

- Read: 2 Samuel 7:1-4, 17-29

Introduction

- Running up to Christmas, want to explore something of who Jesus is.
 - three of the strands of identity that Christian thinkers have seen in Jesus are: **Prophet, Priest and King**
 - most visibly in songs, but also elsewhere...
 - the order in the phrase is probably because it sounds good in English - no deeper significance!
 - so starting with King, and looking at the life of the **exemplar king David** to identify things that might open our eyes to more of Jesus!
- We'll look at the OT example par excellence for each category, **Prophet, Priest, King**, before drawing the three threads together and seeing how they **come to fulfillment in Christ!**

David's Story

Heritage:

- Boaz & Ruth!!
- Bethlehem, Jesse, brothers
- upbringing, shepherd boy, character

Preparation:

- anointing by Samuel (1 Sam 16)
- with Goliath (1 Sam 17)
- in Saul's court (1 Sam 16ff)
- as an outlaw (1 Sam 19ff)
- assuming the kingship (1 Sam 31 / 2 Sam 1,2)

Kingship:

- priorities and plans! **a man after God's heart (Acts 13:22)**
- brought the Ark of God to Jerusalem;
- not allowed to build the Temple, he made preparations for its construction;
- failures - Bathsheba, etc
- failures - many wives, allowing murderers in his entourage, etc
- death and handing on to Solomon...

What was the King to Israel?

King was a distraction from God as King

- hence God and Samuel's objections to institution of Kingship in 1 Sam 8 (see esp vs.6-8)
- God was Israel's King, and no man could ever fully fulfil that role!
- God bore with their rebellion, knowing the harm that would come (bad kings!), but also using the human kingship to give to us a more concrete picture of his kingship...
- So there is a tension here - much to learn, but a human, earthly king was never meant to be the destination!!

King was Protector

- king's role, as in any nation, was to protect
- this is the background to David being castigated when he **didn't** go to war in **2 Sam 11** - and committed adultery with Bathsheba...
- he would raise and lead army, warrior, defeating the people's enemies

King led the people to God

- as a kind of example, person setting the religious temperature!
- so David danced with all his might as he brought the Ark into Jerusalem (**2 Sam 6**)
- not just bringing the ark, but demonstrating in his actions, his passion, that the faith that under-pinned bringing the Ark to Jerusalem was not a mere "official

position", but life-shaping belief!

- so also David wrote and sang many Psalms, leading the people in praise

King modelled God's authority

- as the King had authority over you, and a care for you as his subject, ...

- so even more so does God have authority over us, and a care and a concern for us

- a reflection of what God was like for the people to see - **not a living embodiment of the God's as Pharaoh or perhaps Caesar was**

- God's intention was something like, at best: "look at the king, and see a pale reflection of God's character and authority, and so give praise to God!"

King executed God's judgement

- by dint of his authority, the king exercised God's judgement

- he was the ultimate authority and clearing house of the judicial system;

- David did this immediately he assumed the kingship on Saul's death, executing one who killed the Lord's anointed (Saul); **2 Sam 1:1-16, esp 13ff**

- or, more positively, witness Solomon doing the job well when the two women were brought before him fighting over a baby...

King became a source of hope

• Especially after David died, and most especially once the kingdom of Israel had not just split, but been taken into exile, the hope of the **Return of the King** (Lord of Rings!!) became the Jew's main hope:

- *On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the LORD going before them. (Zechariah 12:8)*

- *"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest!" (Mark 11:10)*

Conclusion

• Protector, leading to God, authority, judge, hope

- we need each of these things in our faith

- which aspect of the King's role do we need to see grow in our Christian walk?