

Kings and Prophets 02

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Preacher: Ron Gannon

[0 : 00] Last week we ended up with Solomon building the temple. And the temple's now finished. And I think we left off in 1 Kings chapter 8. I think we may have done this, but I'm just going to repeat maybe a couple things here.

And Solomon makes sacrifices. He did the benediction to the temple. He brought all the people in, and now he's Solomon sacrificing. The sacrifice is for the temple.

And in 862, and the king and all of Israel with him offered sacrifice before Jehovah. And Solomon offered for the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to Jehovah.

Two and 20,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of a Jehovah. Now, that's a lot of animals.

[1 : 02] A lot of animals. So there was a lot of sacrifice in going there. But he brought the whole nation together. So I don't know how many people would have been there at that time. But there was a lot of people. 65 says, Solomon held the feast at that time in all of Israel.

With him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamatham to the brook of Egypt before Jehovah our God. Seven days, even 14 days.

And verse 66, on the eighth day, he sent the people away. And they blessed the king and went into their tents joyfully and glad of heart for all the goodness that Jehovah had showed unto David, his servant, and to the people of Israel.

So all this came together. They had their sacrifices. The temple's been blessed. And now they're sent away. And we're going to take a little rabbit trail here.

Because we've been talking about the temple. And we probably won't see too much about the temple for the rest of the kings that we're going to be talking. Until we get into some of the prophets. But, you know, the temple is the house of God.

[2 : 12] And it was the house of God ever since Abraham, or not Abraham, but Moses. Although it wasn't a building like this. It was just a tabernacle, a tent.

That's where people came to worship God. And this is an amazing thing. So Solomon's temple was built in 1000 BC. It was destroyed by Babylon in 586 BC, which is going to be at the end of the period of kings.

As we're getting down there. As part of the downfall of Israel and then of Judah. The Ark of the Covenant was already gone. The Old Testament doesn't give the details of when this Ark disappeared.

It was possibly stolen by the Egyptians or even the Babylonians. And it's just not there. It doesn't really say where this Ark got to. It just disappeared. And after the Babylonians fell and the Persian Empire rose to power, the king of Persia allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall and the temple.

The book of Nehemiah is a narrative of the rebuilding of the wall. Ezra gives the story of constructing the second temple, which took from 538 to 515 BC.

[3 : 31] While there was great sorrow and rejoicing at the building of the temple, there was no supernatural manifestation of God to put his mark on the second temple.

The Ark wasn't there. They had the temple. They came in. They did the sacrifices, all the things that they normally do. But the Ark was not there.

And we're going to see that that's going to continue on. So the temple has been restored. Third, before Christ's ministry began, Herod was installed by the Romans as governor of Jerusalem.

He set about renovating the city and the temple to accommodate the massive influx of people at that time. In order to comply with the limitations of places and dimensions by the Jewish law, Herod built a great plaza around the temple.

The plaza is the temple mount of today where the Dome of the Rock stands. To construct this platform, Herod built a box around the Mount of Moriah and filled it in.

[4 : 36] And that's the great thing on the outside of the temple that was there at that time. And it was a great addition to the temple. It was a huge, huge complex.

The second temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. during the Roman Empire. During the Roman Empire. It has never been rebuilt until this time. A single stretch of the wall remains, and the people call it the Wailing Wall.

Today, because of the sadness and grief over the destruction of the temple, and the lack of the central place to worship God for the Jews. And a lot of times you see on the news and things, all you're going to see in the temple that's left is that Wailing Wall.

And you'll see the people there with the little pieces of paper they stick in the wall with their prayer request. And all that, and that's what's left of the temple today. In 691, the Dome of the Rock may have been built on the site of the Dostoy Jewish Temple.

And today you know that people are saying if the temple's going to be rebuilt, where's it going to be rebuilt at? Because that Dome of the Rock, or the thing for the Muslims and the Arabs, is sitting right there where the temple was, or close to where it was anyway.

[5 : 51] So what's going to happen? He declares that the third temple will exist during the Great Tribulation. Daniel refers to it, to this temple, when he says that the prince who is to come, the Antichrist, will enter it and stop the sacrifices in the middle of the Tribulation.

