

Mount Zion – the Kingdom of God

Part 1 – Introduction: Zion in the Age of the New Covenant – the Kingdom of the Heavens

- I. The gospel according to Matthew – the gospel of the kingdom (Matt. 1:1; 2:2; 4:23 [9:35]; 16:16-19; [Ps. 118:26]; 24:14; 27:11; Jn. 18:33-37; Luke 19:38; Jn. 12:12-18)
 - A. The coming of the Messiah is the fulfillment of Zech. 9:9 <21:2,4-9>; Is. 7:14; 9:6-7 <Matt. 1:21-23> – the Savior-King
 1. His first coming is to redeem His people – to make them a kingdom of priests (Rev. 1:5-6)
 2. His second coming is to rule over the nations and to restore God's whole creation (Zech. 14:9)
 - B. The emphasis is the King
 1. He is called "the Son of David" (Matt. 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15; 22:42; Ps. 132:11; 89:3-4; 19-29)
 - a. The wise men from the East addressed Him as "the King of the Jews" (Matt. 2:1-2; Mic. 5:2; Jn. 7:42)
 - b. The inscription on the cross by Pontius Pilate "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews"
 - c. All authority (power) in heaven and on earth is given to the Lord Jesus (Matt. 28:18)
 2. God has set His Son as King on His holy hill of Zion (Ps. 2:6-12; 45:6-7; 48:1-2; 89:20-27, 36-37; 110:1-2; Is. 9:6-7; Dan. 7:13-14; Rev. 14:1)
 3. Jesus Christ is not only the Savior but also the only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Tim. 6:14-15)

4. God Himself is the great King (Mal. 1:14b; Ps. 47:2; 95:3; Jer. 10:10)
- C. The kingdom today does not come with observation (Luke 17:20-21)
 1. The kingdom today is heavenly and spiritual in nature
 2. The believers are not only in the kingdom, but the kingdom is also inside <ἐντός> the believers (Matt. 13:18-24)
 3. Obeying Jesus the King from our whole heart and in love (John 14:15, 21; 1 John 2:5; Deut. 30:20)
 - a. Continually letting our heart be searched (examined) (Ps. 139:23-24; Jer. 17:9-10) and circumcised by Him (Deut. 30:6)
 - b. Keeping the first and best love (Rev. 2:4-5) and not letting Satan deceive us (Gen. 3:6; 2 Cor. 11:2-3) – the negative example of Solomon (1 Kings 11:1-4; Neh. 13:26)
 - c. Casting out of our heart all idols and things that compete with God (Deut. 30:17-18; Luke 18:29)
 - d. We obey those whom we love (Rom. 6:16; Luke 19:14)
 - e. Laying hold of Christ as the obedient One (Phil. 2:8; Heb. 5:8; John 5:30; 8:29)
 - f. Disobedience results in sin, death and cursing (Rom. 5:19; Deut. 28:15)
 - g. The reward for our obedience is an entrance into the millennial kingdom (Heb. 3:18; 4:11)
- D. The example of Saul and David
 1. God's first warning: Saul's kingdom will not continue – God chooses David, a man after His own heart (1 Sam. 13:13-14; Acts 13:21-22)
 2. Saul forbids the people to eat so they became faint (1 Sam. 14:24-31) – David and his companions eat the priests' food (1 Sam. 21:6; Matt. 12:3-4)

