

The Glory of Christ's Kingdom

13 December, 2009

By Rev. Lonny R. Bower

Scripture Reference – Isaiah 11:1-16; 35:1-10

Unit Theme: “Major Prophets”

Central Truth: All who live for Christ now will participate in the glory of His coming Kingdom.

Focus: Discover the glory of Christ's rule and live by Kingdom principles.

Key Verse: 1 Chronicles 29:11

Introduction:

What do you think of when you hear the term “kingdom”? Certainly many kingdoms have come and gone over the last few millennia, but none have had the impact on the world that Christ's Kingdom has had. Jesus said in Luke 17:20, “The kingdom does not come with careful observation...the Kingdom of God is within you.” When we talk of the Kingdom of God, we must understand that it is two fold. First, we are His Kingdom; second, there is coming a day when His Kingdom will be foremost in this world. Right now His Kingdom is a spiritual one, very soon, however, His Kingdom will take physical shape and will be known the world over. Jesus will reign in physical form over His Kingdom, that which many have doubted will come to past. His power and authority will be known throughout the world and His glory will be undisputed. The present spiritual Kingdom is just a glimmer of the coming one. Right now His glory is marred by our own imperfections, in His coming Kingdom, we shall appear as He is, for we shall be like Him. Living in His spiritual Kingdom ought to cause us to long for His Kingdom to come. As the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:12, “Now I see but dimly...now I know in part, but then I shall fully see, I shall fully know”. The Kingdom we now know does not compare to the one we will know. The glory of His coming Kingdom is simply incomprehensible.

I. Nature of the King – Isaiah 11:1-5; Revelation 19:11-16

Unlike other kings, the nature of Christ is completely divine. Notice that the scripture foretold that the King would be of earthly lineage, He shall come from the house of Jesse. Notice that it says from his very roots as if right at the point of ruin the Lord raises up the King. The enemy had all but destroyed the lineage of Jesse, but God remembered His promise to David (**1 Kings 2:4**) that he would never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel. Unlike so many that came before him, He would have the Spirit of the Lord upon him. Of all the things we can attain, wisdom, knowledge and might, if we lack the Spirit of God we have gained nothing. The nature of the King is that he did not come to conquer the earth as so many before Him have tried to do. He came to save the earth; He came to conquer death so that the subjects of His Kingdom could

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live for eternity. His nature is adverse to all those who came before Him, for His nature is divine. Righteousness defines Him; He does not just rule in righteousness, He is righteousness.

➤ **Think about it:**

What would the world be like today if Christ never came?

“The Old Testament and New Testament alike tell of Jesus, the great Fact of history, the great Force of history, the great Future of history” – Robert G. Lee

II. Nature of the Kingdom – Isaiah 11:6-10; 35:1, 2

The nature of God's Kingdom is different in every way than any earthly kingdom the earth has ever known. Peace defines the coming Kingdom, all we have now is a hope of peace. People talk of it and will even organize mass demonstrations in an attempt to promulgate it. The truth is, however, lasting peace is not possible without the Prince of Peace (**Isaiah 9:6**). The world has all but rejected Christ and as a result they will not experience the peace that is inherent with His Kingdom. Even as we wait for His coming Kingdom we experience peace that surpasses understanding (**Philippians 4:7**). Peace is what sets us apart from all other people, it is the telling point that reveals to which Kingdom we belong. If our lives are in constant turmoil and controlled by fear then we need to have an encounter with Jesus (**Matthew 11:28**). It is His presence that permeates the Kingdom of God, in His presence there is no room for fear and turmoil is relegated to a historical event.

➤ **Think about it:**

Is peace the prevalent force in your life why or why not?

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“In God’s Kingdom peace is the normal reality, in man’s kingdom quite the opposite is true, it’s the abnormal hypothetical.”

III. Joy of the Kingdom – Isaiah 35:3-10

We live in a world that is filled with injustice, where the righteous are continually tormented by unrighteousness. Where it seems the hope we cling to is often shadowed by the realities of a tragic and uncertain life. All this is a result of man’s disobedience and will soon be made right. The Lord’s first order of business at His appearing will be vengeance upon the wicked. The joy of the liberated will be an unspeakable joy, as it was for the Holocaust survivors who were liberated by the Allies in WWII. Meanwhile, our strength and joy are planted in our hope and the word of God tells us (**Romans 5:5**) that hope does not disappoint. Our King through His First Advent has liberated us from the power of sin, however, we are still captive to the flesh and remain subjects to the affects of unrighteousness. His Second Advent will bring complete physical liberation and restoration. Restoration refers to destroying the abnormal and restoring the normal. God will restore all things as He originally intended; there will be no sickness, no sorrow, no strife, no fear, and there will be no death. This will bring joy, a joy that will last for eternity. Isaiah 25:8, Revelation 7:17 and 21:4 give us another glimpse of the goodness and joy yet to come.

➤ **Think about it:**

Nehemiah 8:10 says, “The joy of the Lord is your strength.” Can you relate with this statement, why or why not?

“For happiness one needs security, but joy can spring like a flower even from the cliffs of despair.” – Anne Lindbergh

Conclusion:

In our key verse (**1 Chronicles 29:11**), David describes the Kingdom of God as greatness, power, glory, victory, and majesty. He had a supernatural understanding of the nature of God and His Kingdom because He knew God and as such was a member of His present Kingdom and by faith His Kingdom to come. We too can develop a like perspective of God’s Kingdom and if, by

