

## Christ, Kingdom and Creation in Luke-Acts

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This paper considers the Old Testament background to Luke-Acts, specifically two related areas: the Davidic Kingdom and Creation. Our treatment proceeds in three stages: First, we explore the Davidic Christology of Luke. Second, we show how the biblical texts show the Davidic covenant to be in some sense a renewal of the covenant with all creation. Finally, we briefly indicate how Acts portrays the universal mission Church as both a restored (Davidic) kingdom and a renewed creation.

### 1. Royal Davidic Christology in Luke

Recent scholarship highlights Luke's use of Israel's scripture, as noted by Augustin del Agua: "the OT tradition ... is the hermeneutic reference of meaning sought by Luke in his narration,"<sup>1</sup> and "the source par excellence for the narrative elaboration of his theological project."<sup>2</sup> While some studies focus on Luke's use of Abrahamic and Mosaic traditions,<sup>3</sup> a growing number of scho-

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1. A. DEL AGUA, 'The Lucan Narrative of the "Evangelization of the Kingdom of God:" A Contribution to the Unity of Luke-Acts,' in *The Unity of Luke-Acts*, ed. J. VERHEYDEN (BETL 142), Leuven 1999, 639-662, esp. 643.

2. DEL AGUA, 'Narrative', 641.

3. On the Abrahamic covenant in Luke, see R.L. BRAWLEY, *Text to Text Pours Forth Speech: Voices of Scripture in Luke-Acts*, Bloomington, IN 1995, and IDEM, 'Abrahamic Covenant Traditions and the Characterization of God in Luke-Acts,' in *The Unity of Luke-Acts*, ed. J.

lars recognize the greater importance of Davidic motifs, especially in Luke's portrait of Jesus' royal messianism and mission.<sup>4</sup> This is evident in several key texts:

- Luke introduces Jesus' legal father, "Joseph of the house of David" (Lk. 1:27).<sup>5</sup>
- Gabriel's annunciation is saturated with Davidic imagery, as Mary hears that her son is promised "the throne of his father David ... and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Lk. 1:32-33), an adaptation the key Davidic covenant text (2 Sam. 7:1-17).<sup>6</sup>
- In the *Benedictus*, Zechariah praises God who has raised up "a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David" (Lk. 1:69), a reference to a royal Davidic psalm (Ps. 132:17).<sup>7</sup>
- Jesus' birthplace is Bethlehem, called "the City of David" by the narrator (2:4) and the angels (2:11). Likewise, Joseph's Davidic lineage is repeated for emphasis (2:4).<sup>8</sup>
- At Jesus' baptism, the divine voice announces, "Thou art my beloved Son," words adapted from Psalm 2, the royal coronation hymn of the Davidic kings (Ps. 2:7).<sup>9</sup>

VERHEYDEN (BEITL 142) Leuven 1999, 109-132; on the Mosaic and Deuteronomic covenant traditions, see D.P. MOESSNER, *Lord of the Banquet: The Literary and Theological Significance of the Lukan Travel Narrative*, Minneapolis, MN 1989.

4. See D.L. BOCK, *Luke 1:1-9:50* (BECNT, 3A) Grand Rapids, MI 1994, 115; BRAWLEY, *Text*, 85-86; T.J. LANE, *Luke and the Gentile Mission: Gospel Anticipates Acts*, Frankfurt am Main 1996, 157-163; D. RAVENS, *Luke and the Restoration of Israel* (JSNTSup 119), Sheffield 1995, 24-49, esp. 34.
5. Cf. J.B. GREEN, *The Gospel of Luke* (NICNT) Grand Rapids, MI 1997, 84-85; S.W. HAHN, 'Kingdom and Church in Luke-Acts: From Davidic Christology to Kingdom Ecclesiology,' in *Reading Luke: Interpretation, Reflection, Formation*, ed. C.G. BARTHOLOMEW - J.B. GREEN - A.C. THISELTON (Scripture and Hermeneutics 6), Grand Rapids, MI 2005, 294-326, esp. 323.
6. As demonstrated by GREEN, *Luke*, 85, 88; likewise J.A. FITZMYER, *The Gospel According to Luke 1-9* (AB 28) Garden City, NY 1981, 338.
7. An allusion to Ps. 132:17, where a horn sprouts up from David, is probably intended (GREEN, *Luke*, 116). Cf. BOCK, *Luke*, 20, 180. On other, more subtle Davidic allusions in the *Benedictus*, see S. FARRIS, *The Hymns of Luke's Infancy Narratives: Their Origin, Meaning and Significance* (JSNTSup 9), Sheffield 1985, 95-96.
8. Appropriately, the first witnesses to the birth of the Son of David, the great Shepherd King of Israel's memory, are shepherds (Lk. 2:8-20), possibly alluding to Mic. 5:2-4; see GREEN, *Luke*, 130; RAVENS, *Luke*, 42-43.
9. Cf. GREEN, *Luke*, 186; BOCK, *Luke*, 341-43.

- In Lk. 3:23-28, Luke traces Jesus' genealogy through David.<sup>10</sup>
- In Lk. 6:1-5, Jesus likens himself to David, and his disciples to David's band, while asserting the unique cultic prerogatives that David enjoyed.<sup>11</sup>
- At the transfiguration (Lk. 9:35), the divine voice reiterates the royal coronation hymn (Ps. 2:7): "This is my Son, my Chosen."<sup>12</sup>
- On entry into Jericho, Jesus is hailed twice by a blind man as "Son of David" (Lk. 18:35-43), anticipating his imminent royal entrance to Jerusalem.<sup>13</sup>
- Luke's description of Jesus' triumphal entry (19:28-48) corresponds to Zech. 9:9-10, which in turn draws from the narrative of Solomon's coronation (1 Kgs 1:32-40), to portray the coming of an eschatological king, as a Davidide (cf. Zech. 12:7-13:1).<sup>14</sup>
- The climax of Luke's Institution Narrative (Lk. 22:29-30) evokes key Davidic images: the paternal bestowal and covenant conferral of a kingdom (Lk. 22:30; cf. Ps. 89:3-4); while eating at the king's table (cf. 2 Sam. 9:9-13); sitting on thrones, ruling the twelve tribes of Israel (cf. Ps. 122:3-5).
- In the passion narratives, Davidic titles are used of Jesus with ironic contempt: "King of the Jews" (Lk. 23:37-38; cf. 2 Sam. 2:11) and "Chosen One" (Lk. 23:35; cf. Ps. 89:3-4).
- Jesus' identity as Davidic Messiah is the climax of the three major apostolic speeches in Acts: (1) *Peter's* first sermon, at Pentecost (Acts 2:14-36, esp. 25-36); (2) *Paul's* first sermon, at Pisidian Antioch (13:16-41, esp. 22-23, 33-37); and *James's* only recorded speech, at the Jerusalem council (15:13-21).<sup>15</sup>

Indeed, the large number and wide distribution of Davidic royal motifs make a *prima facie* case for the primacy in Luke of a royal Davidic Christology.

