

GOD'S KINGDOM

By

Curtis Dickinson

The purpose of humanity and history is centered in the Kingdom of God. It is the purpose of Satan to deceive the world with regard to that Kingdom, and this has turned out to be the greatest deception in the modern world.

When Christ came saying, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand," the seeds of deception had already been planted in the Talmud, the great body of Jewish tradition that began developing during the Babylonian captivity some 600 years earlier. These were the teachings that prompted Jesus to say to them, "You leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men" (Mark 7:8).

At that time the traditions were in oral form, but were compiled and recorded after the second century and the Talmud stills serves as the religion/law of the Ashkenazi Jews throughout the world.

Working from Talmudic concepts the rabbis envisioned a kingdom in which they were the ruling class with power to overthrow all other religions, including the Christian religion, which to them is idolatry. All governments were to be swallowed up in this Zionist government. LOOK magazine, January 16, 1962, carried a prediction by David Ben-Gurion, then prime minister of Israel. He gave this "image" of the world in 1987: "In Jerusalem, the United Nations (a truly *United Nations*) will build a Shrine to the Prophets to serve the federated union of all continents; this will be the seat of the Supreme Court of Mankind, to settle all controversies among the federated governments..." Mr. Ben-Gurion's "image" may miss the mark, but I quote him to show that the Talmudic concept of Zionist hopes that inspired the Bolshevists to overthrow the Russian government in 1917 and establish Communism.

One of the most amazing facts of the 20th century is that while the world-rulership dream is being used to inspire support for world revolution and the destruction of Christian faith, it is being strongly promoted by "fundamentalist" believers who insist that Zionism is a necessary means God is using to establish His Kingdom; this, in spite of the fact that Zionism is avidly dedicated to the destruction of all Christian faith and institutions.

Nothing could be farther from the teachings of Jesus than that His people should engage in a military conquest to rule over other people. Nor is there any promise in the new Testament that the present world will ever enjoy universal peace, righteousness and total subjection to God. Rather Christ was to rule "in the midst of (His) enemies" (Psa. 110:2) and the nations would "rage" and "Set themselves against Him" (Psa. 2:1-2). Jesus warned again and again that His disciples must expect rejection, hatred, persecution and tribulation in the world. It is by such adversity that we learn to "lose life" for the sake of Christ that we may gain it for eternity.

He also taught that the Kingdom of God (used interchangeably with the phrase, Kingdom of Heaven) was to be in force in the first century. "Verily I say unto you, there are some of them that stand here, who shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Matt. 16:28). A few days after Christ's ascension, Peter explained to the multitude in Jerusalem that He had been enthroned in Heaven.

“David...being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins he would set one upon his throne, he foreseeing this spoke of the resurrection of Christ” (Acts 2:30–31). Christ ascended to David’s throne after His resurrection.

The kingdom over which Christ rules has been in place since that day. Paul wrote that God “has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son” (Col. 1:13). The Kingdom is not something yet to be established; we Christians are already in it.

Human nature hasn’t changed in 2000 years. People are still yearning for an earthly/political kingdom where all their carnal desires may be satisfied. But Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence” (John 18:36). The Kingdom is not of this world, but He reigns from heaven, with “all authority in heaven and on earth” (Acts 2:33, Matt. 28:18).

The citizens are not of this world, although “in the world” (John 17:14–16). Our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20), and we are taught to “love not the world, neither the things that are in the world” (John 2:16–17).

Our role in the world today is the same as it was for the Christians of the first century, to testify that this world is under the curse of sin, but the living God, the Creator of all, has established His eternal Kingdom through Jesus Christ and now offers redemption from sin in His name, that this present world will be incinerated, making way for a new and eternal creation in which dwells perfect righteousness (II Peter 3:7–13).

As citizens of God’s Kingdom we are to give unlimited obedience to our King, to devote our time, efforts and money to His service and the propagation of His message. This is bound to bring severe opposition from those who reject His rule. See how they flood our country with the pornography and immoral sex, undermine traditional (Christian) values and supplant God’s law with the “adversary” judicial system.

This is why we are told that “our wrestling is not against flesh and blood” but “against spiritual hosts of wickedness,” and requires that we put on the “armor of God” (Eph. 6:11–18). From a natural view it would be deeply satisfying to settle things in a pitched battle; kill the enemy and have done with it — so much more satisfying and pleasing to the ego than the long and often useless struggle to change people’s minds.

But ours is a spiritual warfare for a spiritual Kingdom. It is true that there is physical violence against it and millions have perished. We, too, may die in the struggle, but what we aim for is not the death of the opponents. “We do not war according to the flesh,” Paul writes. Yet our weapons are mighty, “casting down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (II Cor. 10:3–5).

Ultimately the counterfeit Zionist kingdom and all other kingdoms of the world will end and the Kingdom of God will be seen in its strength and glory. He who possesses a place in it has a treasure compared with which all other treasures of the world are but as dust.

Therefore, it is not to be seen as a mere fringe benefit, nor occasional concern, but the center and purpose of life, and to be placed above all other desires, as Jesus said, “Seek FIRST his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33).

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