

WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY

The I Thessalonians Series #18

June 10th, 2018

TEXT: Luke 19:11; Acts 1:6; Revelation 20:1-9

CONSIDER THIS: We are exploring what the Bible teaches about the end times and the “Day of the Lord” in keeping with the fact that Paul covered much of this ground in his teaching ministry to the church in Thessalonica. It is important that we do this before we return to the doctrine of sanctification found in I Thessalonians 5:12-28. In other words, eschatology and sanctification should always be directly connected with one another. This is essential if we are going to have success in **WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**. Here are the six key questions we have asked about the millennial kingdom:

1. What is the Kingdom?
2. How will the Kingdom come into existence?
3. Who enters and populates the Kingdom?
4. What will it be like to live in the Kingdom?
5. If Christians are in Heaven, will they participate in the Kingdom?
6. What about Satan’s attempt to overthrow this Kingdom in Revelation 20:7-9?

QUESTION 5: IF CHRISTIANS ARE IN HEAVEN, WILL THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE KINGDOM?

- A) Every Christian who has preceded us in death is with the Lord Jesus in Heaven right now (Philippians 1:21-23).
- B) After the rapture of the church into Heaven there will be the Bema seat judgment (I Corinthians 3:10-15; II Corinthians 5:10). Only then will we be ready to reign with Him as His co-heirs.
- C) The Bible seems to indicate that we (Christians of the Church Age) will be given the privilege of serving in the “King Jesus Administration” (see Matthew 19:27-28; I Corinthians 6:2; Revelation 2:26-27; 5:9-10; 20:6).

He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. I Thessalonians 5:10-11

QUESTION 6: WHAT ABOUT SATAN'S ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THIS KINGDOM IN REVELATION 20:7-9?

- A) All who enter the Kingdom at the very beginning are genuine believers in Jesus (Jews and Gentiles), but this isn't Heaven and they are just as capable of sinning as we are today. Still, the living conditions in the millennial kingdom are wonderful beyond our imagination. Average life span measured by the centuries. Disaster eradicated or treatable. Crop yields and food production off the charts. War abolished. The natural environment very balanced, destructive storms, droughts, floods, earthquakes, etc... are unknown (except as a means of God's corrective discipline = Zechariah 14:17-19). Political corruption is eliminated. Jesus Christ is present on earth as KING OF KINGS.

KEY: Many billions of people will be born during the Kingdom era. Just like any child born into a Christian home today, they will choose for themselves whether or not Jesus will rule their hearts.

- B) Example: Other than King David, King Hezekiah (r. 715 – 686 B.C.) was Judah's godliest King (see II Kings 18:3-6). Hezekiah's son, Manasseh (r. 695-642 B.C.) was Judah's most wicked and longest reigning King (see II Kings 21:1-6). Even the godliest of homes can produce a rebel.
- C) KING Jesus is kind, generous and pours out blessing. But as the Holy One He also punishes those who defy God and who act unjustly towards others (Genesis 49:10; Psalm 2:1-3, 8-12). Sadly, but predictably, there will be people in the Kingdom (unbelievers born during this time) who will inwardly harbor seething resentment. They long to openly reject the rule of Jesus but they lack the opportunity. No one ever said sin is rational.
- D) In Revelation 20:7-8 God releases Satan so that those who had to hide their rebellion would be free to expose their hearts, believing (because they were willingly deceived) that they can overthrow Jesus's Kingdom.

NOTE: The most common argument used against Christianity in our day is that the presence of evil and suffering disproves God's goodness and is a justification for rejecting Him. The rebellion at the end of 1,000 years of Kingdom blessing exposes that people reject God because they love their sinful autonomy and not because belief in God is irrational or because there is defect in Him.

- E) In Revelation 20:9-15 God's **final** act of judgment against Satan and believers takes place. The final 2 chapters of the Bible give us a glimpse of the **Eternal State** (Heaven). This is going to be good and it inspires us to be **WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**.