10. On David in Lk. 3:23-28 see BOCK, *Luke*, 357. The following temptation sequence features a Davidic allusion in its second scene. See BRAWLEY, *Text*, 20.
11. See BOCK, *Luke*, 527 and L.T. JOHNSON, *The Gospel of Luke* (SP 3), Collegeville, MN 1991, 101.
12. BOCK, *Luke*, 873-874. The title 'chosen' or 'chosen one' is also a Davidic epithet (Ps. 89:3); see M.L. STRAUSS, *The Davidic Messiah in Luke-Acts: The Promise and Its Fulfillment in Lukan Christology* (JSNTSup 110), Sheffield 1995, 265-267. Jesus statement in Lk. 10:22, 'All things have been delivered to me by my Father' recalls the covenantal father-son relationship of God to the Davidic king; see Ps. 2:7-8, Ps. 8:4-8; Ps. 72:8; Ps. 89:25-27.
13. GREEN, *Luke*, 663-665; D.L. BOCK, *Luke 9:51-24:53* (BECNT, 3B), Grand Rapids, MI 1996, 1507-1512; J.A. FITZMYER, *The Gospel According to Luke 10-24* (AB 28A), New York 1985, 1214.
14. See GREEN, *Luke*, 683-688; and BOCK, *Luke*, 1556-1558, who point out the connections with Zech. 9:9 and 1 Kgs. 1:33 (the coronation of Solomon).
15. See treatment in STRAUSS, *Messiah*, 130-195.

gy. However, this Davidic Christology is manifested not only by the many references to David scattered throughout key sections of Luke-Acts. On a deeper level, we can see the entire "shape" of the Davidic monarchy—as portrayed in OT texts—is reproduced by Luke in his description of the person and mission of Jesus. This may be demonstrated by enumerating the salient features of David's kingdom, and how they emerge at crucial junctures in Luke's narrative:

1. **A Foundational Covenant.** The Davidic kingdom was *based upon a divinely sworn covenant* (MT בְּרִית, διαθήκη LXX), the only OT dynasty to enjoy such a privilege.<sup>16</sup> The key text outlining the terms of this covenant is 2 Sam. 7:8-16;<sup>17</sup> while the word 'covenant' occurs elsewhere, for example, in Psalm 89:3: "Thou hast said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: 4 'I will establish your descendants for ever, and build your throne for all generations.'"<sup>18</sup>

In Luke, God's *covenant* with David as described in Nathan's oracle (2 Sam. 7:9-16) provides all the content of the angelic description of Jesus in Lk. 1:32-33.<sup>19</sup> Later, Jesus associates his kingship with a 'new covenant' (22:20) and says a kingdom has been 'covenanted' to him by the Father (22:29), which he in turn "covenants" to his disciples.<sup>20</sup>

2. **Divine Filiation of the Monarch.** The Davidic monarch was *the Son of God*. The filial relationship of the Davidide to God is expressed already in the foundational text of the Davidic covenant (2 Sam. 7:14), but is also found in other Davidic texts.<sup>21</sup>

Turning to Luke, we find that Jesus is the *natural* (not merely adopted) *Son of God* (1:35), and the title is used of him throughout the gospel.<sup>22</sup>

16. The key text outlining the conditions and promises of this covenant is 2 Sam. 7:8-16 (see R.P. GORDON, *1&2 Samuel* [Old Testament Guides], Sheffield 1984, 71; A. LAATO, 'Psalm 132 and the Development of the Jerusalemite/Israelite Royal Ideology,' *CBQ* 54 (1992) 49-66, esp. 56, although the term 'covenant' only occurs elsewhere: e.g. 2 Sam. 23:5; 1 Kgs. 8:23-24; Ps. 89:3; 2 Chr. 13:5; 21:7; Sir. 45:25; Is. 55:3; Ezek. 34:25 LXX.
17. See GORDON, *Samuel*, 71; LAATO, 'Psalm 132,' 56.
18. See also e.g. 2 Sam. 23:5; 1 Kgs. 8:23-24; 2 Chr. 13:5; 21:7; Sir. 45:25; Is. 55:3; Ezek. 34:25 LXX.
19. As demonstrated by GREEN, *Luke*, 85, 88; likewise FITZMYER, *Luke 1-9*, 338.
20. On the 'covenanting' of the kingdom, see discussion of διαθήκη in Lk. 22:29 below.
21. E.g. Ps. 2:7; 89:26; 1 Chr. 17:13; 28:6. 'The individual most often designated as 'the son of God' in the Hebrew Bible is undoubtedly the Davidic king, or his eschatological counterpart' (J.J. COLLINS, *The Scepter and the Star: The Messiahs of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Other Ancient Literature* [ABRL], New York 1995, 163).
22. See R.C. TANNEHILL, *The Narrative Unity of Luke-Acts: A Literary Interpretation*, 1: *The Gospel according to Luke*, Philadelphia, PA 1986, 25.

3. **Messianic Status of the Monarch.** The Davidic monarch was *the 'Christ,' i.e. the 'Messiah' or 'Anointed One'*. The anointed status of the Davidic king was so integral to his identity that he is frequently referred to simply as 'the anointed one' or 'the LORD's anointed' in Old Testament texts.<sup>23</sup>

In Luke's Gospel it is abundantly clear that Jesus is the *Christ* (2:11, 4:41, etc.),<sup>24</sup> indeed, the 'Lord's Christ' (2:26), a title only applied to kings in the OT (cf. 1 Sam. 16:6; 24:6 LXX etc.), and the 'Christ of God' (Lk. 9:20), a title only applied to David (2 Sam. 23:1).<sup>25</sup>

4. **Centrality of Jerusalem.** The Davidic monarchy was inextricably bound to *Jerusalem, particularly Mt. Zion*, which was the personal possession of David and his heirs (2 Sam. 5:9), and would have had no significant role in Israelite history had not David made it his capital (cf. Josh 15:63; Judg. 1:21; 19:10-12; 2 Sam. 5:6-12).<sup>26</sup>

Accordingly, Luke more than any other gospel emphasizes the priority of *Jerusalem*.<sup>27</sup> For Luke, it is theologically important that the Word of God go forth *from Jerusalem* to the ends of the earth (Lk. 24:47; Acts 1:8, cf. Is. 2:3). The gospel begins in the Jerusalem (1:5-23), the only two narratives of Jesus' childhood find him in Jerusalem (2:22-52), for most of the narrative he is traveling to Jerusalem (9:51-19:27), and the gospel climaxes in Jerusalem (19:28-24:49), wherein the disciples are told to 'remain' (24:49).

5. **Centrality of the Temple.** The Davidic monarchy was inextricably bound to *the temple*. The building of the temple was central to the terms of the Davidic covenant from the very beginning, as can be seen from the wordplay on 'house' ('temple' or 'dynasty') in 2 Sam. 7:11-13.<sup>28</sup> Even after its

23. See 1 Sam. 16:13; 2 Sam. 19:21, 22:51; 23:1; 1 Kgs. 1:38-39; 2 Kgs. 11:12; 23:30; 2 Chr. 6:42; 23:11; Ps. 2:2; 18:50; 20:6; 28:8; 84:9; 89:20, 38, 51; 132:10, 17.
24. See TANNEHILL, *Unity*, 38.
25. The title 'Christ' is probably always intended in a Davidic sense in Luke. Cf. TUCKETT, 'Christology,' 133-164, esp. 147-148; B.M. NOLAN, *The Royal Son of God: The Christology of Matthew 1-2 in the Setting of the Gospel* (OBO 23), Göttingen 1979, 173; and TANNEHILL, *Unity*, 58.
26. See S. JAPHET, 'From the King's Sanctuary to the Chosen City,' in *Jerusalem: Its Sanctity and Centrality to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, ed. L.I. LEVINE; New York 1999, 3-15, esp. 6; and T. ISHIDA, *The Royal Dynasties in Ancient Israel: A Study on the Formation and Development of Royal-Dynastic Ideology*, New York 1977, 118-119.
27. FITZMYER, *Luke 1-9*, 164-165. D.P. BECHARD, 'The Theological Significance of Judea in Luke-Acts,' in *The Unity of Luke-Acts*, ed. J. VERHEYDEN, 675-691.
28. Cf. H. KRUSE, 'David's Covenant,' *VT* 35 (1985), 139-164, esp. 149. On the significance of Solomon's temple building efforts, see V. HUROWITZ, *I Have Built You an Exalted House: Temple Building in the Bible in Light of Mesopotamian and Northwest Semitic Writings* (JSOTSup 115), Sheffield 1992; R. MASON, 'The Messiah in the Postexilic Old Testament Literature,' in *King and Messiah in the Ancient Near East: Proceedings of the Oxford Old Te-*



destruction, the prophets remained firm in their conviction that YHWH would restore his temple to its former glory as an international place of worship.<sup>29</sup>

What is true of Luke and Jerusalem is also true with regard to the *temple*. The gospel begins there (1:5-23), Jesus' childhood is set there (2:22-52),<sup>30</sup> for most of the gospel he is traveling there (9:51-19:27), and the climax is reached when Jesus is teaching *from the temple in Jerusalem* (19:45-21:38). In Acts the temple remains the focus of the early Christian community (Acts 2:46).<sup>31</sup>

**6. International Empire.** The Davidic monarch ruled over an *international empire*. David and Solomon ruled not only over Israel but also the surrounding nations.<sup>32</sup> The psalms theologially justify and celebrate this state of affairs,<sup>33</sup> and the prophets envision its restoration.<sup>34</sup> Both the psalms and the prophets make poetic references to the rule of the Davidide over "all the nations," even though such a situation was not historically realized.

