

THE KINGDOM THE PROPHETS SAW

Luke 17:20-21

INTRODUCTION

- A. Millions of religious people are looking for a kingdom to come that was prophesied by the prophets of the OT.
- B. We need to remember that there are many doctrines concerning the kingdom prophesied by the prophets of the OT are contradictory. God does not contradict Himself. If God contradicted Himself He would be a liar. TS 1:2. Therefore, those who teach contradictory doctrines are wrong!
- C. The Rapture, the Millennial reign, and other materialistic doctrines have missed the point of the eternal kingdom of God.
- D. Our text shows that the prophets of the OT prophesied of a spiritual kingdom which resided within a person. This kingdom cannot be seen with human eyes. It has always been and shall always be. It is eternal! It had no beginning and it shall have no end. It is not a place. It is not a geographical location. It is not physical, worldly, material, fleshly kingdom. It is the rule of God within the heart of man.
- E. MT 8:11-12. Those who have the materialistic concept of the kingdom shall miss it – “shall be cast out...”
- F. LK 17:21 – “kingdom” – the word kingdom comes from the word king. The word king involves authority and rule. Therefore the word “kingdom” basically means rule. When we add the word “God” to it, it means the rule of God. The Bible clearly reveals in our text that the rule of God must be in the heart of man in order for that kingdom to exist. To be in the kingdom is to be under the rule of God; that is, God rules in the heart and therefore in the life of one.
- G. Israel failed to understand this simple fact and enter that kingdom. They could only see the fleshly, physical kingdom.
- H. Today, those who yield their hearts to God – RO 6:16, and obey from that yielded heart submitting their lives to God – RO 12:1, are those who are in the kingdom.
- I. Religious people today look for another way, but they look in vain. JN 14:6; 1 PE 2:21-22; JN 4:34; 6:38. This is the kingdom way; the kingdom which the prophets of the OT saw so vividly.
- J. But, how do we know that the kingdom that the prophets saw is present on earth today, and that there are persons whom we may know who are in that kingdom?

DISCUSSION

- I. GOD FORETOLD THAT THE KINGDOM WOULD BE EXALTED – IS 2:2.
 - A. Isaiah writes in this passage in Hebrew Parallelism – saying of the same thing twice, using different expressions to mean the same thing.
 - B. Established and exalted here mean the same thing. God would exalt His kingdom.
 - 1. Fleshly Israel wanted a glorified earthly kingdom.
 - 2. The Kingdom which the prophets saw was a spiritual, eternal kingdom.
 - C. God would exalt, or magnify that kingdom so all the earth could behold it and understand what God wanted of mankind. We will see later when all of this came to pass.
- II. GOD FORETOLD THAT THIS KINGDOM WOULD BE RULED OVER BY A CHILD WHO WOULD BE BORN OF WOMAN – IS 7:14; 9:6-7.
 - A. This kingdom would be ruled by that one by the word of His mouth – IS 11:4. (Hebrew Parallelism – saying of the same thing twice, using different expressions to mean the same thing).

