

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 35

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of the Kingdom we are going to start into a new section. But before we get into the new section, I want to do a review of what we have looked at so far.

- God created Adam to be His theocratic administrator over His Kingdom in the beginning.
- Adam sinned and the theocratic administrator disappeared and the Kingdom was lost.
- Satan became the god of this world.
- God promised a Redeemer who would crush Satan and establish the Kingdom which God desired.
- Satan introduced the "mother child worship" at the Tower of Babel and all the people groups were polluted.
- In Genesis 11 and 12 God chose Abram to begin a new nation that had not been polluted at Babel.
- God made the Abrahamic Covenant with Abraham. It would be through the nation of Israel that the King would come and the Kingdom would be established.
- Satan continued to attempt to destroy the nation of Israel to stop the Kingdom.
- The nation of Israel was divided. The northern tribes went into the Assyrian captivity. The southern two tribes went into the Babylonian captivity.
- The Babylonian captivity started what is known as the Times of the Gentiles. After Babylon Israel came under the Persians and the Medes, then Greece, then the Romans.
- The Old Testament prophets foretold what the Kingdom would be like.
- Jesus came in His first advent and He offered to the first century Jews the Kingdom.
- The Jews rejected the Kingdom and in Matthew 12 the Kingdom offer was pulled back.
- The Kingdom was then postponed.
- Jesus gave the 8 parables in Matthew 13 to explain what Christendom would be like while the King was away.
- While the Kingdom is postponed God started a new program in Acts 2 known as the church.
- Today Jesus is building the church which is a "new man" that never existed before.
- When the church is complete it will be raptured away and God will then begin to work with the Jews again.

- The story of the Bible is how God is going to restore the Kingdom on this earth.
- We looked at the fact that the church is NOT the Kingdom.
- We looked at the fact that the church has NOT replaced Israel.

This sums up much of what we have considered in our study so far. We looked at what God was doing in the past and we looked at what He is doing in the present. Tonight, as we move on, we are going to look at what He is going to do in the future. We need to understand what God is going to do once the church is gone. It is particularly important to keep in mind that His Kingdom program revolves around the nation of Israel.

Let us notice something which God said to Israel.

Exodus 19:5-6

⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

These verses make it very clear that in order for the Kingdom to come to the earth, Israel must walk in obedience to God's Word. They must repent and they MUST accept Jesus Christ as their King. So, after the church is raptured away the focus of the events that will unfold in the world will be all about bringing Israel to the place where they will repent and accept Jesus Christ as their King. Notice the Words of Jesus in Matthew 23.

Matthew 23:34-39

³⁴ Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

³⁵ That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

³⁶ Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

³⁷ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

³⁸ Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

³⁹ For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

When Israel turns from their sin and welcomes the Lord it is then that they will see the Kingdom. He will not return until they accept Him as their Messiah. We are now going to look at several points concerning the nation of Israel that need to be understood in order to understand how the Kingdom is going to be established on earth.

I. Israel's Scattering (Diaspora)

"Diaspora" means "dispersion." When the first century Jews rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah, they were then attacked by the Romans in AD 70. This attack resulted in a worldwide dispersion of the nation even to our day. It is interesting to know that Isaiah predicted what would happen about 700 years in advance and Daniel predicted it 600 years in advance.

➤ His rejection.

Isaiah 53:2-4

² For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

➤ The dispersion.

Daniel 9:26

²⁶ And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

Now let me take you to Mount Sinai and look at God's Words to see that He had warned them of what would happen.

Deuteronomy 28:47-50, 62-67

⁴⁷ Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

⁴⁸ Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

⁴⁹ The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

⁵⁰ A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

⁶² And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.

⁶³ And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.

⁶⁴ And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

⁶⁵ And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

⁶⁶ And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:

⁶⁷ In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

Israel had multiple warnings that showed God would be true to His Word. Let us notice the warnings Israel received.

➤ **The Divided Kingdom**

Deuteronomy 17:15-19

¹⁵ *Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.*

¹⁶ *But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.*

¹⁷ *Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.*

¹⁸ *And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:*

¹⁹ *And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:*

When Solomon was king, he violated the guidelines which God had laid out for the king. This then led to the kingdom being divided. All the strange women that Solomon brought in carried with them the worship of false God's which was an attempt by Satan to pollute the nation to stop the Messiah. God then divided the kingdom as a warning to the people but it had little impact.

➤ **The Assyrian Captivity**

God later delivered the 10 northern tribes into the hands of the Assyrians. In the Assyrian captivity God was warning the 2 southern tribes.

2 Kings 17:5-17

⁵ *Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.*

⁶ *In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.*

⁹ *And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.*

¹⁰ *And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:*

¹² For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.

¹³ Yet the LORD testified against Israel, **and against Judah**, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.

¹⁴ Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God.

The Assyrian captivity also served as a warning to Judah but the warning was not heeded.

➤ **The Babylonian Captivity.**

About 136 years after the Assyrian captivity the southern kingdom went into captivity which is known as the Babylonian captivity.

➤ **The Roman Dispersion.**

It was about 650 years after the Babylonian captivity that the Romans attacked Jerusalem in AD 70. Now in both of the previous captivities God's people were carried out of their land. But both the Assyrian and the Babylonian captivities were local. The dispersion that happened when the Romans attacked was global. This was the fulfillment of Deuteronomy 28.

Deuteronomy 28:64-65

⁶⁴ And the LORD shall scatter thee **among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other**; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

⁶⁵ And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

As we gather here tonight Israel is in the diaspora. It started in AD 70 and still continues today. This will not continue forever.

Deuteronomy 30:1-3

And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,

² *And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;*

³ *That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.*

Conclusion/Application:

We are going to stop here tonight. Next week we are going to look at the two future gatherings of Israel and their significance. The application in all of this is, God's Word will come to pass. If it is a warning be sure if it is not heeded it will happen.