Turning to the Gospel, we find that the extension of Jesus' kingship *over all the nations* is anticipated throughout Luke. Already in the infancy narratives, Simeon speaks of Jesus as 'a light of revelation to the nations' (2:32). Luke traces his genealogy back to Adam, the father of all mankind (3:38). As precedent for his ministry, Jesus cites the healing of Gentiles by Elijah and Elisha (4:25-27), and he himself heals the servant of a Roman (7:1-10), while praising his faith above that of Israel (7:9). He predicts that 'men will come from east and west, and from north and south' to sit at table in the kingdom of God (13:29), and finally and most explicitly, Jesus teaches the

stament Seminar, ed. J. DAY (JSOTSup 270), Sheffield 1998, 338-364, esp. 348, 362; ISHIDA, *Dynasties*, 145-147; and W.M. SWARTLEY, *Israel's Scripture Traditions and the Synoptic Gospels: Story Shaping Story*, Peabody, MA 1994, 154.

29. Is. 2:1-4; 56:6-8; 60:3-16; 66:18-21; Jer. 33:11; Ezek. 40-44; Dan 9:24-27; Joel 3:18; Hag 2:1-9; Mic. 4:1-4; Zech. 6:12-14; 8:20-23; 14:16.
30. On the importance of the temple in Lk. 1-2, see GREEN, *Luke*, 61-62 and N.H. TAYLOR, 'Luke-Acts and the Temple,' in *The Unity of Luke-Acts*, ed. J. VERHEYDEN (BETL 142), Leuven 1999, 709-21, esp. 709.
31. On the importance of the Temple in Luke-Acts generally, see J.B. CHANCE, *Jerusalem, the Temple, and the New Age in Luke-Acts*, Macon, GA 1988; and A.C. CLARK, 'The Role of the Apostles,' in *Witness to the Gospel: The Theology of Acts*, ed. I.H. MARSHALL - D. PETERSON, Grand Rapids, MI 1998, 169-190, esp. 175-176.
32. 2 Sam. 8:11-12; 10:19; 12:30; 1 Kgs. 3:1; 4:20-21, 10:15. See C. MEYERS, Meyers, 'The Israelite Empire: In Defense of King Solomon,' in *Backgrounds for the Bible*, ed. P. O'CONNOR - D.N. FREEDMAN; Winona Lake, IN 1987, 181-97 181-197.
33. Cf. Ps. 2:8; 18:43, 47; 22:27; 47:1, 9; 72:8, 11; 66:8; 67:2-5; 86:9; 89:27; 96:7, 99:1; etc.
34. Is. 2:3-4; 42:1-6; 49:1-7, 22-26; 51:4-6; 55:3-5; 56:3-8; 60:1-16; 66:18-19; Amos 9:11-12; Mic. 4:2-3; Zech. 14:16-19

disciples that 'forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name *to all nations*, beginning from Jerusalem' (24:47).

**7. Eternal Rule.** The Davidic monarchy was to be *everlasting*. One of the most prevalent emphases in the Psalms and Deuteronomistic History is that the Davidic dynasty will be eternal (2 Sam. 7:16; 23:5; Ps. 89:35-36). Not only the dynasty but the lifespan of the reigning monarch himself was described as everlasting (Ps. 21:4; 72:5, 110:4).<sup>35</sup>

In Luke, the angel Gabriel promises to Mary that Jesus 'will reign over the house of Jacob *forever*, and of his kingdom there will be *no end*.'<sup>36</sup> The everlasting reign of Christ is presumed in the rest of the gospel, especially in passages where Jesus is the mediator of eternal life (18:18-30).

Thus it can be seen that all seven major characteristics of the Davidic monarchy are manifested in Jesus and his ministry. In Luke, Jesus is the royal Son of David who journeys to the City of David as part of his mission to restore the kingdom of David; Luke's Christology is strongly Davidic and royal.

## 2. The Davidic Kingdom and Creation

Already in the OT Scriptures, the Davidic kingdom was viewed as a recapitulation or renewal of God's plan for creation. In what follows, we will pursue three lines of argument which show that certain OT texts understand the David covenant as a fulfillment of the creation covenant. In the first line of argument, we will trace the temple concept in the OT in order to show that the Solomonic Temple, so closely integrated into the Davidic covenant, was understood as a microcosm and embodiment of the very creation itself. In the second line of argument, I will show that Adam is portrayed in biblical texts as king over all creation, and similar language and imagery is also applied to David. In the third line of argument, it will be seen that the Chronicler, by tracing David's lineage back to Adam, means to suggest that David and his covenantal kingdom holds significance for all Adam's descendants, i.e. all humanity, and indeed is the climax and fulfillment of God's purpose in creating humanity.

35. For a discussion of the tension between these texts and others which imply the Davidic covenant can be or has been broken, see B.K. WALTKE, 'The Phenomenon of Conditionality within Unconditional Covenants,' in *Israel's Apostasy and Restoration: Essays in Honor of Roland K. Harrison*, ed. A. GILEADI, Grand Rapids, MI 1988, 123-40, 123-140.

36. See BOCK, *Luke*, 116-117.

### 2.1. *The Creation Covenant, Creation-as-Temple, and Temple-as-Creation*

Many scholars see in the first two chapters of Genesis the description of a covenant between God and creation, in which the creation itself forms a cosmic temple.<sup>37</sup> However, since neither the term “covenant” nor “temple” is to be found in Genesis 1 or 2, I must explain the exegetical basis for this view.

The Genesis creation account cannot be fully appreciated without comparison with several other texts in the Pentateuch which, like Genesis 1, reflect the priestly traditions of Israel. One such text is Genesis 9, the account of the covenant between God and Noah. The language of this chapter so obviously reflects the language of Gen 1—“be fruitful and multiply,” “birds of the air, fish of the sea, and every creeping thing,” etc.—that it is not necessary to demonstrate the point to this audience. In this chapter God forms a covenant with Noah, and through him with all creation. However, the Hebrew terms for enacting this covenant are not the usual combination *ברית ברית*, lit. “to cut a covenant,” but *הקים ברית*, “to confirm a covenant.” It has often been argued that *ברית ברית* and *הקים ברית* are synonymous expressions that merely reflect the linguistic preferences of different sources (J and P respectively); however, William J. Dumbrell and Jacob Milgrom have both argued independently of one another that *הקים ברית* has a distinct nuance: outside of Gen 6-9 it is consistently used in contexts where a pre-existent covenant is being *confirmed* or, perhaps better, *re-affirmed*. The clearest examples are Gen 17:7,19,21 [Abrahamic covenant *reaffirmed* with his “seed”]; Lev 26:9; Deut 8:18; and Ezek 16:60,62. On the other hand *ברית ברית* generally indicates the initiation of a new covenant.

The question arises, how could *הקים ברית* indicate a *confirmation* of an existing covenant with Noah in Gen 9 when no prior covenant is explicitly mentioned in Genesis? Where could a covenant previously have been established? The heavy repetition of the very language of Genesis 1 provides the answer: in Genesis 9 God is re-affirming (perhaps restoring?) with Noah the covenant established with the whole cosmos at creation.

