

**Readings:** 1 Kings 11:9-13; Jeremiah 13:15-27; Isaiah 9:6-7, 51:1-8

**The Big Idea:** The picture of the Kingdom in the Old Testament is only ever that – a picture, flawed, but pointing forward to a greater reality.

### 1. *Blemished by Idolatry*

- An ever-present flaw in God's people in Old Testament
- A broad range (see Judges 17:6, 1 Kings 12:28-30)
- Putting anything else in the place of God – power, happiness, comfort, self
  - What thing if you lost it, or didn't get it, would ruin your life?
  - What shapes you most as a person? What do you need most?

### 2. *Warned by God's messengers*

- Prophets were primarily preachers – warning and calling people back
- God warns before he sends judgment

### 3. *Punished by God's judgment*

- Judgment may be long in coming, but it always comes
- Kingdom split (930BC). Kingdoms exiled (722BC & 586BC).
- Seeking freedom outside of God only ends in captivity

### 4. *Sustained by Hope*

- There is always hope with God - the prophets also preach hope
  - a. **God's new people**
    - God will bring in people from many nations – Is 60:3, Zech 8:20, Ps 87
  - b. **In God's new place**
    - A temple that fills a city, a city that fills the earth, a new heavens and a new earth - Ezekiel 40-48, Isaiah 65:17-18
  - c. **Under God's new ruler**
    - A King who suffers as a substitute for his people – Is 9, Is 53
    - A King who transforms his people – new hearts that love his rule – Ezek 36:24-29; Jer 31:33
  - d. **Enjoying God's new blessings**
    - Rich abundant unending blessing
    - Amos 9:13-15, Joel 3:18, Isaiah 65, Zech 8, Zeph 3:16-20
- Old Testament closes looking forward to the coming of this King who will rescue people, pay for their sin, transform their hearts and bring them into great blessing in the new heavens and earth.