Jesus in Matthew 24, 15, and the Apostle Paul mentions it when he declares that the man of lawlessness will be preferring the temple by entering it and declaring himself to be God.

We see that in 2 Thessalonians 3 and 4. Also Daniel 9, 29 says, And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week.

But in the middle of that week, he will put a stop to his covenant, and the Tribulation will start in full force. Since this will be only a three and a half year time period, when is this temple going to be rebuilt?

Is this temple going to be rebuilt? There's all kinds of speculation. And there's really no answers. Now what he's saying there is, this man is going to be sitting in that temple.

[7 : 09] Does that mean that the physical temple that the second temple was? Or are we just talking about a tenth temple? We don't know.

So we don't know how this is all going to work out. But God does. And we do know that this man will be sitting in there, and he's going to deceive the people.

And thinking Israel and all the other nations, there's peace all around. All the great things that's happening. And peace, peace, and peace. And then all of a sudden, it's just going to turn.

And basically, all hell is going to break loose. It's basically what's going to happen. And we're going to see a tribulation period that's just going to be undescrivable.

And thankfully, we're not going to be part of that. And so that's the good news. So a lot of people today, especially today, people are wondering, is this, is this the end time?

[8 : 14] Is this when all this is going to happen? Hey, it could be. This could be the start of it. But it's been said many years before, at different times, when there's been squirmishes and all this other stuff over there in the Middle East, that this is the time.

Today, we're much closer than we've ever been. And the destruction is a lot worse than it's ever been. There's just all kinds of death over there at this point.

And it seems senseless at this point. But if this would be the beginning of the tribulation or the beginning of the end times, that's exactly what's being forecast, isn't it?

Death upon death. So it's a very interesting time to be in. It's a scary time to be in. Because we just don't know how this is going to affect us.

Roger says, cheer up, it's going to get worse. Who said that? Cheer up, it's going to get worse. And it probably is.

[9 : 22] And wow. Joe? Comfort each other with the rapture. Oh, absolutely. Yep. That's one thing that we have hope for. And yes, we're not going to be here when all these things are happening.

We may be here at the start of it. And we just don't know. But yes. It's amazing. My wife listens to way too many different people.

Yeah. But it's amazing the people that say there's no rapture. Oh. Or in the tribulation or the tribulation's already passed. Yeah. It's all kinds of. Yeah. Yeah.

You get into different type post-trib and all this type stuff about tribulation. And it's a very confusing thing for all people. But for us here in the church, we need to get into the Bible and see what it says about it.

Amen. And again today, if you just look at the news reports that we're getting about all the things that's happening in our society, the economy that we're in, all the different things, the possibilities of things happening.

[10:30] The stock market is just crazy. People saying, get out of the stock and put it in the banks. Well, okay. We're also seeing banks closing. We're also seeing something.

I read something this morning. I didn't really understand it. There's some new technology that's coming out. And the bankers may be getting a hold of this. And I don't know how it's going to affect us. But I don't know.

It's probably something to do with making this the one world system. Yeah. And so it's very frightening what's going on. And I can understand why people are frightened about it.

And that's where immersion in God's word is necessary for the church. Oh, absolutely. Because we're supposed to have hope and comfort in Christ.

And the only way to do that is to recognize that Romans chapter 8 really does apply. It applies to us. And the Lord has not forsaken his church.

[11:37] He's going to... It doesn't feel great. But I do know. And God helped me to remember in the darkness what I know to be true when it's light.

You know, when the going's easy, it's easier to say. When the going gets hard is when the church is going to have to be firm. And Paul said to Timothy, look, there's going to be a big hole in the way. It's not going to get pretty. But, he said, you man of God, teach the word. So, we need to encourage one another in the Lord that my hope is in God, not in men.

Absolutely. Okay. And the... Well, I just lost my train of thought. But the things that's happening today... Well, I can't...

I lost it. But I had it. It was a good thought, too. But I lost it. Okay. Anything else about the temple or any of the things that's going on?