Other texts seem to confirm an implicit covenant at creation. For

37. For a discussion of the relationship between creation and the covenant(s), see S. SANZ SÁNCHEZ, *La relación entre creación y alianza en la teología contemporánea: status quaestionis y reflexiones filosófico-teológicas* (Dissertationes: Series Theologica 11, Edizioni Università della Santa Croce), Roma 2003; and W.J. DUMBRELL, *Covenant and Creation: A Theology of Old Testament Covenants* (Nashville 1984).

example, the exposition of the third commandment found in Exod 31 sheds light on the creation account:

Ex. 31:15 Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall be put to death. 16 Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the sabbath, observing the sabbath throughout their generations, *as a perpetual covenant*. 17 *It is a sign* for ever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Then-Cardinal Ratzinger commented on this passage vis-à-vis Gen 1 as follows:

To understand the account of creation properly, one has to read the Sabbath ordinances of the Torah. Then everything becomes clear. The Sabbath is the sign of the covenant between God and man; it sums up the inward essence of the covenant. If this is so, then we can now define the intention of the account of creation as follows: creation exists to be a place for the covenant that God wants to make with man. The goal of creation is the covenant, the love story of God and man. ... If, then, everything is directed to the covenant, it is important to see that the covenant is a relationship: God's gift of himself to man, but also man's response to God. Man's response to the God who is good to him is love, and loving God means worshipping him. If creation is meant to be a space for the covenant, the place where God and man meet one another, then it must be thought of as a space for worship.<sup>38</sup>

The fact that the creation account culminates on the Sabbath—which the pious Israelite would recognize as the “sign” of the covenant (cf. Ezek 20:12, 20)—suggests not only that creation is ordered to covenant, but that the covenant between God and man is already present at creation.

Further comparisons between the Genesis 1 and the accounts of the Sinai covenant confirm our argument. In the Sinai covenant we see an obvious recapitulation of the heptadic patterning of Genesis 1. God's glory covers Sinai for six days and on the seventh he calls to Moses from the cloud of his glory (Exod. 24:16). The divine blueprint for the tabernacle is given in a series of seven divine addresses.<sup>39</sup> The instructions for the making of the priests' vestments are punctuated by seven affirmations of Moses' obedience to God's

38. J. RATZINGER, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, San Francisco, 2000, 26.

39. Exod. 25:1; 30:11, 17, 22, 34; 31:1, 12.

command.<sup>40</sup> The tabernacle is built according to divine command and seven times we are told that Moses did "as the Lord had commanded him."<sup>41</sup>

There is also a seemingly deliberate echo of Genesis in the words used to conclude Moses' building: "When Moses had finished the work" (compare Exod. 40:33; Gen. 2:2). As God blessed and hallowed the seventh day, Moses blesses the people and sanctifies the tabernacle (compare Gen 2:3; Exod. 39:43; 40:9). With the conclusion of the work, God's glory fills the tabernacle (Exod. 40:34). This corresponds to the divine-human rest intended for the Sabbath (Gen. 2:3; Exod. 20:8-11; 31:12-17; 35:1-3).

These intertextual correspondences have led Moshe Weinfeld to conclude: "Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Exodus 39:1-40:33 are typologically identical. Both describe the satisfactory completion of the enterprise commanded by God, its inspection and approval, the blessing and the sanctification which are connected with it."<sup>42</sup>

We can conclude further: the close correspondence between the building of the tabernacle and the creation of the cosmos indicates that the tabernacle-building is a recapitulation of creation, and thus the tabernacle is in some sense a *microcosm*, a small embodiment of the universe. Conversely, we may conclude that the universe is a *macro-tabernacle*, a cosmic sanctuary built for the worship of God. Moreover, the close integration of the tabernacle construction with the giving of the Sinai covenant to Israel suggests that the original construction of the cosmos likewise took place in a covenantal context.

The same heptadic patterning of the tabernacle construction narrative is recapitulated in the building of Solomon's Temple. As creation takes seven days, the Temple takes seven years to build (1 Kings 6:38). It is dedicated during the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles (1 Kings 8:2), and Solomon's solemn dedication speech is built on seven petitions (1 Kings 8:31-53). As God capped creation by "resting" on the seventh day, the Temple is built by a "man of rest" (1 Chron. 22:9) to be a "house of rest" for the Ark, the presence of the Lord (1 Chron. 28:2; 2 Chron. 6:41; Ps. 132:8, 13-14; Isa. 66:1).

When the Temple is consecrated, the furnishings of the older Tabernacle are brought inside it. (R. E. Friedman suggests the entire Tabernacle was

40. Exod. 39:1, 5, 7, 21, 22, 27, 30.

41. Exod. 40:19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 32.

42. M. WEINFELD, "Sabbath, Temple, and the Enthronement of the Lord: The Problem of the Sitz im Leben of Genesis 1:1-2:3," in *Mélanges bibliques et orientaux en l'honneur de M. Henri Cazelles*, ed. A. CAQUOT - M. DELCOR, Kevelear 1981, 501-512.

brought inside). This represents the fact that all the Tabernacle was, the Temple has become. Just as the construction of the Tabernacle of the Sinai covenant and once recapitulated creation, now the Temple of the Davidic covenant recapitulated the same. The Temple is a micocosm of creation, the creation a macro-temple.

Just as the Tabernacle is associated particularly with the Mosaic or Sinaitic covenant, the Temple is associated with the Davidic covenant. No law of Moses prescribes or even foresees a Temple. The biblical texts identify David himself as the originator of the idea of the Temple. While David's wish personally to build the temple is denied, the LORD integrates the building of the temple into the very constitution of the Davidic covenant, as can be seen in the wordplay on "house" in 2 Sam 7:5-16: The LORD promises to build a "house" (dynasty) for David, and David's son will build a "house" (temple) for the LORD. It cannot be sufficiently emphasized that, from the very beginning, the Temple is associated in the biblical record specifically with David and his covenant. Tomoo Ishida, the great scholar of ancient Near Eastern royal dynasties, remarks, "The temple was the embodiment of the covenant of David, in which the triple relationship between Yahweh, the House of David, and the people of Israel was established."

### Excursus: Eden and Zion as Temple Mountains

The link between the temple and creation is manifested also in various Edenic motifs associated with the temple. From the descriptions of Eden in Genesis 2-3 and Ezek 28 we observe that Eden was atop a mountain (Ezek 28) and characterized by abundant gold, precious gems (esp. onyx), flowering trees, and cherubim. Most of these elements are incorporated by Solomon into the design and decoration of the Temple (1 Kings 6:18, 20-38; 7:18-51) and others were incorporated into the priestly garments and liturgical furnishings of the earlier Tabernacle (Exod 25: 31-40; 28:6-13). In fact, as Lawrence Stager has shown, it was common practice throughout the ANE for kings to build hill-top temples surrounded by gardens to suggest the primordial garden of creation. Solomon was no different. Textual and archeological evidence suggests he planted botanical gardens around the temple precincts to represent the Temple's role as a new Eden.

The sacred river that flows from Eden in Gen 2:10 is later associated with Mt. Zion, site of the temple. One of the four rivers that flow from Eden is named the Gihon, which elsewhere in ancient Near Eastern and biblical litera-

ture is known only as the name for the water-source for Jerusalem, flowing from the east side of Mt. Zion (Gen 2:13; cf. 1 Kings 1:33,38; 2 Chron 32:30). This is sufficient indication that Israelite tradition saw Zion as the successor of Eden. The correlation is even clearer in Ezekiel's vision of the new Temple and new Jerusalem in Ezek 40-48. At the beginning of the vision, Ezekiel is taken up to a "very high mountain," which in one sense is Zion, because upon it he sees a new Jerusalem and a new Temple. Yet as Jon D. Levenson shows, the "high mountain" of Ezekiel 40-48 is also typologically Eden. The convergence between Zion and Eden is especially clear in Ezekiel 47:1-12, in which Ezekiel sees a great River of Life which flows out of the temple to the East, renewing creation to its original Edenic perfection wherever it flows. This river is a restoration of the sacred river of the primordial garden, but now the Temple plays the role of the garden. Zion and Eden have fused.

### 2.2. *David and Adam as "King" and "Son of God"*

Although there is no explicit expression of Adam being God's "Son," the expression used to describe God's creation of Adam (בְּצַלְמֵנוּ כְּדְמוּתֵנוּ), "in his image and likeness," Gen 1:26) suggests a divine act of fathering—as Adam is later said to "father" a son, Seth, "in his own likeness, after his image" (בְּדְמוּתוֹ), Gen. 5:3).

