

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 9

Joel 2:28-32

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ we were looking at the characteristics of the Kingdom.

"The Conditions of the Kingdom"

Part 2

Tonight we are going to pick up where we stopped last week as we continue to look at the conditions of the Kingdom. We started last week by looking at what Peter said concerning the Words of the prophets.

2 Peter 1:16-18

¹⁶ For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

¹⁸ And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

Here in these verses Peter speaks of the privilege of being on the Mount of Transfiguration. This event was a preview of the Kingdom and Peter was an eyewitness to this preview.

2 Peter 1:19-21

¹⁹ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

²⁰ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Here Peter speaks of that which is more accurate than an eyewitness account and it is the Word of God. The Word of the prophets concerning the Kingdom are a light that shines in a dark world. From Peter's Words we can see that a study of the Kingdom is a study of hope for us who are believers. We live in a world that is dark and gloomy spiritually speaking and it is not getting better. But there is something better that is coming to this world. It is the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in which we will rule and reign with Him. Last week we looked at 6 conditions:

- a. It will be a Kingdom of peace.
- b. Most of the curse will be removed.
- c. It will be a Kingdom of joy.
- d. It will be a Kingdom of longevity.
- e. It will be a Kingdom of perfect justice.
- f. The Kingdom will be a time of great increase in population.

When the Kingdom begins everyone in the Kingdom will be a believer. There will be two groups who enter the Kingdom and both groups will be saved. One group will have natural bodies and they will populate the Kingdom. The Other group will have glorified bodies and will not procreate.

Matthew 25:32-34, 41

³² *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

³³ *And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

³⁴ *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

⁴¹ *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

Now let us notice those with glorified bodies.

Revelation 20:4-6

⁴ *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

The population will greatly increase in the Kingdom but not all those born will get saved. Many will reject Jesus Christ and rebel against Him at the end of the Kingdom.

Revelation 20:7-9

⁷ And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

⁸ And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

⁹ And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

This is where we stopped last week and to begin with, I want to extend this last thought tonight.

g. People will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Let us notice the prophecy of Joel.

Joel 2:28-32

²⁸ And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

²⁹ And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

³⁰ And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.

³² *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.*

There are two Words here that we need to see in this prophecy. The Word "afterward" and the Word "before." They both refer to the day when Jesus returns to the earth at the end of the Tribulation. That day is referred to by Joel as the GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD. Why is it referred to this way? Because when Jesus returns, He will deal with the multitudes at the Battle of Armageddon. Now let us notice again what will happen after His return as He establishes the Kingdom.

Joel 2:28-29

²⁸ *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:*

²⁹ *And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

The Holy Spirit will be poured upon every believer with a natural body that enters the Kingdom. They will be indwelt as we are today. Believers in the Tribulation will not be indwelt by the Spirit as we are but if they survive the Tribulation, they will be given the Holy Spirit as they enter the Kingdom.

To be indwelt is not the same however as being filled. To be filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by the Spirit and not the flesh.

Ephesians 5:17-19

¹⁷ *Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*

¹⁸ *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

¹⁹ *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*

Here we see that to be filled with the Spirit is a command. It is to allow the Spirit to control us and live the life of Jesus through us. This is something that we do not see much of today. All believers have the Spirit, but few are filled with the Spirit.

Notice what Walvoord says concerning the believers in the Kingdom:

"The filling of the Spirit will be common in the millennium, in contrast to the infrequency of it in other ages, and it will be manifest in worship and praise of the Lord and in willing obedience to Him as well as in spiritual power and inner transformation. In contrast to present day spiritual apathy, coldness, and worldliness, there will be spiritual fervor, love of God, holy joy, universal understanding of spiritual Truth, and a wonderful fellowship of the saints. The emphasis will be on righteousness in life and on joy of spirit."

Notice what Peters writes:

"The remarkable, astounding outpouring of the Holy Spirit as presented in the Millennial descriptions... so powerful in its life transforming, glorifying, and imparting miraculous gifts to the saints; so pervading in and over the Jewish nation that all shall be righteous from the least to the greatest; so wide-reaching over the Gentiles that they shall rejoice in the light bestowed; and so extended in its operation that the whole earth shall ultimately be covered with glory - this, with the magnificent portrayals of the Millennial and succeeding ages, is so sublime with the indwelling, abiding, communicated Divine, that no one can contemplate it, without being profoundly moved at the display of spirituality."

Let us notice Joel's Words one more time;

Joel 2:28-29

²⁸ *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:*

²⁹ *And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

Verse 28 describes the fulness of the Spirit. Notice what Ezekiel writes;

Ezekiel 36:26-28

²⁶ *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

²⁷ *And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

²⁸ *And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

Jeremiah also writes of the same;

Jeremiah 31:33-34

³³ *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

³⁴ *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

The Kingdom will be beyond amazing!!

h. The Kingdom will be a time when people and the land are healed.

There will be no physical deformities in the Kingdom because Jesus will heal all who enter, and the land will also be healed.

Isaiah 35:1-7

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

² *It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.*

³ *Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.*

⁴ *Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.*

⁵ *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.*

⁶ *Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.*

⁷ *And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.*

i. The Kingdom will be a time of the increase of light.

Isaiah 30:26

²⁶ Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

The increase of light will increase the fruit of the land.

Zechariah 8:12

¹² For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.

Conclusion:

The Kingdom will be a time when the earth will be restored to what God originally intended. Let me leave you with something that Paul said in Romans.

Romans 11:11-12

¹¹ I say then, Have they [Israel] stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

¹² Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

The Jewish rejection of Jesus Christ as their Messiah was tragic, but God took the entire situation, and it became a blessing for us. The Kingdom was postponed and now we are going to be part of the Kingdom. When Isarel's fulness comes so will the Kingdom and we shall rule and reign with Him.