- B. The rod of His mouth is also called the breath of His lips. The Hebrew word “breath” is often used in the OT for word, spoke, commandment, and other similar terms, all involving words.
- C. The rod of His mouth speaks of the firm, “I mean what I say,” word of the Lord.
- III. GOD FORETOLD OF THIS KING WHO WOULD REIGN IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SLAY HIS ENEMIES – PS 45:3-6.
 - A. But He would reign in righteousness.
 - B. The slaying of His enemies was not a physical death by the carnal sword. It was the putting to death of the old man of sin that the new man might live in righteousness in Christ Jesus. RO 6:3-5; 2 CO 5:17.
 - C. The scepter of the king and his kingdom is the scepter of righteousness. PS 45:6; HE 1:8.
- IV. GOD FORETOLD OF THE KING OF PEACE WHO WOULD COME AND REIGN OVER THAT KINGDOM.
 - A. This King would replace the heirs of Judah who all ruled on earth over the physical kingdom, until Shiloh, the Prince of Peace should come and reign over the eternal kingdom of God.
 - B. ZC 6:12-13. This man would magnify God’s temple and would sit as king on the throne and serve as priest at the same time He ruled.
 - C. The called out of Christ is the temple of God, 1 CO 3:16.
 - D. The prophet foretold through Moses, DT 18:18-22; would also be represented by this King and Priest, all would be performed by the one who sat upon the throne at the same time that he sat upon the throne.
 - E. Jesus of Nazareth is declared to be that King, that Prophet, and that Priest. HE 8:1-4; Acts 2:22-37. Jesus accepted without modification the title of prophet – JN 4:19-21, 29.
- V. THE PROPHETS SPOKE OF THAT KINGDOM WHEREIN WOULD BE RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, ASSURANCE, AND QUIETNESS – IS 32:17-20.
 - A. Peace, assurance, and quietness would depend upon righteousness. This came through the blood of Jesus. Ro 5:1.
 - B. Justification and righteousness proceed from the same Greek word and is the result of the blood of Jesus.
 - C. Peace with God guarantees peace with all others who are at peace with God.
 - D. Therefore assurance and quietness also result from righteousness.
- VI. THE PROPHETS SPOKE OF A NEW COVENANT WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE LAW OF GOD BEING IN THE HEART OF MAN.
 - A. Men would no longer have to teach others in the kingdom to know the Lord because those in the kingdom would already know the Lord – JE 31:31-34.
 - B. JE 32:37-40 sounds almost as if God refers to fleshly Israel. But fleshly Israel never had that one heart and one way described. That one heart and one way remained for the Messiah to come and for the new covenant to be written in the hearts of men and women who would follow Him.
- VII. THE PEOPLE WOULD BE WILLING SUBJECTS IN THE DAY WHEN THE KING, PRIEST, AND PROPHET REIGNED OVER THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF GOD – PS 110:3; IS 2:2.
 - A. There are no drafted persons in the kingdom of God. All are in the kingdom only because they were willing volunteers.
 - B. When those who want to do the right thing hear the Gospel of the Kingdom preached, they see a suffering Messiah who willingly died for the sins of all of us.
 - C. That prompts a love and a desire to give one’s life to God in return for what He gave us – RO 12:1.

- D. Those who gladly received the Word preached by the apostles were those who submitted to it – Acts 2:40-41.
- VIII. THE PROPHETS PROPHESED OF A TIME WHEN THE KINGDOM WOULD BE SET UP FOR ALL MEN TO SEE.
- A. This was the eternal kingdom of God. But, if it was to be set up, then how could it be eternal?
- B. DA 2:44.
- C. The setting up of the kingdom made no reference to the beginning of the kingdom. It referred to the magnifying of that kingdom before all people of the world. The kingdom was exalted by their preaching Jesus as the divine King; the King who offered eternal blessings, not merely temporal physical blessings.
- D. DA 7:13-14 – This one who received the kingdom came in the clouds before the Ancient of days to receive the kingdom. He did not return to earth to receive it. This kingdom would never be destroyed because it is eternal. Jesus received this kingdom in the sense He was give the rule, or dominion.
- IX. THE PROPHETS PROPHESED OF THE DAY WHEN DAVID’S TENT (HOUSEHOLD) WOULD BE RAISED UP AGAIN, AND THE HEATHEN WOULD BE POSSESSED WHICH ARE CALLED BY THE NAME OF GOD.
- A. AM 9:11-12.
- B. This was fulfilled when Christ was raised to sit on David’s throne in heaven – Acts 2:22-36, and began His reign over the kingdom of God – Acts 15:15-17.
- X. THE PROPHETS PROPHESED OF THE DAY WHEN GOD WOULD POUR OUT OF HIS SPIRIT UPON MEN AND THEY WOULD CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD AND BE SAVED.
- A. This happened on the first day of Pentecost after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus the Christ. The apostles were baptized with the power of the Spirit and began to preach Jesus as Redeemer, Savior, and King for the first time – Acts 2:14-47.
- B. Remember the very important work of John the immerser – kingdom of God was at hand and people should turn back to God in order to be ready to enter into it. His work was the greatest work that any had done to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers in preparing the way for the Messiah and pointing to Him as the Lamb of God who should be slain for the sins of the world. He who is least in the kingdom works a greater work than preparing people for the Lord. The leased in the kingdom of God leads people to the Christ who saves them from their sins. Salvation in reality is greater than salvation in prospect.
- C. Remember PS 78:36-37.
- D. Jesus taught that the kingdom would be magnified with power – MK 9:1. That power was a spiritual power wrought by the Holy Spirit on the apostles in Acts 2.

CONCLUSION

- A. JN 16:7-13; 17:7-8, 20-21; 12:47-50 = these words the apostles began to preach on the day of Pentecost after the resurrection and ascension of the Christ.
- B. These words were words which produced faith – RO 10:17 – in those who wanted to hear the words of eternal life.
- C. The summary of our lesson is found in the words of the Christ ion LK 24:44. In verses 46, 47, Jesus shows that it was written that He must suffer, die , and be raised the third day, and in view of that, repentance and remission of sins should be preached unto all nations in His name.
- D. It started in Acts 2.