The echoes of the Genesis story found elsewhere in Scripture affirm this royal reading of Adam's identity. For instance, in Psalm 8, which is filled with references to the creation account, the "son of man (בֶּן-אָדָם)," is described as "made ... little less than God" (v. 5). God "crowns him with glory and honor" and gives the man "dominion" over all his "works" (vv. 5-6). Specifically mentioned are some of the various animals also found in the primordial list of Genesis—the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, beasts of the field, and cattle (compare Ps. 8:7-8; Gen. 1:26, 28, 30; 2:20).

The "royal first man motif" can also be identified in Ezekiel 28, where two oracles seem to be stylized as an allegory of the creation and fall of the first man in Eden. Ezekiel describes him as a "prince" and a "king." This primal king is also called "the signet of perfection" (v. 12)—a symbol elsewhere associated with royal likeness and authority (Gen. 41:42; Jer. 22:24-25).<sup>43</sup>

With authority derived from God, the first human was given a mandate to rule the earth in God's name, and to become, in effect, the father of many nations, of a worldwide kingdom of God. In the Genesis account, God blesses man and commands him to "be fruitful and multiply and fill ... and subdue ... and have dominion ... over all the earth" (Gen. 1:26, 28).

David fits this royal Adamic profile. It is interesting that "subdue" (כָּבַשׁ) is used to describe David's conquest of the nations (2 Sam. 8:11). The word "to rule" or "have dominion" (רָדָה) also turns up in the royal Davidic messianic tradition. The kingdom of David's son is said to be a worldwide "dominion" (Ps. 72:8) and the Davidic priest-king is to "rule" in the midst of his enemies (Ps. 110:2). As Adam's descendants were to fill the earth, we see similar language used to describe the Davidic kingdom (Ps. 72:7,16).

The authorship of Psalm 8 is attributed to David. The exalted "son of man" described in terms of Adamic royalty in vv. 4-9 could be understood as self-reference. After all, Psalm 89:19-37 describes David as (1) second only to God in power (v. 27, cf. Ps 8:5, "a little less than God"), (2) having universal dominion over creation (v. 25-27), and (3) being the Firstborn Son of God (vv. 26-27). His throne (i.e. kingdom) is as enduring as the sun and the moon (v. 37), in other words, as permanent as the creation itself.

### 2.3. *The Chronicler and the Adamic Backdrop of the Davidic Kingdom*

The Davidic kingdom is, without doubt, the consuming passion of the Chronicler and the subject matter of his composition. At the same time, the Chronicler is not unconcerned about the purpose and fate of the rest of humanity and creation.

The genealogies of 1 Chron 1-9 serve to situate the history of the Davidic kingdom within a universal framework: a framework extending back to Adam himself and incorporating all Adam's descendants (1 Chron 1:1-27), the whole human family. In this way the Chronicler implies that the David kingdom has significance for all humanity as the fulfillment of God's creational purpose. Indeed, the Chronicler treats the Davidic kingdom essentially as the high point of humanity's development since creation. He fully realizes the fact that now—at the time of his writing—that kingdom is in shambles; yet he clearly anticipates the hope of kingdom restoration. Thus 1-2 Chronicles ta-

43. J. BARR, "Thou Art the Cherub': Ezekiel 28:14 and the Post-Ezekiel Understanding of Genesis 2-3," in *Priests, Prophets, and Scribes: Essays on the Formation and Heritage of Second Temple Judaism in Honour of Joseph Blenkinsopp*, ed. E. ULRICH (JSOT ss 149), Sheffield 1992, 213-223; H.G. MAY, "The King in the Garden of Eden: A Study of Ezekiel 28:12-19,"

in *Israel's Prophetic Heritage: Essays in Honor of James Muilenberg*, eds. B.W. ANDERSON - W. HARRELSON (New York 1962), 166-176.



ken as a whole is at least implicitly eschatological, that is, it embraces a restorationist eschatology.

It will be seen that Luke's genealogy of Jesus (Luke 3:23-38) reflects a nearly identical literary-theological strategy, except on the other end of the exile, with the fulfillment of the eschatological hopes imminent. By tracing Jesus line of descent back to Adam, Luke suggests that (1) the person of Jesus bears significance for every descendant of Adam and (2) the purposes of God in creating mankind (Adam) are finding their fulfillment in Jesus. Luke would agree with the Chronicler that God's purpose established with Adam for all people was renewed with David for all nations; but he would add that it has now been fulfilled by Christ in and through the Church.

### 3. The OT Background

As we turn our attention back to Luke, we ask the question: Is Luke aware of the creational horizon behind the Davidic covenant? I would argue the affirmative: at least in the early chapters of Luke, we observe a few texts where Davidic and Adamic/creational motifs are simultaneously employed in the portrayal of Christ.

The clearest instance of this is in the genealogy of Christ in Luke 3:23-38. Up to this point in the Gospel, the concept of Jesus as Son of David and thus the one to fulfill the Davidic covenant has been stressed again and again by references to David, to Jesus' Davidic lineage, and to various Davidic covenant texts: Lk. 1:27,32-33,69; 2:4,11. Immediately prior to the genealogy, the divine voice is heard from heaven at Jesus baptism, echoing Psalm 2 (specifically v. 7), the royal Davidic coronation hymn, by declaring "Thou art my beloved Son ..." Accordingly, the genealogy of 3:23-28 identifies Jesus as a descendant of David (v. 31), as we would expect.

But Luke proceeds to trace Jesus' lineage all the way back to Adam, and he declares Adam to be "the Son of God (v. 38). Elsewhere in the Gospel only Jesus is ever called "Son of God." By calling Adam "Son of God," Luke is inviting a comparison between the two. The comparison suggests that Jesus is a Second or New Adam, superior to the first, the father of a new humanity. Furthermore, by tracing Jesus lineage back to Adam, Luke is suggesting that Jesus is significant for all Adam's descendants, i.e. for all humanity—perhaps we could go as far as to say: for all creation.

Curiously, most scholars of Luke do not follow this line of thought. I.

Howard Marshall, in his well-known commentary, speaks for the scholarly consensus: "the thought of Jesus as the Second Adam ... does not play any part in Lucan theology."<sup>44</sup> Similarly, Joseph Fitzmyer sees the Adamic motif as distinctly "Pauline" and having no place in Luke. In his opinion, the genealogy merely functions to explain "the relation of Jesus ... to God and to the human beings he has come to serve."<sup>45</sup>

In light of the following points, however, I find it virtually impossible to deny that Luke employs an Adam-Christ typology:

- No other genealogy found in the Old Testament or in the rabbinic tradition traces any individual's origins back to God.<sup>46</sup> Luke is unique and intentional in doing so.
- Nowhere else in the Bible is Adam called "son of God." Again, Luke is unique and intentional in so doing.
- Only Jesus and Adam are identified as the "Son of God" in Luke-Acts.
- This identification of Adam as "Son of God" is sandwiched between pericopes (the Baptism and the Temptation) that focus *explicitly* on Jesus identity as "Son of God":

3:22 ... a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved **Son**"

{3:38 ...son of Adam, the **Son of God.**}

4:3 The devil said to him, "If you are the **Son of God**...

4:9 And [the devil] ... said to him, "If you are the **Son of God**...

4:41 And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the **Son of God!**"

- The concept of Jesus as "Son of God" is critically important to the message of Luke, recurring at critical junctures in the narrative: at the annunciation (1:35), baptism (3:22), temptation (4:3,9), transfiguration (9:35), before the Sanhedrin (22:70, a climactic scene), and elsewhere.

In light of the fact that Luke breaks with convention in order to identify Adam as "Son of God", a term deployed strategically throughout the Gospel to identify Jesus' true nature, I find it difficult to maintain that Luke is *not* intentionally drawing a comparison between Adam and Jesus, in which Jesus is the New Adam and new father of humanity.

My view is, I believe, corroborated by the references to Genesis 1-3 in the preceding (Baptism) and subsequent (Temptation) pericopes.

