

Sunday July 15th 2018
The Word of God
A Survey of the Bible – Part 9B
'Your Kingdom Come'

1). Lu 4:42 *Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; 43 but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent." 44 And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.*

Mt 15:24 *But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*

We have seen from our previous studies how, when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son. And we see from the verse in Matthew that at this time the Son was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

a). He was sent exclusively to the Jewish people, who were described as sheep who were lost – not lost in an eternal sense but lost in the sense seen in Jer 50:6 *"My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray; They have turned them away on the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; They have forgotten their resting place.*

And here in Jeremiah we see that God's people, the Jews, are described as 'lost sheep' because their shepherds had led them astray, causing them to go away from the mountain to a hill and had caused them to forget their resting place.

b). The mountain would speak of a Kingdom and the resting place of the 7th Day when that Kingdom would be realized, a time when the nation will be at rest from their enemies and Man's regal purpose restored – A Day that the Lord drew attention to during His earthly ministry – Mt 12:32 *"Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in **this age or in the age to come.** [the 7th Day]*

Joh 18:36 *Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not **of this world** [age – the 7th Day].*

c). And the situation described in Jeremiah had been exactly replicated by the religious leaders of Israel at the time of the Lord's first advent –
Mt 23:13 ¶ *"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.*

d). And as we will recall it is for the purpose of restoring both the kingdom and the resting place, first seen in Genesis, that we see Jesus preaching 'the kingdom of God', and the kingdom of God as seen in Luke can only be that facet of God's kingdom which the Jewish people were being offered, the Kingdom of the Heavens, as the earthly kingdom had already been covenanted to David – Mt 3:1 ¶ *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'"*

And that from which the nation of Israel was to repent was their having gone astray through unfaithfulness; from having left their high calling, which we see described in - Ex 19:5 *'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'* *These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."*

They had turned aside from being a 'kingdom of priests and a holy nation' and had lost the plot with respect to God's promise of the 7th Day, as seen in God's words to Abraham in - Ge 22:18 *"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

And with respect to the 7th Day as prophesied concerning the coming of the Christ in – Isa 11:10 ¶ *"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."*

And, distressingly, this is a situation that has been repeated in the Church from the beginning of this dispensation as witnessed in the letter to the Church of Ephesus recorded in the Book of the Revelation. And we have seen

in previous studies, the result of coming down from the mountain to the cities of the plain through the type of Lot – Re 2:4 *"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.*

The Christian's high calling is described this way in - Heb 3:1 ¶ *Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of **the heavenly calling**, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,*

And in Revelation is a call to repent from falling from this high calling which is strikingly similar to that given to Israel at the Lord's first advent. Which is not surprising considering that what is offered to the Church is the same as that offered to and rejected by Israel – the Kingdom of the Heavens.

e). And as we had seen last time 'the kingdom of [the] heaven[s]' should not be seen as a location, but as a function of rulership, 'the heavens do rule' – referring to the rule exercised by Satan and his fallen angels over the Gentile nations of the earth from 'the heavens' through human counterparts on the earth.

f). So, that being offered to the nation of Israel in line with the promises made to Abraham was the opportunity, following their repentance, to replace Satan and his angels in the heavenly realm and to rule over the Gentile nations of the earth in their place so as to bring to fulfillment that seen in Genesis 22:18, and in so doing they would have fulfilled their calling to be God's witness to the ends of the earth, and would be at rest from their enemies having returned to the mountain – Man's regal purpose having been restored.

g). And to that end Christ the King came to His own - Mt 2:2 *saying, "Where is He who has been born **King of the Jews**? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."*

Mt 27:11 ¶ *Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "**Are You the King of the Jews?**" So Jesus said to him, "**It is as you say.**"*

Joh 1:11 *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.*

2). Mt 27:37 *And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: **THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.***

This statement concerning the Lord being 'King of the Jews' was placed above His head on the cross at His crucifixion. And as we would realize from seeing this, His crucifixion was not the outcome that was expected through the message, 'Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' – this was a message that looked to the Christ seated on the throne of His father David, not the Christ on the cross – something had clearly changed from the message given at the beginning, to the situation that existed at the end of the Lord's ministry.

a). And in fact, things had begun to change very early on in the Lord's earthly ministry - Mr 1:14 ¶ *Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,*

John the Baptist was put in prison – and as John was the one who had come in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way of the Lord, John's imprisonment made his ministry impossible. Hence the reason Jesus Himself took up the message.

