** Hope of Israel Ministries P.O. Box 853 Azusa, CA 91702, U.S.A.**

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**The Coming Kingdom**

With the world on fire the promise of the Kingdom should bring us all closer to YEHOVAH God.

The Bible from cover to cover is a Kingdom book. The Kingdom is the whole story, and the Kingdom provides the happy ending to the story. The Kingdom is the core of the Bible, and the Bible ends with the triumph of the Kingdom in a blaze of glory. In the end YEHOVAH God wins, and His people Israel win with Him!

* **Psalm 115:16:** "The heavens are the heavens of the LORD, but **the earth He has given to the children of men**."
* **Revelation 2:26:** “He [of Israel] who overcomes **will rule the nations**."
* **Luke 19:17:** "Take charge of **ten cities**."
* **Matthew 25:23:** "Rule over **many things**."
* **Psalm 111:6; 112:1-2; 113:7-8:** "He announced that He would do mighty deeds for His people [Israel], giving them the inheritance of nations…How blessed is the one who fears the LORD...**His descendants will be powerful on the earth**...He raises the poor from the dirt to seat them with princes, with the princes of His people."
* **1 Thessalonians 2:12:** "Live in a way worthy of the God who is calling you into His own Kingdom and glory."

Once again the voices of distinguished commentators should be heeded, as they complain, as we do in this article, about a serious absence of understanding on the part of churchgoing Bible readers:

"lt may be said that the teaching of Jesus concerning the Kingdom of God represents his whole teaching. **lt is the main, determinative subject of all his discourse.** His ethics were ethics of the Kingdom; his theology was theology of the Kingdom; his teaching regarding himself cannot be understood apart from his interpretation of the Kingdom of God.

“And it may not only be said that all his teaching had relation to the Kingdom, but also his action, everything he did. From the day of his baptism…all the events of his life until the final, culminating event, the crucifixion, had reference to the coming of the Kingdom. From the baptism on, **his whole life was dedicated to the mission of announcing its approach and of calling men [of Israel] to prepare for entering it** upon the conditions which by divine authority he announced." **[1]**

“While the majority of Christendom has been in the habit of thinking of ‘heaven’ as the place for which the children of God are destined, Jesus makes the startling statement that the poor (‘meek’) are to **possess the earth**. This accords with the prophetic and apocalyptic traditions almost in their entirety…The kingdom of God comes from heaven to earth, and earth will be fitted to be the scene of such rule." **[2]**

“I am calling your attention to this passage [Mark 1:14-15] because it is such a perfect summary of Christianity and what it stands for and what the message of the Gospel really is. And l do this, because there is, perhaps, nothing that is so sadly needed in this modern world as just to get a simple, direct, unvarnished statement as to what the Gospel is about Indeed, this is to me the standing and almost perpetual problem.

“How does it come to pass that, with open Bibles before them, men and women should be wrong not so much about certain details with respect to the Gospel, but about the whole thing, about the very essence of the Gospel? lt is quite understandable that there should be certain points, certain facets of truth about which eople are not clear and about which there may be division of opinion.

“This Gospel is many-sided; it has many aspects, so that this is not surprising. But I do suggest that it is indeed very surprising that at the end of the twentieth century, men and women should still be all wrong about what the Gospel is; wrong about its foundation, wrong about its central message; wrong about its objective and wrong about the way in which one comes into relationship with it. And yet, that is the very position by which we are confronted at the present time." **[3]**

"Most people have a wrong view of the Kingdom [and thus of the Gospel!]. **We will not be floating around on clouds**. The Kingdom will be a government, which will operate in perfect righteousness. There will be people in positions of authority who were faithful servants of Jesus Christ on earth. Just as a good worker gets a promotion, so Christ’s faithful stewards will get promotions in the kingdom. Some will manage ten cities." **[4]**

“Everything in the Gospels points to the idea that life in the Kingdom of God in the Age to Come will be **life on the earth** -- life transformed by the Kingdom of God when His people enter in their full blessing (Matt. l9:28)." **[5]**

"We shall dwell in these glorified bodies **on the glorified earth**. This is one of the great Christian doctrines that has been almost entirely forgotten and ignored. Unfortunately the Christian Church -- I speak generally -- does not believe this, and therefore does not teach it. lt has lost its hope, and this explains why it spends most of its time in trying to improve life in this world...

“But something…remarkable is going to be true of us according to the Apostle Paul in l Corinthians 6:1-3: ‘Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

“Do you not know that **the saints will govern or rule the world**?’ We are destined to rule, with Christ, **over the world**...This is Christianity. This is the truth by which the New Testament Christians lived. It was because of this that they were not afraid of their persecutors...They knew that this glory was coming. This was the secret of their endurance, their patience, and their triumphing over everything that was set against them." **[6]**

**Footnotes:**

**[1]** F. C. Grant, “The Gospel of the Kingdom*,” Biblical World*, 1917, p. 129.

**[2]** G. R. Beasley-Murray, *Jesus and the Kingdom of God*, 1986, p. 163.

**[3]** Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The Kingdom of God*, 1992, p. 8.

**[4]** Tony Evans, *The Kingdom Agenda*, 1999, p. 165.

**[5]** George Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament*, 1974, p. 48.

**[6]** Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Romans: Final Perseverance of the Saints*, 1976, pp. 72, 75, 76.

YEHOVAH’s blessings,

John Keyser for Hope of Israel Ministries.

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