44. I.H. MARSHALL, *The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, Grand Rapids, MI 1986 (1978), 161.

45. FITZMYER, *Luke 1-9*, 498. The same reasoning is found in other notable Lucan works, such as R.F. O'TOOLE, *Luke's Presentation of Christ: A Christology*, Rome 2004, 171.

46. M.D. JOHNSON, *The Purpose of the Biblical Genealogies* (SNTSMS 8), Cambridge 1969, 237.



Luke's baptismal narrative is marked by new creation motifs. It is fairly well accepted that the image of the dove in all three gospels hearkens back to the Spirit brooding over the waters of creation (Gen. 1:2).<sup>47</sup> As with the first creation, we also have in the baptism a reference to heaven, to the Spirit, and to the spoken word of God. Heaven is "opened," as it is in other biblical accounts of decisive turning points (Isa. 64:1; Ezek. 1:1) and new creations (Gen. 7:11; Isa. 24:18). What we have in Luke's baptism scene, as in his genealogy, is the picture of a new creation—culminating with the creation of a new Adam. Simultaneously, Jesus' role as Son of David is also evoked, since the divine voice ("Thou art my beloved Son") alludes to the royal Davidic coronation hymn, Psalm 2 (v. 7; "I will tell the decree of the LORD. He said to me: 'You are my Son'").

The allusions to creation in the baptismal account and the reference to Adam in the genealogy both suggest that Jesus is the recapitulation of the biblical first man. And as the first man immediately encountered rivalry and temptation by the devil in paradise, Luke's new Adam engages immediately in a struggle with the personification of evil.<sup>48</sup>

Read in light of the genealogy, Jesus' three temptations by the Devil in Luke 4:1-13 are a reprise of the temptation faced by the first Son of God (Gen 3). Adam was tempted with food. So is the new Adam. Adam was made in God's image and given dominion over the world, yet fell prey to the temptation to try to become "like God." The new Adam is tempted with worldly glory and power. Adam was tempted to test God's warning that he would die if he ate the forbidden fruit. The new Adam, too, is tempted to put God's promise of protection to the test by throwing himself down from the Temple. In all three temptations, the new Adam resists and prevails over his tempter.

Thus, the Baptism and Temptation narratives in Luke 3:21-22 and 4:1-12 are the "creation" and "temptation" of the New Man, and they correspond to Adam's experiences in Genesis 2 and 3. Sandwiched between the Baptism and Temptation is the genealogy which explicitly evokes the memory of Adam and uses the title "Son of God" to invite a comparison between Adam and Jesus. Simultaneously, Jesus's role as the definitive Son of David is also being indicated, at least in the Genealogy (through the mention of David) and the Baptism (through the echo of Psalm 2:7) accounts. Davidic allusions may well be present in the Temptation also, but there is not space here to explore them.

47. See, for example, J. MARCUS, *Mark 1-8* (AB 27), New York 1999, 159-160, 165-166.

48. I.H. MARSHALL, *Luke: Historian and Theologian*, Grand Rapids, MI 1970, 171.

The royal Davidic character and creational background of Luke's Christology also characterizes the ecclesiology of Acts. Succinctly stated, what is true of Christ in Luke becomes true of the Church in Acts.

In order to see how this is so, it is useful to examine Luke's Institution Narrative (Luke 22:14-30) which is a literary-theological bridge linking the royal Davidic identity and mission of Christ with the early apostolic church as the restored Davidic kingdom. The *IN* serves to establish the apostles as vice-regents of the Davidic kingdom (as we shall see below), empowering them to rule over the church in the opening chapters of Acts. These same opening chapters reveal, at times, the creational horizon behind the more obvious theme of Davidic kingdom restoration.

Although there are important royal Davidic allusions in several parts of the Institution Narrative, let us focus immediately on the verses of most relevance to our thesis, namely, vv. 28-30. To the apostles, who have shared with Jesus his trials, Jesus says, *καγὼ διατίθεμαι ὑμῖν καθὼς διέθετό μοι ὁ πατήρ μου βασιλείαν* ('I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom,' v. 29b rsv). The usual English translations of the verb *διατίθημι*—'assign' RSV, 'confer' NRSV—do not quite capture the sense of the word for Luke. Luke's style, as all acknowledge, is dependent on the LXX, in which the phrase *διατίθεσθαι διαθήκη* is used almost 80 times as the equivalent of the Hebrew *ברית ברית*, 'to make a covenant'—in fact, *διατίθημι* even without the noun *διαθήκη* can denote covenant-making.<sup>49</sup> Since the nominal form *διαθήκη* with the meaning 'covenant' has just been employed in v. 20 above, the sense of 'covenant-making' would seem to accrue to the verb *διατίθημι* here in v. 29.<sup>50</sup> A more precise, if awkward, translation of v. 29b would thus be 'I covenant to you a kingdom, as my Father covenanted one to me.'<sup>51</sup>

49. See 1 Chr. 19:19; 2 Chr. 5:10; 7:18; Ezek. 16:30; and discussion in P.K. NELSON, *Leadership and Discipleship: A Study of Luke 22:24-30* (SBLDS 138), Atlanta, GA 1994, 204.

50. *Διατίθημι* and *διαθήκη* often bear the sense 'to make a testament' and 'testament/will' respectively in secular Greek literature (BAGD, 189b def. 3; 183a def. 1), but not here (*contra* J. JERVELL, *Luke and the People of God: A New Look at Luke-Acts*, Minneapolis, MN 1972, 105 n. 24; and NELSON, *Leadership*, 204), as Nolland points out: "Though the verb can bear such a sense [i.e. 'bequeath'], its parallel use in connection with God here hardly encourages us to move in such a direction" (J. NOLLAND, *Luke 18:35-24:53* (WBC 35C) Dallas, TX 1993, 1066). See the discussion in LOUW & NIDA, §34.43; I.H. MARSHALL, *The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, Grand Rapids, MI 1986 [1978], 814-815; J. PRIEST, 'A Note on the Messianic Banquet,' in *The Messiah: Developments in Earliest Judaism and Christianity*, ed. J.H. Charlesworth, Minneapolis, MN 1992, 222-238.

51. Cf. O. BECKER, 'Covenant,' in NIDNTT 1: 369: 'In Lk. 22:29 in the phrase *diatithemai ... basileian*, appoint a kingdom, ... exactly expresses the formula *διατίθεμαι διαθήκη*. The

The only kingdom established on the basis of a covenant in Scripture is the kingdom of David (cf. Ps. 89:3-4, 28-37). Moreover, the use of father-son terminology in v. 29b evokes the father-son relationship of the LORD with the Son of David as reflected in 2 Sam. 7:14, Ps. 2:7, and Ps. 89:26-27. Significantly, in each of these three passages, father-son terminology is employed in the context of *God granting a kingdom to the Davidide* (cf. 2 Sam. 7:13; Ps. 2:6, 8; 89:25, 27). The meaning of Lk. 22:29b becomes clear: God has 'covenanted' a kingdom to Jesus, since Jesus is the Son of David, the legal heir to David's covenant and throne (cf. 1:32-33). Now Jesus, through the 'new covenant in [his] blood' (v. 20), is 'covenanting' to the disciples that same kingdom of David. This is not the promise of a conferral (future tense), but the *declaration of a conferral* (present tense).<sup>52</sup> This *present conferral* of the kingdom militates against those scholars who acknowledge a present kingdom in Luke-Acts but limit it to the person and ministry of Christ. As Darrel Bock comments with respect to an earlier passage (Lk. 11:20), 'An appeal only to the presence of God's kingly power in the person and message of Jesus misses the significance of this transfer of power to others and ignores the kingdom associations Jesus makes in explaining these activities.'<sup>53</sup>

Jesus continues on in Lk. 22:30 to emphasize the apostles' vice-regal role: 'you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel' (v. 30b). Searching for the scriptural background of this concept of 'thrones over the twelve tribes,' we find the Davidic imagery of Ps. 122:3-5

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem, built as a city which is bound firmly together,

<sup>4</sup> To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD ...

