

**Reading:** Genesis 12:1-9 2 Sam 7:1-11 1 Kings 8:56-61

**The Big Idea:** Throughout the Old Testament God uses Israel as a picture of what his kingdom is like.

### ***The building of a Kingdom***

- Gen 12-Ex18 - God builds a people, rescuing them from slavery in process
- Ex 19-Leviticus - God give them his rules
- Num-Joshua - God brings them into a place prepared for them
- Judges-1 Kings 10 - God's people, in God's place, under Gods's rule, enjoying God's blessing

### ***Characteristics of the Kingdom***

No change from Old Testament to New Testament

### ***Entered through God's Saving Grace***

- Abraham, all the children of Israel became God's people because of what God did, not because of what they had done.
- We can be part of God's Kingdom only when we accept what Jesus has done for us - Titus 3:5

### ***Forgiven because of a substitute***

- Passover Lamb, sacrifices, Day of Atonement. Death is required for sin.
- All pointing forard to the great substitute - "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)

### ***Lived in by Obedience***

- Salvation first (Exodus), then obedience (10 Coms) as a response.

### ***Blessed by God***

- Blessed by God's presence with them - temple, Ark of Covenant
  - Jesus says, "I am with you always" (Matt 28:20)
- Blessed by God's provision for them - manna, land flowing with...
  - Jesus says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matt 6:33)
- Blessed with victories in God's strength
  - "I can do all things through him who gives me strength" (Phil 4:13)

Next sermon: The Kingdom Prophesied

Reading for next week: 1 King 11:9-13; Jeremiah 13:15-27; Isaiah 9:6-7, 51:1-8

Opening Psalm: 107:10-16 (Singing 107:7-12)