[12:49] I know it's a time, but it's here. Timothy? I heard this morning, though, that the folks fired the bishop for not being woke up. For not being woke?

Yeah. Too woke. Yeah. They're not woke up, but just woke. Yeah. And again, all the things that's going on. And what's the scriptures say there?

Before the man enters the temple or declares that tribulation is going to start, he says that's when the apostasy starts.

When the apostasy is full. And we can see some of the apostasy today, can't we? The things that's going on. So it's going to continue. So it's not going to get better.

It's going to get worse. And that we as Christians ought to understand that. And know that when we see these headlines, don't be surprised. You got something, Joe?

[13:50] Yeah, I'm just going to sit right along the same line. You're talking. Something's new.

Professors giving credit for being in one of these resurrection or one of these Palestinian old things going on in the country now.

Professors are giving credit for students if they go out and participate in that. So here's our leaders. These are leaders. It doesn't matter about moral or character anymore.

It's how much credit you got. They're going to get more credit for that. And so you get higher based on your credit, your grades, and so forth. So those are what our leaders are going to be like. That's coming down the line all the time.

Yeah. Well, when we're talking about professors and stuff, we've seen a decrease of what's going on there and the morality of professors and everything for the last decade.

And again, that's going to get worse. Okay. If nothing else, let's jump into Chapter 9. Yeah. Yeah. I remember years ago, some of the grace pastors at the conference was saying that they have the materials to build the temple and they have the red heifer supposedly.

[14:58] Yeah. They are ready whenever they're let loose. And it has to be the peace treaty and all that. Just waiting. There's a devout group over there. There is a devout group.

And again, there's nothing in the Scripture that says that it's going to happen like they think it's going to happen. Now, if they're gathering supplies and stuff, they're probably talking about rebuilding the temple the way it was back then.

But when you keep looking at the Scripture, you can't get a clear picture that that's going to happen. It may just be the tabernacle or the tent or whatever.

Yeah. Paul told us in Thessalonians not to make a mistake when he was talking to the Thessalonians. Yeah. Then the Antichrist hasn't come on the scene. That's a world leader that's going to be over all the world.

And we don't know. We have not had that yet. Right. He's going to be over all the nations and the countries and lead them. And so we haven't reached the tribulation period yet.

[15:58] That hasn't started anymore. Yeah, exactly. The Scripture tells us that. Okay, chapter 9. While the temple has been under construction, so has the royal palace for Solomon.

The place actually requires six more years to complete than the temple itself and includes separate dwellings for both Solomon and Pharaoh's daughter, whom he married. Solomon's building program includes the construction and repair of many cities throughout the kingdom, a task accomplished through the use of forced labor by captives living within the country.

Where did these forced labor come from? It doesn't sound like it was Solomon. Probably a lot of this was all the wars that David was in.

You know, David was the guy that did all the wars. And he had a lot of very successful in the wars. And there's all kinds of people that became slaves for the nation of Israel.

And I'm sure some of these people were what we're talking about here. So chapter 9 begins with the appearance of God Almighty to Solomon a second time after the house of the Lord was completed.

[17:10] God appeared again to acknowledge that he heard Solomon's prayer and supplication. And what was that? He asked for wisdom, didn't he? He asked for wisdom.

So verse 9-3. God allowed the house, or hollowed the house and put his name therefore before the Lord. The Lord even confirmed with his eyes and mind will be there perpetually.

In other words, this temple will be there perpetually. Whether it's a building or not, his house will be there. 9-4. God also reminded Solomon to keep walking in the integrity of ways of David, his father.

If he continued, God would bless his throne continually. The polar opposite was the case as Solomon and his children decided not to walk in the Lord's ways.

Again, God gives us an option. He said, Solomon, walk in my ways. And you will have, your kingdom will reign perpetually. But, there's always that but.

[18:17] Verse 9-6. The Lord said he would cut off Israel, throw them out of the sight, destroy the house they built, and make them a byword among the nations. And all of these things would happen to them if they destroyed or if they disobeyed the Lord.

Everyone who observed the negative conditions put upon Israel for their rebellion would know why. They would know that it was because Israel turned away from their God.

