

Session 01 The King of Kings is Coming to Rule the Whole Earth

I. A FOUNDATIONAL MESSAGE OF SCRIPTURE: THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations....(Mt. 28:19)

Your Kingdom (empire) come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)

- A. The essential message of Jesus and the apostles was concerning the Kingdom of God. The foundational message of the Kingdom is that Jesus is King of kings and will rule every sphere of society worldwide. The NT makes clear that the kingdom is *'already here'* (in a limited expression) but is *'not yet'* fully here until Jesus returns. Jesus gave command the Church to disciple nations knowing that the Church could not complete the task without His full manifest presence being with us (Second Coming). In other words, the premise is that the labor of apostles and the Church through history in discipling the nations will not be disregarded when the King finally returns to release the greatest expression of discipling the nations (His Kingdom) during His 1,000 year reign (*Millennial Kingdom, Messianic Kingdom or the Kingdom Age*).

I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them...lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5...This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)

- B. We proclaim that a "King is coming to the earth to establish His worldwide kingdom (empire)" and that *anyone can participate in this Kingdom now and have fruit that impacts our destiny in ruling on earth in the future when He returns in the First Resurrection*. We can participate in this kingdom by receiving His free forgiveness and living worthy (holiness and wisdom) of Him and His kingdom (2 Thes. 1:5-12; Lk 21:34-36; 20:35-36; Col. 1:9-10 Mt. 10:37-38; 22:8; Rev 3:4-5; 1 Thes. 2:12).
- C. Daniel prophesied of the Messianic Kingdom with great clarity and emphasizes in Dan. 2 and 7. He described four ungodly Gentile kingdoms (Babylon, Persia, Greek, Roman Empires) that would be the dominate empire of their day and would violently persecute Israel. Daniel made clear that these four empires would 'combine' in the End-Times to form a worldwide Antichrist Gentile empire that would seek to destroy Israel. Daniel's point was that God would overthrow and replace these Gentile empires of history with a worldwide empire led by the promised Jewish Messiah (Jesus). This Messianic Kingdom would fulfill the scriptural promise to establish the Throne of David. It would have all the natural elements of an earthly empire yet with a significant added element of divine supernatural grace empowering various dimensions of it. This was the Kingdom promised to King David (2 Sam. 7).

I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore...12 "When your days are fulfilled...I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body (Solomon then eventually Jesus), and I will establish his kingdom. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." (2 Sam. 7:10-12, 16)

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the Throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isa. 9:6-7)

Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne... (Acts 2:30)

II. DEFINING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS "ALREADY" BUT "NOT YET"

- A. *God's Kingdom exists in any sphere of life where God's rule (order, ways) triumphs over Satan's (man's) order.* The Kingdom is anywhere obedience to God's reign or government (lordship of Jesus) is manifested in people's lives (political, economic, spiritual, music, technology, educational, military, agricultural, family, media, athletics, atmosphere, social institutions, etc). The Kingdom of God is both present today (in a limited way) on earth and will come in a much greater way (in fullness) after the Second Coming of Jesus.
- B. *The Church is the family or community of the Kingdom and not the Kingdom itself.* The Kingdom is served by a fellowship or community of believers referred to as the Church. The Church proclaims the Kingdom. The Church has the keys of the Kingdom (Matt. 16:18-19) and is God's main vehicle to spread His Kingdom. **We do this any where God's ways** (God's reign in our hearts: holiness, wisdom, forgiveness, godly prosperity) **and power** (healing the sick, prophesying, casting out demons; Acts 2:17-18; Matt. 10:8; Luke 10:9, 17) **are openly manifest.**
- C. George Ladd made popular the statement of the Kingdom of God as being "*already*" but "*not yet.*" In other words, it is already here in part (Matt. 12:28; Rom. 14:17), but it is not yet fully come as it will in the future after the Second Coming of Jesus (Mt. 8:11-12; 25:34; Lk. 13:28-29; 14:15; 19:11-19; 22:16-18, 29-30; Acts 1:3-6; 1 Cor. 15:24-28, 50; 2 Tim. 4:1, 18; Heb. 6:5; 12:28; Rev. 11:15-18; 12:10; 20:1-6). The power we experience now in the grace of God "properly belongs" to the age to come (Heb. 6:5). Satan is the god of this present evil age (2 Cor. 4:4; Gal. 1:4) and Jesus came to destroy his works (1 Jn. 3:8). The preaching of "this gospel of the kingdom to all nations" is a prophetic sign of the Second Coming of Jesus (Matt. 24:14) who will then openly establish His kingdom worldwide.
- D. The Millennial Kingdom (God's empire) is one of the major revelations of Scripture. This is the time of the fulfillment of OT prophecies of the throne of David (2 Sam. 7:13-16; Ps. 89:3-4; 34-37; Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; 30:8-9; 33:14-21; Ezek. 37:24-25; Hos. 3:4-5; Amos 9:11; Luke 1:31-33).
- He will be called the Son of the Highest...God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." (Lk 1:32-33)*

- E. Paul preached in several cities (Thessalonica, Berea, Athens) in the region of Greece. He preached to the Thessalonians about Jesus as a King who is to be obeyed above Caesar (Acts 17:1-9). Then he spoke in Athens of the resurrection of Jesus as proof that God made Him the King (anointed One) and Judge of all the earth. The Athenians called this message of Jesus as a resurrected King and judge of all nations a strange and new doctrine (Acts 17:15-34). The Bereans searched the OT Scriptures to see if Paul was explaining this new doctrine in a biblical way. They verified and received it as God's truth (Acts 17:10-14).

