

WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY

The I Thessalonians Series #16

May 27th, 2018

TEXT: Luke 19:11; Acts 1:6-7; I Thessalonians 5:1-11

CONSIDER THIS: “The day of the Lord” was one of Paul’s central topics in his writings to the Thessalonians. There are three aspects of the Day of the Lord.

- 1) The return of Christ to earth to rescue Israel
- 2) God’s judgment upon unbelievers
- 3) The establishment of Christ’s Kingdom on earth.

It is this third aspect, the Kingdom, to which we now turn our attention. And remember, the proper study of what God has revealed about the future will be transformative in how we **WALK OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**. Our study of Christ’s Kingdom will be based upon these **SIX QUESTIONS ABOUT THE 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 1: What is it?

- A) The kingdom of God is ultimately God’s rule over the entire universe. But the kingdom which will come in fulfillment of prophecies about “the Day of the Lord” is also known as the millennial kingdom because it is a 1,000 year period when Jesus Christ reigns on earth **as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS** (see Revelation 20:1-6).
- B) The kingdom will be worldwide. All the world’s nations continue to have their distinct national identities, but Jesus is King over all. This concept was first introduced into Jewish thought in the form of a prophecy given by Jacob to his sons in approximately 1850 B.C. (see Genesis 49:8-12).
- C) Israel was created by God as a vessel through which He would bless the entire world. She is not in any way superior to the other nations except in the fact that a great privilege was graciously afforded her. But the central figure in the kingdom is **not** Israel, it is Jesus Christ. He will rule while seated on the throne of David, as was promised in the Davidic covenant in II Samuel 7:12-16. While this covenant initially referred to David’s son, Solomon (the sinner in verse 14), it ultimately points to Jesus → “your throne will be established forever” (verse 16).
- D) Psalm 2 is known as “a royal psalm” and was sung in conjunction with the coronation of Israel’s kings. “Anointed one” would refer to any of Israel’s Kings, but this Psalm ultimately points to Jesus and His rule over the world (Psalm 2:1-3, 8-9).

PRACTICAL FOR TODAY: Psalm 2, and all of the other scriptures that speak of Jesus as King, should encourage us as we face daily challenges. See how the apostles prayed in Acts 4:22-31. This is the God to Whom Grace Community Church prays!! Let not your hearts be troubled. Do not be afraid.

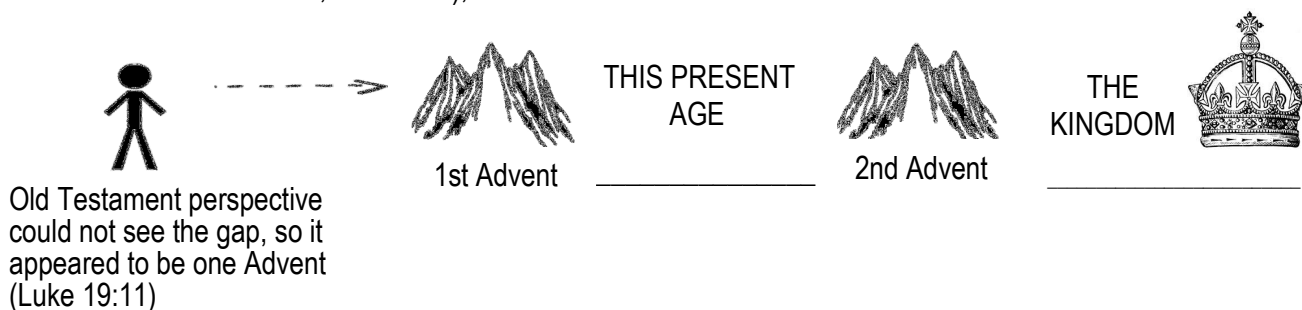
- E) But didn’t Jesus say His Kingdom is not of this world (John 18:33-37)? Isn’t His Kingdom “spiritual” and “invisible” and not to be taken as a literal earthly Kingdom? Jesus answered Pilate based on Pilate’s fear, as one accountable to the Roman Emperor, that Jesus was about to lead a “rebellion” (Mark 14:46-50). Jesus would not allow people to use the tactics and methods of this fallen world to control when and how He will rule as King (see John 6:14-15).

F) Dr. Charles Ryrie summarizes as follows:

“Why is an earthly kingdom necessary? Did He not receive His inheritance when He was raised and exalted in heaven? Is not His present rule His inheritance? Why does there need to be an earthly kingdom? Because He must be triumphant in the same arena where He was seemingly defeated. His rejection by the rulers of this world was on this earth (I Corinthians 2:8). His exaltation must also be on this earth. And so it shall be when He comes again to rule this world in righteousness. He has waited long for His inheritance; soon He shall receive it.”

QUESTION 2: How will the Kingdom come into existence?

A) When Jesus was on earth those who believed in Him were correct in thinking He was the promised King, but they failed to see that the mission of Jesus required two Advents. (Luke 19:31; John 12:12-16, Acts 1:6-7),



- B) For the promise of Jeremiah 23:5-6 to be fulfilled the cross had to come before the coronation. Some day yet in the future Israel will be ready to receive Jesus as her righteous King and He will make Israel righteous.
- C) At the mid-point of the 7 year tribulation the Anti-Christ breaks his covenant with Israel and demands that he be worshipped as God (II Thessalonians 2:1-4; Revelation 13:5-8).
- D) The Anti-Christ has 2 targets:
- 1) The multitude of Gentiles who become followers of Christ during the Tribulation and who refuse to worship the Anti-Christ and receive his mark (Revelation 13:11-18). Millions of these Gentiles are martyred for Jesus Christ.
 - 2) The nation of Israel.
- E) At the end of 7 years the tribulation reaches the climactic point and the Anti-Christ assembles the armies of the nations of the world, all the remaining military might, for one final assault on Israel and Jerusalem. This is the series of battles known as Armageddon (Revelation 16:14, 16).

It is then that the Holy Spirit of God stirs the hearts of the people of Israel as never before and they cry out to Jesus: “We betrayed and rejected You. Forgive us, O Son of David. Jesus, You are Lord and You are King. Have mercy on us! Save us!” (Zechariah 10:10; Revelation 19:11-16) The sky is ripped open and He comes. **THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.** Anti-Christ is defeated. The unbelieving world which has followed Anti-Christ falls under God’s judgment. Israel is saved.

TO BE CONTINUED ...