b). John while in prison recognized this and realized that things were not panning out in the way the message of repentance with the offer of the Kingdom had suggested they would – a realization that caused him to send 2 of his disciples to ask Jesus a question – Lu 7:19 ¶ *And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" 20 When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'"*

This may at first appear to be an odd question but given John's situation and the mounting resistance to the Christ and His message we might understand why he questioned whether Jesus was the promised King, the Son of David whose throne would be established and whose Kingdom would be everlasting.

c). Jesus' answer to the question made it clear that He was the One they were looking for - Lu 7:21 *And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. 22 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. 23 "And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."*

What John the Baptist did not realize, which presumably would be the same for the nation as a whole was, that before the coming of the King in His Kingdom glory there must first be the suffering Servant - Lu 24:25 *Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

The OT scriptures spoke of the suffering Servant - Isa 53:2 *For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 ¶ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

And the scriptures also spoke of the King and His Kingdom - Ps 2:6 *"Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."*

But, to the Jewish mindset, seen in John's question, these were 2 different individuals – the Messiah who would suffer and the Messiah who would be King. They didn't realize that the suffering servant and the King are One and the same, with each role being fulfilled at a different point in time, although moving to the same conclusion.

c). This might also be a part of the reason for Peter's rebuke of the Lord in - Mt 16:21 ¶ *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"*

d). Interestingly though there must have been revelation brought forth from above to John regarding this on some level because of what he had said upon seeing Jesus – Joh 1:29 ¶ *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him,*

and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!.....36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

What John the Baptist and the nation were missing was that which the Lord shared with the disciples on the road to Emmaus beginning with Moses and all the prophets. Because that which would take place at the Lord's first advent had already been set in the types laid out in the OT scriptures.

e). We have seen it with respect to Cain and Abel - Ge 4:8 ¶ *Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.*

We have seen it through Joseph and his brothers - Ge 37:10 *So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?".....18 Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. 19 Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming! 20 "Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"*

And we have seen it through Moses - Ex 2:13 *And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?" 14 Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!"*

And we have seen it prophesied in Moses – Nu 20:11 *Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.*

Nu 21:8 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."*

Therefore Jesus said this to the religious leaders in - Joh 5:45 *"Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you--Moses, in whom you trust. 46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.*

3). Now, because these things were already foretold in the scriptures it does not mean that the offer of the Kingdom of the Heavens to Israel and all that was contained in that was not a real offer, it was, but the OT scriptures showed that rejection of the message and the Messenger rather than acceptance would be the direction the nation would take.

a). And just as the offer of the Kingdom of the Heavens was real so there were very real consequences for rejecting the message and the Messenger – consequences that the Lord made plain to the scribes and Pharisees, the nation's religious leaders, the shepherds who had led the people astray, who were preventing the people from entering the offered Kingdom, through a parable – Mt 21:33 ¶ *"Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. 34 "Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. 35 "And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. 36 "Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. 37 "Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 "But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' 39 "So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. 40 "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" 41 They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." 42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD'S doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'? 43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.*

The introduction of those other than Israel who would receive the Kingdom of the Heavens offered to that nation and produce fruit with respect to it had already been witnessed in Matthew Chapter 13 - Mt 12:32 *"Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.....Mt 13:1 ¶ On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.*

b). And those who would be taken from the 'sea', who would comprise the nation bearing fruit for the Kingdom of the Heavens, had been identified in Matthew Chapter 16 - Mt 16:13 ¶ *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ. 21 ¶ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.*

And so, as the rejection of the Christ and His message became more and more prevalent throughout the nation so the cross and the 'Church' came more and more into view. Taking center stage in the Lord's focus - Joh 12:27 ¶ *"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.*

c). And again, this is not something unexpected as the 'Church' as well as the Lord's rejection and suffering had already been set in the types in the OT scriptures.

d). From the very beginning of scripture, we saw the Woman taken from Adam's body to be formed into his bride to rule with him in the place of Satan Eph 5:30 *For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

We have also seen it in the types of Asenath and Zipporah - Ge 41:45 *And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-Paaneah. And he gave him as a wife Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On. So Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.*

Ex 2:21 *Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses.*

And the whole of the Book of Ruth is dedicated to this very theme –

Ru 4:9 ¶ *And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. 10 "Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day."*

e). Now, although 'the Church' had been introduced and although the statement had been made that the Kingdom of the Heavens would be taken from Israel, there is a parable that shows that God had not finished with Israel and the Kingdom of the Heavens at that point in time - Lu 13:6 ¶ *He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 "Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' 8 "But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. 9 'And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.'"*

But this will have to wait for another time – if the Lord is willing.