

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 14

Matthew 12:22-28

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of the Kingdom we looked at a question and then two answers to the question.

➤ "Why did Israel reject the offer of the Kingdom?"

1. They only wanted the political part of the Kingdom.

There was another part of the Kingdom which they did not see as pertaining to them and that was the spiritual aspect. In order for the Jews to enter into the Kingdom they had to be born again.

**John 3:1-5**

*There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:*

<sup>2</sup> *The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.*

<sup>3</sup> *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

<sup>4</sup> *Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?*

<sup>5</sup> *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

They should have known this part of the Kingdom because of what was said in the Old Testament.

**Ezekiel 37:23-28**

<sup>23</sup> *Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.*

<sup>24</sup> *And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: **they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.***

The Jews were so full of self-righteousness that they did not see a need to have their hearts cleansed.

**2. They were caught up in works righteousness.**

Israel had become so caught up in legalism that they stumbled over grace.

**Romans 9:30-32**

<sup>30</sup> *What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.*

<sup>31</sup> *But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.*

<sup>32</sup> *Wherefore? **Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.** For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;*

Tonight in our study we are going to look at what happened that caused the Kingdom offer to be taken off the table.

➤ **A New Age**

**Notice Matthew 12:22-28**

This was the turning point for the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews. When they attributed the miracles of Jesus to Satan the offer of the Kingdom was taken away. The leaders made it very clear when Jesus was crucified that they did not want Him as King.

**John 19:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> *When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.*

<sup>14</sup> *And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, **Behold your King!***

<sup>15</sup> *But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, **Shall I crucify your King?** The chief priests answered, **We have no king but Caesar.***

<sup>16</sup> Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

John tells us in the opening part of His Gospel that Jesus was rejected.

**John 1:11**

<sup>11</sup> He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Now when Jesus was rejected, and the offer of the Kingdom was taken away it did not mean that the Kingdom will never come. It means that the Kingdom has been postponed and we know from the Scriptures that the Kingdom **MUST** come, and it will come after the Tribulation.

So, the postponement of the Kingdom has led to the age which we are in today which we refer to as the Church Age or we could call it the Mystery Age. Now there are many who believe we are in the Kingdom but there is a parable that makes it very clear that the Kingdom is postponed.

**Notice Luke 19:11-27**

If we are now in the Kingdom, then this parable makes absolutely no sense.

➤ **The Mystery Age**

Next week we are going to start into the parables of Matthew 13 that will give details of this Mystery Age but before we do there are several things which we need to understand. I want to raise a few questions and then we shall answer them.

**1. Why is the Church Age a Mystery Age?**

Let us first of all understand that when the Bible refers to a mystery it is referring to something that was not reveal in time past. The Rapture is called a mystery because it was not known until it was revealed to Paul by the Lord Himself.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-53**

<sup>51</sup> Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

<sup>52</sup> In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

<sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Then we read of Paul source of this mystery in 1 Thessalonians.

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

<sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Not only is the Rapture called a mystery but so is the church.

**Ephesians 3:1-6**

For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

<sup>2</sup> If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

<sup>3</sup> How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery: (as I wrote afore in few words,

<sup>4</sup> Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

<sup>5</sup> Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

<sup>6</sup> That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

There are verses in the Old Testament that speak of the salvation of the Gentiles.

**Isaiah 60:1-3**

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

<sup>2</sup> For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

<sup>3</sup> And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

**Isaiah 49:6**

<sup>6</sup> *And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.*

These verse speak of salvation for Gentiles in the coming Kingdom but there is NEVER a mention of the Jew and the Gentile being one in Christ as we are in the church. The age we live in therefore can be called a Mystery Age.

## 2. Is the Church Age "plan B" in God's plan?

Some people say that because we teach that the Jews rejected the Kingdom, and it was then postponed that we are then teaching that God had to go to "plan B". The church age is not "plan B" for it was in the mind of God before the foundation of the world.

### Ephesians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

<sup>4</sup> *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

<sup>5</sup> *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

<sup>6</sup> *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

<sup>7</sup> *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

<sup>8</sup> *Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;*

<sup>9</sup> *Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:*

<sup>10</sup> *That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:*

<sup>11</sup> *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

The church is part of the eternal purpose of God according to His will. The church is not an after thought nor is it "plan B" but it was planned before the foundations of the world.

**Acts 2:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

<sup>23</sup> *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*

Notice the words of Lewis Sperry Chafer:

*"God not only knows beforehand the choice His creatures will make, but is Himself able to work in them both to will and to do of His own good pleasure. The Scriptures present many incidents which disclose the fact that the will of God is executed by men even when they have no conscious intention to do the will of God."*

**3. Where is Jesus now and what is He doing?**

First of all let us understand that Jesus is not sitting on His throne ruling the Kingdom as many teach.

**Revelation 3:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

<sup>22</sup> *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the Father, but He is NOT on His throne yet. That is something that is yet future. In Revelation 3:21 we can see that His throne is future, but God's throne is present. Jesus is the King, but He is not yet reigning as King. He is currently functioning as our Great High Priest.

**Hebrews 4:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

<sup>15</sup> *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

**Hebrews 7:24-26**

<sup>24</sup> *But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.*

<sup>25</sup> *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

<sup>26</sup> *For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;*

**Conclusion:**

Next week we will get into Matthew 13 where we will see the parables that will describe what this Mystery Age will look like.