The chapter transitions now to verses 9-13. And Harem did not take them, or transition to Harem, the king of Tyre, as he visited Solomon to see the 20 cities Solomon gave him in the land of Galilee.

And 9-13 says, Harem did not like them too much, but he called the land worthless. Still, he sent Solomon 120,000 talents of gold. So, you can see that these two kings were in bed with each other.

And it also, and there in verse 9, All the building and construction and labor, as well as the giving of these cities to neighboring rulers as gifts, caused Solomon to raise the taxes in Israel pretty substantially.

[19:30] So, now we're going to start seeing, okay, he's building all this wealth. He's getting all this stuff away. He's getting in bed with some of these foreign countries, with all these kings.

So, what's the first thing that's going to happen? He's going to dip into the pocketbooks. There's going to be taxes. So, they built quite a few large entities.

They built the house of the Lord, the king's own house, and the wall of Jerusalem. This chapter told us how the king of Egypt went back and took a city called Gezer, which got rid of all the remaining Canaanites who lived there, and he gave the city to his daughter Solomon's wife.

The Amorites, Hittites, Pezzarites, all theites, they remained bondmen in service to Israel with a high tax and tribute payment. Solomon was industrious, much more than David, who spent more of his time establishing Israel by war.

And that's something we already covered. Solomon brought trade in and dominion, but also other nations with their customs. And guess what? With their gods.

[20 : 47] With their gods. So, to get into the extent of God's, Solomon's glory, we get to chapter 10. Because Solomon asked for wisdom instead of wealth, God promised to give both.

Wisdom beyond all men, and untold riches. Over the years, Solomon reigns. God's promise has become reality now. Solomon's kingdom has developed into the most peaceful and prosperous kingdom ever known.

Solomon's glory is documented not only by official statistics, but also by the visit of the Queen of Shulil. The visit itself is altogether remarkable, practically, particularly because of the Queen's home in southern Arabia, perhaps the modern country of Yemen.

This is a 1,200-mile camel ride across the hot desert, territories inhabited by roving groups of bandits ready to relieve the Queen of the treasures which she carries.

What motivates her to become such a great distance is far more than mere curiosity of Solomon's wealth. So, what was it? For God, or Solomon's God, she was interested in Solomon's God.

[22 : 02] See, it was interested in... How did it help Solomon? It's a search for wisdom. And insight compels her that she is not the last, at least bit disappointed.

She came and she asked Solomon all these questions and all these things and how it came about. And at that point, Solomon was still in God's will. So, chapter 2, verse 9, or 9, 1, chapter...

First chapter... Yes, chapter 9, verse 1. No, what am I talking about? Now, we're in chapter 10, so 10, verse 1.

Now, when the Queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with difficult questions. She had a very large group of people with her with camels carrying spices and large amounts of gold and precious stones.

And when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was on her heart. Solomon answered all her questions. Nothing was hidden from Solomon, which he did not explain to her.

[23 : 10] So, it sounded like, wow, he must have been putting a lot of information here. When the Queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house which he had built, the food at his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his ministries and their attire, his cupbearers and their attire and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, she was breathless.

This must have been a great, great time here for the Queen of Sheba and Solomon giving all this information to her. Then she said to the king, it was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

So, she was 1,200 miles away. So, this knowledge that King Solomon had was being transported all across the world at that particular point.

And, you know, that happened as caravans took off and they seen what was happening. they would spread it off to this country and to the next country. Nevertheless, verse 6, nevertheless, I did not believe the reports until I came and my eyes had seen it.

And behold, the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told to me. You surpassed the report that I had heard. How blessed are you men who blessed, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom.

[24 : 38] Blessed be the Lord your God to delighting in the setting of you on his throne and as king for the Lord your God. Because your God loved Israel establishing them forever, therefore he made you king over them to justice and righteousness.

Justice and righteousness. Solomon was still there. Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold and every great amount of spices and precious stones that she had brought.

The servants of and then she left. It didn't say that much about Queen Sheba except what we just read here in chapter 10.

So the servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon who brought gold from Ophir also brought almond trees and precious stones.