3. Saul loses the kingship because of disobedience (1 Sam. 15:20-23) – David is faithful (1 Sam. 22:14): his seed will remain on the throne forever (Ps. 89:4-5)
4. Saul's repentance is superficial (1 Sam. 15:24, 30) – David's repentance is thorough and focused on the kingdom (Ps. 51)
- II. Zion – the church built by the Lord is His kingdom on earth (Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:23 <11:14-17>; Gal. 3:27-29)
 - A. The church built by the Lord is His kingdom on earth
 - B. Built upon the rock – Christ the Foundation (1 Cor. 3:11), the Cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:6), and the Topstone (Zech. 4:7)
 - C. With the believers as living stones (1 Pet. 2:5)
 - D. The gates of Hades cannot prevail (Ho. 6:2; 13:14; Heb. 2:14)
- III. The goal of salvation – saved to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 1 Pet. 2:9)
- IV. Out of Zion shall go forth the law (Is. 2:3; Mic. 4:2; Ex. 20-24; Is. 42:1; 51:4; Deut. 6:1)
 - A. God's kingdom is righteousness (Heb. 1:8-9a; Ps. 45:7; 11:5; 33:5; 119:128)
 1. The scepter of His kingdom is a scepter of righteousness
 2. The King loves righteousness and hates lawlessness
 - B. The law (the constitution) of the kingdom of the heavens (see pp. 9-11)
- V. The gospel of the kingdom must be preached to all the world (Matt. 24:14), and then the end will come
- VI. Acts
 - A. The Lord Jesus 40 days after His resurrection, spoke the things pertaining to the kingdom of God (1:3) – the disciples were thinking about the earthly kingdom, but the Lord was talking about the heavenly kingdom.
 - B. Paul's ministry at the latter part of his life: (Acts 17:2-3; 28:23-31) – preaching concerning the kingdom of God and

the Lord Jesus from the scriptures, from Moses and the books of the prophets (see also Luke 24:26-27; 44-45; 1 Pet. 1:11)

Part 2: The Constitution (Law) of Zion, the Heavenly Kingdom – “Out of Zion Shall Go Forth the Law”

(Is. 2:3; Mic. 4:2; Ex. 20-24; Is. 42:1; 51:4; Deut. 6:1-12)

- I. The intrinsic character of the sons of the kingdom (Matt. 5:3-12)
 - A. The life of Jesus we received through regeneration
 - B. For the testimony of Jesus in the world today (Matt. 5:13-16)
- II. The righteousness of the sons of the kingdom which exceeds that of the Scribes & Pharisees (Heb. 1:8-9; Matt. 5:17-20)
 - A. Self-control over anger and hatred (Matt. 5:21-26; 1 Jn. 2:9-11; 2:15; 4:20)
 - B. Overcoming the lust of the flesh – adultery and divorce (vv. 27-32)
 - C. Regarding our speaking (Lev. 19:12; Ex. 20:7; Matt. 5:33-37; Col. 4:6; James 5:12; 2 Cor. 1:17-18)
 - D. Reaction toward the enemies
 - 1. Not retaliating (Matt. 5:38-42; Prov. 20:22; 24:29; Rom. 12:17,19; 1 Thess. 5:15; 1 Pet. 2:23; 3:9)
 - 2. Love your enemies (Matt. 5:43-47; Luke 6:27-28, 34-35; 23:34; Acts 7:60; Prov. 25:21-22)
 - E. Be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect (Matt. 5:48; Luke 6:36, 40; 2 Cor. 7:1; Col. 1:28; 4:12; James 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:15-16)
- III. The righteous deeds of the sons of the kingdom – in giving alms, praying and fasting (Matt. 6:1-18)
 - A. Not to be seen by man (not being hypocritical)
 - 1. Openly (theatrical) to be seen and admired by man

2. To receive the glory of man

B. The righteous way

1. In secret – only to be seen by the heavenly Father, who sees in secret

2. To receive the reward from the heavenly Father

IV. Special instructions concerning praying (Matt. 6:7-15; Jm. 4:3)

A. Not to use vain repetitions as the heathens do

B. Avoid using many words

C. One with the Father's will

V. Dealing with earthly treasures (Matt. 6:19-24)

A. Not laying up treasures on earth, but in heaven – a matter of our heart (Luke 12:21; 18:22-30; 1 Tim. 6:8-10; Heb. 13:5) – seeking the things above, where Christ is (Col. 3:1-2; Ps. 119:36-37)

