

## Lecture 21 – Revelation in the First Three Gospels (Part 1)

“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” Matthew 1:23

### Key Terms

Kingdom, mediator, covenant

### Objectives

To examine covenant revelation in the first three Gospels

To evaluate the revelation of these Gospels under the concepts of kingdom, covenant, and mediator

### Revelation in the First Three Gospels (Part 1)

- I. Main Concepts
  - A. Empires came and went, but the kingdom remained
  - B. Progress in the development of the kingdom
  - C. Further unfolding of God’s covenant in the mediator
- II. New Testament Theology
  - A. Debate concerning its character
    1. Historical and descriptive?
    2. Salvation/historical approach?
    3. Theologies of various writers – e.g. John? Paul?
    4. Relation to Old Testament theology
  - B. Various written works
    1. Authors on part of the New Testament: Vos, Ridderbos, Marshall
    2. Authors on the entire New Testament: Marshall summarizes Stauffer, Bultmann, Hunter, Richardson, C.C. Ryrie, Conzelmann, Kummel, Jeremias, Lohse, Ladd, Goppelt, Neill, Guthrie
  - C. Our Approach: Threefold uniting *mitte*: kingdom, covenant, mediator
    1. Old Testament revelation is assumed: The New Testament is the development and record of fulfillment
    2. Not all three are mentioned specifically by name, but awareness of each is assumed (cf. Marshall, p. 281)
      - a. *Basileia* – Often in the New Testament
      - b. *Diatheke* – Thirty-three times in the New Testament; unilateral idea (non testament); *suntheke* – bilateral
      - c. *Mesites* – Six times in the New Testament; Christ, as such, is said to be the heart of the New Testament
  - D. Method
    1. Sketch (cf. three epochs of revelation)
      - a. New covenant introduced
      - b. New covenant established in ministry of Christ
      - c. Pentecost
    2. Vos on structure or method (p. 299, first paragraph)
    3. Historical and progressive
      - a. Not necessarily the sequence in which books were written (e.g., James is one of the first)
      - b. Sequence of events (revelatory) from John the Baptist to Jesus, to Pentecost, to establishing of the church, to the consolidating (most of

the epistles) of the church to persecution and assurance of its continuity and victory (Peter, John)

### III. The Kingdom in the Synoptic Gospels

#### A. John the Baptist

1. John's birth announced, in the spirit of Elijah (Luke 1:17); prophet (1:76)
2. At his birth Zechariah knew his relation to David and to the covenant (Luke 1:69-75)
3. In preaching: Repentance (Matthew 3:2, 8; Mark 1:4; Luke 3:8); forgiveness (Mark 1:4, Luke 3:3); the Messiah (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:7; Luke 3:16-17); baptism with the Spirit and fire, (same passages, cf. Ladd p. 37); the kingdom (Matthew 3:2)

#### B. Summary

1. The kingdom, in the person of the Messiah and His work, His reign and judgment, and the blessing and curse of the covenant. These three concepts are inseparable.