From the algam trees the king made steps for the house of the Lord and for the king's palace and lyres and harps of the singers and none that was seen before the land of Judah.

[25 : 41] He was doing all these great things. Getting all this material from the different countries. Building all these type things. Even talking about the instruments. The music instruments. So King Solomon gave to Queen of Sheba all her desires which she requested besides a return for what she had brought to the king.

then she returned and went to her own land with her servants. Now we're going to be talking about the king's wealth and it's you just can't understand how wealthy a man this could have been but he

was giving him it.

God gave him everything that he asked for and more than he asked for because he just asked for wisdom. God says hey if you're asking for wisdom and you follow these things then the other stuff comes with it which is all the riches that comes from that.

So verse 10 23 so King Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom and all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart.

25 and they brought every man his tribute vessels of silver and vessels of gold and remnant and armor and spices horses and mules a great year by year.

[27 : 03] Now it looks like he's putting something on them on a yearly basis. This where he gathered his wealth the district officers each in his month supplied provisions for the king and to all who came to the king's tables.

They saw to it that the king was lacking nothing. Solomon's provisions for one day was 30 cores or 6.52 bushels of fine flour and 60 cores of meal.

20 measures 20 pasture fed oxen and 100 sheep beside deer, gazelle, and fattened fowl. this man king Solomon was very well kept.

So this is pretty much the end. Chapter 10 kind of ends with all the great things that was going on with Solomon. And we're going to get into some of the next chapters.

We're going to start seeing how he falls. Before I do that, I don't think we can get to where he falls before we start talking about some of the things that he did.

[28 : 10] I'm sure he did during this time. Now Solomon ruled for how many years? 40 years. So we don't know the exact timeline when all these things, good things are happening and when the bad things started happening.

But I got a feeling that all the proverbs that he wrote and the other books that he wrote was probably happening during these good times. Yeah, Joe?

During these good times, which actually turned out bad for him. Some of the things happened to him. First of all, he married all these foreign women. Back then, you could have concubines, wives, both.

And that turned out to be his downfall, not the women, but their religion, their idols that they worship. That became, you get into that in 11, but this happened during the good times when he married all these foreign wives and so forth.

That was bad. And also his wealth, him going out there and taxing all the people to get more wealth and more wealth. That was actually against God, not according to God's will either, but he did that.

[29 : 16] Exactly. He did that during the good times. So those things that he did during the good times turned out to hurt him during the bad times. Exactly. And that happens to, you know, a lot of times when people come very popular and it looks like everything's happening for them.

After so long a period, we get greedy and things start happening. So before we get to the downfall of Saul, we want to talk about, I want to get into the book of Proverbs, the book of Solomon, or not the Solomon, but Solomon's song is Solomon.

And Ecclesiastes, not Ecclesiastes, the other book that he wrote. And this is the wisdom that God had given him. And we're not going to get into all the Proverbs, but I'm going to just pick out some Proverbs to read and see some of the things that God gave him wisdom about.

First Kings states in 432 states that he spoke 3,000 Proverbs and his songs were 1,005. He did a lot of setting down and writing.

So along with all these other things he was doing, he was also proficient at writing. writing songs. And we're going to see that. Solomon was uniquely qualified to serve as a principal author for the book of Wise Saints.

[30 : 44] Recounts of Solomon asking for God's wisdom in his reign over Israel, a request God eventually granted. The fact Solomon identified himself as the source of most of this book, his name appears at the beginning of three distinct sections.

Proverbs 1,1, 10,1, and 25,1. So covering almost all the first 29 chapters of the book. So I think that pretty much gives us the fact that Solomon did write these Proverbs.

So why is a Proverbs so important? What did they accomplish? Proverbs accomplishes something no other biblical book does.

It simply compiles numerous short instructions, profound theological truths, truths, lengthy narratives of triumph and failure, or prophetic preaching to a disobedient people.

Proverbs concerns itself completely with instructing people in the path of what? Wisdom. Because the whole book of Proverbs is about wisdom.

[31 : 56] The writers of the book recognize the varied circumstances of a person's life and provided principles to apply in a variety of situations rather than instructions to follow in only a few specific instances.