B. Not serving two masters – God and mammon (Matt. 4:10; Luke 16:13; 1 John 2:15-16; James 4:4)

C. Not being anxious for our living (Matt. 6:25-34)

D. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (v. 6:33)

VI. Dealing with others (Matt. 7:1-12; Luke 6:37-38)

A. Without censorial judgment (1 Cor. 4:3-5)

B. Allowing the Lord to examine our hearts first (Ps. 139:23-24)

C. Following the "golden rule" (Matt. 7:12)

D. Having a discerning spirit (Matt. 7:6)

VII. The narrow way into the kingdom (Matt. 7:12-14; Luke 13:24)

A. The way of righteousness and the path of justice (Prov. 8:20)

B. The highway of holiness (Is. 35:8)

C. The way of the cross – way of affliction and suffering (Matt. 16:24-25; Gal. 5:24-26; Acts 14:22; Heb. 12:2-11)

D. Following the Lamb (Rev. 14:4; Heb. 2:10b; 1 Pet. 2:21-23)

E. Ask, seek, and knock (Matt. 7:7-11)

VIII. The royal law and the law of liberty (Matt. 22:36-40;
Jam. 2:8, 12) – the sum of the law (Matt. 5:17; 22:37-40)

IX. In the New Covenant age, the law is inscribed in our hearts
(Jer. 31:33-34; Heb. 8:10; 10:16)

X. Final warnings (Matt. 7:15-29)

Part 3: The Spiritual Battle for the Kingdom

I. God's purpose – Zion, the kingdom of God

A. The kingdom of God is within us (Luke 17:21)

B. The kingdom of God is in the Spirit (Rom 14:17; 8:14)

C. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom (1 Cor. 15:50)

II. Today's battle for the kingdom is spiritual (Gal. 5:17; 4:29;
Gen. 16:12; 2 Cor. 10:5)

A. Often not visible

B. Very subtle (Gen 3:1; Matt. 4:6; 2 Cor. 11:2)

C. Satan uses the flesh and the natural man to destroy Zion
(Matt. 16:22-23; 23:33; John 8:44;
1 Cor. 2:14; Jam. 3:14-16; Jude 19; Ps. 137:7-8)

D. The battle against the flesh – putting to death the
members which are on the earth (Col. 3:5; Rom. 6:11;
7:23; 8:13; Gal. 5:24, 26; 4:30; 2:20; 6:14)

1. Enmity, strife (hatred, contentions) (Gal. 5:19-21)

2. Seeking glory, honor (Gal. 5:26; John 5:41, 44)

3. Trusting in our own strength (Jer. 17:5; Phil. 3:3-4)

4. Religion

E. Denying/hating the soul life and following the Lord (Matt.
16:24-25; Luke 9:23; Rev. 12:11)

1. The natural man does not receive the things of God
(1 Cor. 2:14)

2. Bitter envy, self-seeking (Jam. 3:15)

3. Discontentment, complaining, worldly lusts (Jude 16)

4. Disobedience, rebellion (1 Sam. 13:8-12)
 5. Love of the world
 6. Taking up the cross – following the Lord (Mark 8:34)
 7. Letting our nature be transformed (Rom. 12:2)
 8. Setting the mind on things above (Col. 3:2)
 9. Attributing no value to the soul life (Acts 20:24)
 10. Counting all things loss – gaining Christ (Phil. 3:8)
- F. The natural man has no portion in the kingdom of God (Gal. 4:30) – see Saul (1 Sam. 13:14) and the children of Israel in the desert (Heb. 4:3)
- G. The battle for our heart (Matt. 10:37; 2 Sam. 18:5; 19:1)
- III. Strengthening the inner man
- A. In the Word and in the fellowship with the Father (Matt. 4:4)
 - B. Seeking the LORD's face (Ex. 33:7, 11)
 - C. The natural man has no desire for spiritual food (1 Sam. 14:24, 30; Num. 11:4)
 - D. The strategy of the enemy – to cut off the supply