Paul...reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ (anointed One or King)." 6...they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. 7 Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king--Jesus." 8 They troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. 11 These (Bereans)...received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 19 They (Athenians) took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? 20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." 22 Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens...24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord (King) of heaven and earth...26 He has made from one blood every nation...on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord...30 God...commands all men everywhere to repent 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:2-6-31)

- F. Confusing the Second Coming with the rapture – the Second Coming describes what Jesus does when He “comes” to the earth. The essence of His coming is not just that He makes a momentary appearance in the sky but He actually comes to earth to establish His Kingdom. The biblical truth of the rapture describes what happens to the saints at the time of the Second Coming. The saints are caught up (raptured) to meet Jesus in the air (1 Thes. 4:14-17). It is a common mistake to reduce the two truths as simply Jesus “appearing” in the sky to catch up the saints without actually coming to earth to accomplish a long term mission. In other words, many only think of the Second Coming as “coming” to the sky rather than seeing its essential factor of “coming” to earth for a long period.

III. WHY WE MUST UNDERSTAND AND PROCLAIM THE MILLENNIUM (KINGDOM ON EARTH)

- A. To faithfully preach the **full message** of the Kingdom of God (God's empire) without limiting it to the introductory message of forgiveness. The whole counsel of God much including the 3-dimensions of the apostolic message: forgiveness, repentance and the Kingdom of God. Evangelism is the glorious and necessary first step in preaching the Kingdom of God but it is not Jesus' complete message. We are not content to preach a partial message but rather the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:20, 27; 5:20)

I kept back nothing...but proclaimed to you...repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. 25...preaching the kingdom of God...27 for I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:20-27)

This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Mt. 24:14)

1. Free forgiveness – received by faith in Jesus (based on His shed blood and work on the cross).
2. Necessity of repentance – we must renounce sin in our life in coming under Jesus’ lordship.
3. Kingdom of God (Jesus’ worldwide empire) – ***Jesus’ righteous agenda*** to take over the nations is seen by rebels as a “hostile take over” because God pours out His wrath (7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls) killing billions of people in order to secure this Kingdom for His Son.
4. The Holy Spirit desires to release power to endorse the “whole agenda of God” not just one part of it. The witness of the Kingdom to all nations (Mt. 24:14) is a witness with power.

Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested (endorsed) by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst... (Acts 2:22)

For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. (1 Cor. 4:20)

- B. To establish confidence in the fact of the ultimate **victory** of God’s Kingdom on earth in all spheres of life (1 Cor. 15:57-58).
- C. To understand the dynamic continuity of our present works (ministry, societal justice) and character development (personal rewards) to our prophetic destiny in the age to come. This brings understanding of the relevance and destiny of each person’s life who **bears fruit that remains** (Jn. 15:16). Jesus spoke to the apostles of them having thrones (Millennial positions of authority) related to their earthly obedience, sacrifice and servant hood (Mt. 19:27-29; 25:14-46; Lk. 22:24-30; 19:11-27). The continuity between their earthly life and their Millennial position was clearly taught by Jesus.
- D. To receive more revelation of the beauty of Jesus (Isa. 4:2; 28:5; 33:17; Ps. 45; 48; 145) in context to His Millennial glory when **His beauty as the uncreated God** (Col. 1:16-18) and the beauty of His work in **creation** (Ps. 19:1-6) **redemption** (Phil. 2:5-11) and **administration (leadership) of history** (Rev. 19:1-6; 15:2-4) **all come together in earthly manifestation**. As we study the Millennial Kingdom we encounter Jesus’ beauty by way of anticipation fueled by revelation of what will be a full earthly manifestation. The Millennium is the context for every promise of the redeemed seeing Jesus’ beauty. The saints will marvel at Jesus related to His End-Time appearing (2 Thes. 1:10) and the kings of the earth will marvel and be terrified (Ps. 48:4-5)

In that day the Branch of the LORD (Jesus) shall be beautiful and glorious... (Isa. 4:2)

In that day the LORD of hosts (Jesus) will be for a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty to the remnant of His people... (Isa. 28:5)

Your eyes will see the King (Jesus) in His beauty... (Isa. 33:17)

You (Jesus) are fairer (more beautiful) than the sons of men. (Ps. 45:2)

When He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired (marveled- NAS) among all those who believe... (2 Thes. 1:10)

The kings assembled, they passed by together. 5 They saw it (glory of Jerusalem), and marveled; they were troubled (terrified), they hastened away. 6 Fear took hold of them there... (Ps. 48:4-6)

Arise, shine; for your light has come! and the glory (beauty) of the LORD is risen upon you. 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth...but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. 4 ...they all gather together, they come to you...5 Then you shall see and become radiant, (Isa. 60:1-4)

IV. REV. 20:1-6 - VERSE BY VERSE