Kingdom of God in Human History: The Law of Moses

Psalm 103:19

The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all, Psalm 103:19.

Class Overview: This lesson explores God's kingship during the period of the Law of Moses, showing that His rule was not limited to Israel but extended over all creation. From the promises made to Abraham to the giving of the Law at Sinai, God established a covenant people to display His holiness, justice, and mercy to the world. Through priests, prophets, and judges, He guided His people and revealed His will. Yet, even beyond Israel, God ruled the hearts of those who sought Him in faith—like the people of Nineveh, Naaman, and Nebuchadnezzar—demonstrating that His sovereignty and righteousness transcend all boundaries. This study reminds us that the Lord has always been King, and that all who walk by faith are His servants and citizens in His eternal Kingdom.

Class Objectives:

By the end of this class, you should be able to:

1. Understand that God's kingship is eternal and was present long before the giving of the Law of Moses.
 2. Explain how the Law of Moses functioned as God's governing system for His covenant people, Israel.
 3. Recognize how God communicated His will through priests, prophets, and judges.
 4. Identify examples of non-Israelites in the Old Testament who honored God as King and what their stories teach us.
 5. Appreciate how God's universal kingship prepares the way for the revelation of His Kingdom through Jesus Christ.
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Introduction

In the previous lesson, we established that God (Deity) had been King before the world was, as He created the heavens and the earth; He was King during the entire time before the Law of Moses. The fact that some may not recognize that God is King has nothing to do with the eternal fact that He is. We must understand the completeness of God's reign over all things seen and unseen before we will submit in reverence to his wonderful will for us. In this lesson, we will discuss the Kingship of God over the world during the time of the Law, which was given to Israel.

The Purpose and Application of the Law of Moses

- A. Genesis 12: the promise to Abraham. Question: What promises to Abraham were fulfilled in the giving of the Law of Moses?
 - 1. God gave his specific Law for a particular group of people.
 - 2. The great Nation was to be organized and governed by Law. Why?
- B. Who was the King of these people at the time of Moses?
- C. How did God proclaim his message to his people?
 - 1. Priests
 - 2. Prophets
 - 3. Judges
- D. When did God cease to be King over Israel?
- E. What part of the Promise to Abraham was not fulfilled by the Law of Moses?
- F. What about those who were not of Israel? Can you name people in the Old Testament who were citizens of the Kingdom of God, but not under the law of Moses?
 - 1. What law did they follow?
 - 2. Where was that Law written?
 - 3. Who was their King?

Concepts from Jonah:

- A. The unrighteous need to be told who is King.
- B. The unrighteous need to be told about sin.
- C. All men are under the rule of God and convicted of sin and must repent and serve the King.
- D. The Law of Moses only defined the nation of Israel, some people believed in God and worshipped Him that were not Israel.
 - 1. 2 Kings 5:
 - 2. Daniel 4:

The Old Testament Principle of Being a Citizen of the Kingdom Was not Only Defined by the Law of Moses

- A. Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets.
- B. Romans 2:14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

Conclusion

God has always been King and always will be King. The faithful of all the generations before Christ who have walked in faith and lived to honor the King of the Universe are his servants, servants of the Kingdom.

Next week, we will begin our focus on the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, as revealed through Jesus the Christ.

For Discussion

1. Why is it important to understand that God has *always* been King, even before the Law of Moses was given?
2. What was the purpose of the Law of Moses, and how did it reveal God's rule and character to Israel?
3. How did God communicate His will to His people through priests, prophets, and judges?
4. What does the story of Jonah teach us about God's kingship over all nations, not just Israel?
5. Can you name examples of people outside Israel (like Naaman or Nebuchadnezzar) who recognized God as King? What does their faith teach us?
6. How does knowing that God's kingship extends to all people prepare us to understand the coming Kingdom of Christ?