<sup>5</sup> There thrones for judgment were set,

The thrones of the House of David.

The connection between the two texts is firm, in light of the collocation in each of the three elements 'tribes,' 'thrones,' and 'judgment.'<sup>54</sup> Psalm 122:5b

new covenant and the kingdom of God are correlated concepts.'

52. BOCK, *Luke*, 1740. Cf. D.W. PAO, *Acts and the Isaianic New Exodus* (WUNT 2/130), Tübingen 2000, 124-127; J. NEYREX, *The Passion according to Luke: A Redaction Study of Luke's Soteriology*, New York 1985, 27-28.

53. D.L. BOCK, 'The Reign of the Lord Jesus,' in *Dispensationalism, Israel and the Church: The Search for Definition*, ed. C.A. BLAISING and D.L. BOCK; Grand Rapids, MI 1992, 37-67, esp. 41.

54. See C.A. EVANS, 'The Twelve Thrones of Israel: Scripture and Politics in Luke 22:24-30,' in

makes explicit the Davidic context of the promise of Lk. 22:30b. The disciples, then, are promised a share in the exercise of authority of the Davidic monarchy over all twelve tribes. The disciples' 'appointment is an anticipation of the restoration of Israel ... and [they] are commissioned to govern the renewed people of God.'<sup>55</sup> L.T. Johnson comments on the significance of Luke's version of this dominical saying vis-à-vis Matthew's:

Luke decisively alters the reference point for this prediction ... In Luke the saying points forward to the role that the apostles will have within the *restored Israel in the narrative of Acts*. ... These followers [will] exercise effective rule within the people gathered by the power of the resurrected prophet (see e.g., Acts 5:1-11).<sup>56</sup>

In order to grasp the ecclesiological implications of the *IN*, it is necessary to venture a little way into Acts. Significantly, in the opening verses of Acts (1:3, 6), Jesus' topic of discussion with the apostles over forty days is *the kingdom of God*.<sup>57</sup> When the disciples ask Jesus, 'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' (1:6), their query may refer to Jesus' promise in Lk. 22:30b that "you will sit on thrones ...." The apostles are asking, 'When will we receive the authority promised to us?' In response, Jesus discourages speculation about *timing* (v. 7), but does in fact describe the *means* by which the kingdom will be restored, namely, through the Spirit-inspired witness of the apostles throughout the earth (v. 8).<sup>58</sup> Jesus' geographical description of the spread of the gospel: "you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" is, on the one hand, a programmatic outline of the narrative of Acts, helping us to recognize that the whole book concerns the spread of the kingdom (cf. Acts 28:31).<sup>59</sup> On the other hand, it is a *Davidic map* that reflects the *theological geography* of God's covenant pledge concerning the extent of the Davidic empire. Jerusalem was David's city (cf. 2

*Luke and Scripture: The Function of Sacred Tradition in Luke-Acts*, ed. C.A. EVANS - J.A. SANDERS, Minneapolis, MN 1993, 154-170

55. GREEN, *Luke*, 770; cf. FITZMYER, *Luke 10-24*, 1419

56. JOHNSON, *Luke*, 345-346, 349.

57. On the close link between the 'kingdom' in Lk. 22 and here in Acts 1:1-11, see JERVELL, *Luke*, 81-82.

58. As argued by J.M. PENNEY, *The Missionary Emphasis of Lukan Pneumatology*, Sheffield 1997, 70; PAO, *Acts*, 95 n. 143, 144; and BOCK, 'Reign', 45.

59. 'The verse is programmatic in its significance for the narrative structure ... That the mission will begin in Jerusalem alludes to the restored Zion of Isaiah (Is. 2:3)' (PENNEY, *Emphasis*, 73).



Sam. 5:6-10), Judea his tribal land (2 Sam. 5:5; 1 Kgs. 12:21); Samaria represents (northern) Israel, David's nation (1 Kgs. 12:16); and 'the ends of the earth' are the Gentiles (cf. Is. 49:6), David's vassals (Ps. 2:7-8; 72:8-12; 89:25-27).<sup>60</sup> The kingdom of David, encompassing Jerusalemites, Jews (i.e. Judeans), Israelites, and Gentiles, will be restored as the apostles' witness extends to 'the ends of the earth' and the ἐκκλησία grows.<sup>61</sup>

But the apostles in the narrative of Acts 1 do not yet realize the significance of Jesus' words or understand his transformation of their expectation of a national, earthly kingdom to one that is international and, though manifest on earth, essentially heavenly.<sup>62</sup> *The Spirit must still be poured out for the apostles to perceive the transformed kingdom.* Thus only after the disciples have received the power of the Holy Spirit will they become μάρτυρες, witnesses (Acts 1:8).

After the reconstitution of the Twelve, the event of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-42) marks (1) the restoration in principle of Israel as Kingdom under the Son of David, and (2) the beginning of the apostles' vice-regency over that kingdom.

First, it is clear that Luke presents us in Acts 2 with the principal fulfillment of the promised restoration of Israel. Not only are all the Twelve (and presumably the 120) 'all together in one place' (2:1)—thus representing the nucleus of the restored Israel—but they address their message to 'Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven,' (v. 5) and Luke enumerates those nations (vv. 9-11). The exile is reversed.<sup>63</sup>

The exile scattered Israel. An earlier event, Babel, scattered all mankind. At Pentecost, Babel (Gen 11:1-9) is reversed as well. In a brief recapitulation of the Table of Nations (Gen 10), Luke lists representatives of all mankind—both Jews and Gentile converts to Judaism (Acts 2:9-11)—from all the regions of the known world. They now remark to one another, "How is it that each of us hears them in his own language?"

60. Cf. PAO, *Acts*, 95.

61. Cf. PENNEY, *Emphasis*, 21, 71.

62. 'Jesus shifts the focus from 'knowledge' to mission ... [this is] the real answer to the question concerning the 'restoration' of the kingdom to Israel. Jesus' answer contains a redefinition of 'kingdom' and therefore of the Christian understanding of Jesus as Messiah ... The 'kingdom for Israel' will mean for Luke, therefore, the restoration of Israel as a people of God' L.T. JOHNSON, *The Acts of the Apostles* (SP 5) Collegeville, MN 1992, 29.

63. R.I. DENOVA, *Things Accomplished among Us: Prophetic Tradition in the Structural Pattern of Luke-Acts* (JSNTSup 141); Sheffield 1997, 138, cf. 169-175.

The account of Babel in Genesis (Gen 11:1-9) follows hard on the heels of the conclusion of the Flood narrative. The flood and its abatement are a re-creation event: the world is plunged again into the watery chaos of Gen 1:2, and emerges once more under the leadership of a New Man, a new father of the human race, a New Adam: Noah. The granting of the covenant with Noah (Gen 9:1-17) in words that echo the original creation narrative creates the hope that in the newly re-created earth, the original divine blessing on all humanity (whose branches are listed in Gen 10:1-32) may be experienced once more. The hubris of Babel results in a dashing of that hope.

Now, at Pentecost, the effects of Babel are overcome. God's Spirit is poured out "on all flesh" (ἐπὶ πᾶσαν σάρκα)—a phrase very common in flood narrative (Gen 6:12,17,19; 7:15,16; 8:17,21; 9:11,15,16,17) referring not only to humanity but to every living thing in creation. The result of this outpoured Spirit is a reunification of the human family in a way not experienced since the world had been newly re-created by the Flood. The implication: humanity is being re-created through the breath of God's Spirit (who was also the agent of the Adamic first creation [Gen 1:2; 2:7] and the Noahic re-creation [Gen 8:1]).

To summarize: at Pentecost Babel and Exile are reversed, humanity and Israel are restored. More precisely: humanity is being restored and constituted as a New Israel.