Proverbs states its theme explicitly very early in the book. And there in Proverbs 1,7, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of what?

Knowledge. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. What is this fear? It's respect. The respect that we show to God.

That's what this fear is all about. It's not being afraid of God that he's going to do some things to us. But to have the respect of God, to know who he is, to put him into your life, and live your life according to that.

So the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. The fear of the Lord appears to the viewing of him is respected to what he deserves. Both in style and content, the Proverbs are somewhat typical of wisdom literature prevalent during this time.

[33 : 07] However, the Hebrew Proverbs are distinct that all wisdom is seen as flowing through the true God, rather than being a mere accumulation of human observations and experiences.

So evidently, there was a lot of that going on at this time also. And of course, today we see a lot of the literature and stuff that's really not of God at all, that kind of just invades the internet now today. And the same thing was going on back then. The various Proverbs and wise sayings, which number more than 6,000, fall amid several discourses and narratives of wisdom.

The following are just a few Carabasks that I've selected. And we're going to turn to the beginning of knowledge. Proverbs 1.1, the Proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, the king of Israel.

Proverbs 1.2, to know wisdom and instruction, discern the words of understanding, to receive instruction in wise detail, in righteousness and justice and equality.

[34 : 14] 4, to give prudence to the simple, to the young man, knowledge and discretion, that the wise man may hear and increase in learning, and that the man of understanding may attend unto counsel.

To understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their dark scenes, the fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge, but the foolish despise wisdom and destruction. salvation. So these proverbs just give an example of the knowledge that he gives about wisdom. And if you're wise, you follow.

What's it say about the fool, the wisdom? They despise. They despise wisdom, don't they? Despise knowledge, except for their own type of knowledge that they have.

Words of the wise, Proverbs 22.7, Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply their heart unto my knowledge. Verse 18, For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee, if they be established together upon thy lips, that they trust may be in Jehovah.

[35 : 24] I have made them known to thee this day. Verse 20, Have I not written to you these excellent things of counsel and knowledge, to make thee known the certainty of the words of truth, that thou shall mayest carry back words of truth to them that sin thee.

Rob not the poor, because he is poor, neither oppress the afflicted in the gates. For Jehovah will plead their cause and dispel all life those that dispel them.

Make no friendship with a man that is given to anger, and a wrathful man shall not go. So here, God has given out tips of information that you can live by.

These are things that we see in the Proverbs. They're short, they're pithy, but they're simple understandings that you can understand and you can apply this to your life.

And we'll continue to do that as we read through these. Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

Proverbs 3.1 My son, forget not my law, forget not my law, but let thy heart keep my commandments.

[36 : 40] For the length of days and years of life and peace will they add to thee. Let not kindness and truth forsake thee. Bind them about thy neck, write them upon the tablet of thy heart.

So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. we turn to talk about wisdom and folly.

Proverbs 13.14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life that only may depart from the snare of death.

Proverbs 14.24 The crown of the wise is their riches, but the folly of fools is only folly.

15.24 I guess it's good to almost time I'm losing my voice. To the wise they will, the way of life goeth upward that he may depart from shoal beneath.

And I think this is a good time to stop because I'm losing my voice for some reason. So any comments that we've covered this morning that we want to have before we finish up here?

[37 : 51] Roger. My pastor friend up in Michigan and I talked about having a healthy fear of the Lord. He is God and you are not. You're in awe of it.

You know, it's just you want to serve him. You want to recognize him in everything you do. We just called it a healthy fear. It wasn't something you tremble about.

You're just in awe. And a lot of people, if they heard you say that, they would come across with the wrong connotation of what you're saying because they have a complete different understanding of God and that's just not good.

Well, we're just about time to finish anyway, so I'm going to end it here. We'll finish some things here on Proverbs next week. We'll get into Song of Solomon.

Then we're going to get into where Solomon's glory fades. We're going to see that in chapter 11. So we're going to be in chapter 10 or some of the Proverbs chapter 11 and chapter 12.

[39 : 00] That's where we're going to see the divided kingdom coming into place. So we'll be looking at that next week. So have a good week.