



WEEK 2: KING JESUS

Welcome to the week two small group guide for the "Foretold: Jesus throughout the Bible" series. As we work through this series, we hope that each week's discussion will be an opportunity for you and your group to dig deeper into each weekend's sermon.

If you were unable to watch the sermon last weekend, please check it out at <https://www.firstdecatour.org/sermons/>



START

Throughout this Lenten series, we are studying prophecies in the Old Testament that point to who Jesus is as the Messiah. As Pastor Wayne mentioned both weekends so far, these prophecies often were given in moments of crisis. They were messages of hope amid critical moments in Israel's history. With that in mind, as you begin your group time this week, **please start by answering the questions below.**

- ▶ Share with your group about a time you faced a critical moment in your life. What was it about this moment that made it so consequential? How did you experience hope through the process of that moment? If you didn't, how could hope have changed your perspective on that moment?
- ▶ In some faith traditions, Christians choose to abstain from (or "give up") something during the weeks leading up to Easter. This is often done to create an increased focus on Jesus, symbolically share in his suffering, or even just help an individual turn their heart and mind back toward God. Have you ever done this? If so, what was your experience? With five weeks remaining until Easter, is there something you could abstain from to increase your focus on Christ? What would that look like?

Now that you are warmed up let's dive in.



KING DAVID

As Pastor Wayne said this weekend, the case can easily be made that David was the greatest King of all human history. Israel thrived under his Spirit-led leadership. The nation became the leader of the other nations around them. All was well in the life of Israel during David's reign.

However, following David's death, Israel began a downward spiral that ultimately led to them being overrun first by the Assyrians, then by the Babylonians, and then by the Greeks, the Romans, and on and on. As Pastor Wayne mentioned, it was during the beginning of this downward spiral that Jewish prophets came along from time to time, pointing out God's intention for the nation's long-term viability and security. Those intentions included a call to repentance and a promise of delivery through a coming Messiah.

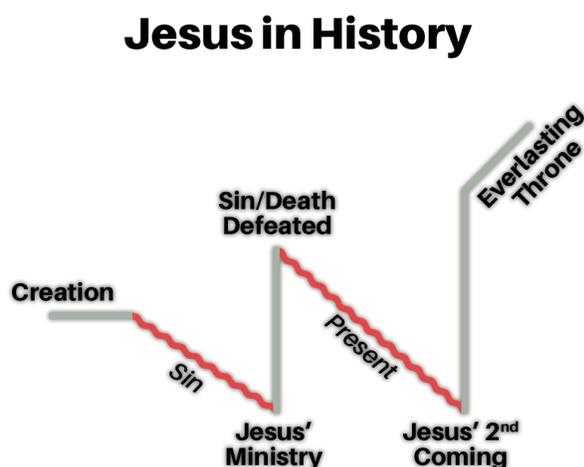
Last week we looked at Isaiah 9:6-7. This prophecy proclaimed that the Messiah would be the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. However, it also declared that the Messiah would "reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever."

- ▶ Take a minute to think about David's reign and the prosperity that Israel experienced during it. As you think about your own life, share about a season of life where all was well for you. Talk about what that felt like, but also what contributed to that season ending.
- ▶ As we know from history, the people of Israel have faced a great deal of struggle. While our struggles may not be like Israel's, we each face seasons of struggle for various reasons. During Israel's struggle, the prophets called them to return to God but also reminded them of the coming Messiah. As you face struggle in your life, what hope do you have to cling to? What hope does the Messiah offer you today?

KING JESUS

Toward the end of David's life, as his leadership role was about to shift – the prophet Nathan came to David and said: *When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, . . . Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me. Your throne will be established forever.*" (2 Samuel 7: 12, 16, NIV).

Pastor Wayne used the illustration below to help us better understand what this passage means



- In the beginning, Jesus was there.
- Sin took over the narrative of our human story. Death was introduced into our experience.
- In response, Jesus showed up on the earth. His ministry culminated in the defeat of sin and death as his cross forgave sin, and his resurrection obliterated death.
- Humans still struggle with sin. It impacts our present era. Death is still a factor for all of us.
- However, Jesus is coming again. When he does, he will not only claim David's throne as the King of Israel but as the King of the Cosmos.

With this in mind, [Read the Prophet Daniel's dream recorded in Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14.](#) Through Daniel's dream, we get a vision of Jesus taking over David's throne and restoring the world. This is a never-ending throne, different than any other monarch, benevolent or evil. All those reigns came to an end. But Jesus' throne is forever.

- ▶ Pastor Wayne said that because Jesus' throne is forever, we can have faith in him and trust him. How does understanding Jesus' work throughout history help you trust him and put your faith in him?
- ▶ As we look at the present age, it is easy to become discouraged or possibly even cynical. Yet, we know that Jesus is going to return and will reign on the Everlasting Throne. How should this understanding change the way we view our world today? How should it impact the way we live?
- ▶ As you think about Easter, how can this understanding of Jesus taking over David's throne help you prepare yourself to celebrate the death and resurrection of our Savior?