This restored Israel has a certain form and structure: not a tribal confederation as under Moses, but a kingdom as under David, incorporating Israel and the Gentiles.<sup>64</sup> Peter's sermon stresses the Davidic royalty of Jesus Christ (cf. 2:36).<sup>65</sup> He preaches to the assembled exiles of Israel that Jesus is the fulfillment of the covenant of David (v. 30)<sup>66</sup> and the fulfillment of David's own prophecies (vv. 25-28; 34-35).<sup>67</sup> He applies to Jesus the royal Davidic enthronement psalm (Psalm 110), asserting that Jesus is now enthroned in heaven ('exalted at the right hand of God') and has poured out the Spirit on the apostles as the crowd has just witnessed (v. 33). Thus, Jesus is reigning *now* in heaven, and the results of his reign are being manifest *now* in events that the

64. See R.F. O'TOOLE, 'Acts 2:30 and the Davidic Covenant of Pentecost,' *JBL* 102 (1983), 245-258; and BOCK, 'Reign,' 47: 'Although the term kingdom never appears in the entire chapter, the imagery of rule and the features of God's covenants are present. In fact, the chapter is saturated with such images and allusions.'

65. Cf. TANNEHILL, *Unity*, 38.

66. See BOCK, 'Reign,' 49.

67. On the Davidic background of Peter's sermon, see BOCK, 'Reign,' 38-39.



people may 'see and hear' (v. 33).<sup>68</sup> When Peter's hearers accept the fact that Jesus is the presently-enthroned Davidic king—and thus acknowledge his rightful reign over themselves—they are incorporated into the ἐκκλησία through baptism (2:41-42; cf. 4:32-5:11, esp. 5:11).<sup>69</sup> Not just Israel, but *David's reign* over Israel has been established in principle. And not just over all Israel, but over "all the nations under heaven" or "all flesh" as well, that is, over all humanity and all creation.

It is important to note, however, that the Davidic kingdom is not only restored but transformed.<sup>70</sup> The Son of David is not now enthroned in the earthly Jerusalem but the heavenly, 'exalted at the right hand of God.' The kingdom has been transposed from earth to heaven, even though it continues to manifest itself on earth as the ἐκκλησία.<sup>71</sup> This *ecclesial* kingdom exists simultaneously on earth and in heaven. The king is enthroned in heaven, but the ministers (the apostles) are active on earth.

In sum, Acts 1-2, the key introductory chapters of the book, have several links to the Institution Narrative and describe the birth of the church as the restoration of the kingdom of David, as well as the restoration of the unity of the human family lost shortly after the re-creation of the Flood.

Davidic covenant motifs recur elsewhere at key junctures in Acts. For example, the prayer of the assembled believers in Acts 4:23-30 identifies the persecution of the nascent Church as a fulfillment of the royal Davidic coronation hymn, Psalm 2. Interestingly, the beginning of the prayer invokes the Lord as both (1) the God of creation and (2) the God of David: "Sovereign Lord ... you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of ... David ..." (4:24-25).

Later in Acts, Paul's first recorded sermon—at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:16-41)—advances the same Davidic Christology presented by Peter in Acts

68. On the relationship of Lk. 1:32-33 and Acts 2:24-31, see LANE, *Luke*, 160.

69. See J.A. FITZMYER, 'The Role of the Spirit in Luke-Acts,' in *The Unity of Luke-Acts*, ed. J. Verheyden; (BETL 142) Leuven 1999, 165-184, esp. 175-176; and DENOVA, *Things*, 138 and 169-175.

70. Francis Martin compares way in which the NT transforms the expectations of the OT in the very process of fulfilling them to Bernard Lonergan's concept of 'sublation,' although Martin prefers the term 'transposition' (see discussion in F. MARTIN, 'Some Directions in Catholic Biblical Theology,' in *Out of Egypt: Biblical Theology and Biblical Interpretation*, ed. C. BARTHOLOMEW & AL. (SHS 5), Grand Rapids, MI 2004, 65-87, esp. 69-70.

71. So PENNEY, *Emphasis*, 75.

2. Paul identifies Jesus as the promised heir to David (v. 23) and explains his person and role in terms of the royal Davidic coronation hymn (Psalm 2, v. 33) and the Isaianic promise of the extension of the Davidic covenant (Isa 55:3). Paul concludes his proof of Jesus status as the Christ by employing the same argument based on Psalm 16 (a psalm of David) used by Peter in Acts 2:24-32.

James' speech at the Jerusalem council (Acts 15) applies the Davidic Christology of Peter and Paul to ecclesiology. The question facing the elders and apostles of Jerusalem in Acts 15 was whether to require Gentiles to Judaize (receive circumcision) before embracing them in the Church. Peter speaks strongly against this requirement. James assents to the Petrine decision to embrace Gentile converts by quoting Amos 9:11-12: "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling (σκηνή) of David ... that the rest of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name' (Acts 15:13-18)."

Now, in the historical context of Amos 9, the 'dwelling' or 'tent' of David referred to by Amos (Amos 9:11) is the Davidic kingdom, which at its peak incorporated Edom (cf. Amos 9:12a) and other Gentile nations (Ammon, Moab, Aram, etc.) who may be 'the nations who are called by my name' (Amos 9:12b).<sup>72</sup>

Significantly, in Acts 15:14-19, James sees the incorporation of Gentiles into the *Church* fulfillment of Amos' prophesy of the *restoration of the Davidic Kingdom*.<sup>73</sup> His exegetical argument presumes that the "tent of David" is the Church. No one has seen this more clearly than David Pao:

The promise to rebuild and restore the Davidic kingdom is explicitly made at the point in the narrative of Acts that focuses on defining the people of God. The Amos quotation of Acts 15 shows that ... the development of the early Christian community is also understood within the paradigm of the anticipation of the Davidic kingdom. The *christological* focus of the David tradition should be supplemented by an *ecclesiological* one.<sup>74</sup>

72. J. MAUCLINE, 'Implicit Signs of a Persistent Belief in the Davidic Empire,' VT 20 (1970), 287-303; and M.E. POLLEY, *Amos and the Davidic Empire: A Socio-Historical Approach*, New York 1989, 66-82.

73. See STRAUSS, *Messiah*, 190-192.

74. PAO, *Acts*, 138. Cf. also PENNEY, *Emphasis*, 74; D. SECCOMBE, 'The New People of God,' in *Witness to the Gospel: The Theology of Acts*, ed. I.H. MARSHALL - D. PETERSON, Grand Rapids, MI 1998, 350-72; and R. BAUCKHAM, 'James and the Jerusalem Church,' in *The Book of Acts in Its First Century Setting. IV: The Book of Acts in Its Palestinian Setting*, ed. R. BAUCKHAM, Grand Rapids, MI 1995, 415-480, esp. 457.

Pao is correct in saying “the development of the early Christian community is also understood within the paradigm of the anticipation of the Davidic kingdom,” but one should also add, “it is understood within the paradigm of the *renewed creation*,” because the expansion of the Church-kingdom is “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8), incorporating “every nation under heaven” (Acts 2:5) in order that the Spirit may be poured out “on all flesh” (Acts 2:17).

#### 4. Conclusion

We have seen that the Christology of Luke is strongly royal and Davidic. However, the full significance of this royal Davidic portrait of Christ is missed unless its OT context is carefully examined. Several OT texts establish a link between the Davidic kingdom and the original state of creation. The Davidic Temple takes on features of Eden, David is characterized similarly to Adam, and the Davidic kingdom appears as a fulfillment of God’s covenantal purposes for creation.

Luke seems aware of this creational background of the Davidic kingdom: in the baptism, genealogy and temptation accounts, allusions to creation and the Davidic traditions are intertwined. Jesus is Son of David and therefore messianic King; but he is also a new Son of God, a new Adam who will originate a new humanity. All that Jesus possesses—the Kingdom of David and its significance for all creation—is transmitted to the apostles in the Institution Narrative. In Acts, the apostles are commissioned by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to extend the Kingdom they have received to “the ends of the earth,” to “every nation under heaven,” and to “all flesh”—terms describing creation. This extended Kingdom may be identified as the Church.

To summarize, when Luke-Acts is read in light of the OT—that is, in canonical perspective—it appears that the Church’s universal mission represents for Luke the Kingdom of David restored for all nations and extended throughout all creation. Phrased differently, God’s purpose established with Adam for all creation was renewed with David for all nations and fulfilled by Christ in and through the Church.