

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

JROC – What's With the Kingdom? Pt. 1

March 4, 2018

We worship God because He is the Lord God Almighty (Rev. 15:3) - *Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O **King** of the saints!*

In the midst of the trumpet judgments we read Rev. 11:15 - *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!*

Why does Scripture speak about the kingdom?

The Universal Kingdom of God is the rule of God over the entire universe. In this kingdom nothing happens outside of the will of God because He is sovereign and in control (I Chron. 29:12; Psa. 145:13). Jer. 10:10 - *But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King.* The timeframe: eternity past through eternity future. God's Kingdom is an eternal, sovereign rule everywhere over the entire creation.

The Spiritual Kingdom of God that we read about in Scripture is the rule of God over all those who are born again having experienced the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5) from Adam moving forward through the OT through the Church Age through the Tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom. All the redeemed are in the Spiritual Kingdom of God. Non-believers are NOT in the Spiritual Kingdom of God. The Spiritual Kingdom of God began immediately after man sinned, when God promised the Redeemer (Gen. 3:15) and provided, through the shedding of blood, the skin of an animal to cover Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:21). The Spiritual Kingdom of God was in existence before the Church, the body of Christ, which began on the day of Pentecost. Gen. 15:6 – Abraham believed and it was accounted to him as righteousness. The Spiritual Kingdom will continue to exist after the Church departs at the rapture. There will be multitudes of people who come to faith in the Tribulation (Rev. 6:9; Rev. 7:9ff) and during the Millennial Kingdom (Zech. 8:23) All the redeemed from all ages are in the Spiritual Kingdom of God.

What about God's Kingdom on earth? Scripture speaks of God ruling over a human kingdom. Isa. 9:6 – ... *unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government* (rule, dominion) *will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* When Jesus rules and reigns from Jerusalem over the world, it will be considered a theocracy – rule of God. This is FUTURE! It's on earth. And it will literally happen. Jer. 10:7 – God is King of the nations. Jer. 10:10 - *But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King.*

In Scripture we see God's rule over the nation of Israel which was established at Mount Sinai when Israel agreed to keep God's law. (Ex. 19:8; Ex. 24:3, 7). What do we read

about in the passage in Exodus at Mount Sinai? God is the RULER; God gives His subjects (Israel) the LAW; and He gives them LAND (the Promised Land).

After Israel entered the land of Canaan, the Promised Land, under Joshua, the children of Israel began to take the land God had promised them. They didn't take all of it. In the book of Judges we see disobedience and failure on the part of Israel (for a bit more than 300 years) during which they demanded a human king to rule over them – and NOT God (I Sam. 8:1-7). Israel didn't want GOD to rule over them! I Sam. 8:7 - *And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.* Following the rejection of God as King we read of the unrighteous kings over the kingdom of Israel and a mixture of righteous and unrighteous kings over the kingdom of Judah. (Divided Kingdom) Because of Israel's brazen disobedience (going after other gods, idolatry, breaking of the Sabbath law of the land [Lev. 25:1-7], abominations even in the temple), we read of the departure of the glory of God from the Temple in Eze. 8:4 through 11:23. The southern kingdom of Judah was attacked by the Babylonians – the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed – and the Jews were taken into captivity – into exile – in Babylon – for 70 years.

At this point in Israel's history, the focus of attention was on the FUTURE when the Messiah would come and bring in the kingdom promised to David. And, thus, we read the Prophets (major prophets/minor prophets) who WARNED the Jewish people and also spoke of the GLORIES of the KINGDOM OF GOD that would come to earth – in the FUTURE. How long until the "future"? We read of Gabriel's message to Mary of her Child, the Son of the Highest, Who would be seated on the throne of David. And we read of Zachariah's praise of God at his son, John's, naming and circumcision ceremony. John would herald the Messiah, Zachariah knew that (look what Gabriel told Zachariah in connection with Malachi 4). And, Zachariah praised God for remembering His covenant with Abraham and extending mercy to Israel. The Kingdom of God on earth, with the Messiah ruling and reigning was EXPECTED by Israel in Jesus' day (and even by Daniel [read Dan. 9:1-19 – his prayer]).

Matt. 3:1-2 - *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,*<sup>2</sup> *and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven (the Kingdom of God) is at hand (the Messiah was **coming**)!"*<sup>3</sup> *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.' (The LORD – Jehovah/the Messiah was coming and they, the Jewish people, needed to repent. Israel was to become a restored nation)*

Matt. 4: 12, 17 - Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee....<sup>17</sup> *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*

Was Jesus offering the Kingdom of God to Israel. Were they given the Kingdom during Jesus first coming? WHY the Jewish people were NOT given the Kingdom of God on earth during Jesus' public ministry at His first coming?

The OT anticipated the fulfillment of the great Messianic Kingdom. The OT also prophesied the rejection of the Messiah:

Psa. 22 – (written approx. 1,000 years before Jesus' first coming) the Messiah would be crucified – and not be installed as King at His first coming.

Psa. 118:22-23 – (again – about 1,000 years prior to Bethlehem) *The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

Isa. 53:1-3 (700-800 years before Jesus came to earth as Emmanuel) – Isaiah asks - *Who has believed our report?* In spite of ALL the prophecies that were unfolded in the OT, Isaiah is telling his people, the Jewish people, that only a few, comparatively speaking, would recognize the Redeemer, Jesus, when He arrives! *He (the Messiah) has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.*<sup>3</sup> *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.*

Dan. 9:26 – (written a bit over 500 years before Jesus' birth) the Messiah would come and die before the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD

Hosea 5:15 – The Messiah is speaking - *I will return again to My place (heaven) till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.*

The Messiah is speaking of His already having come to earth but returning to heaven since Israel as a nation has not repented. God told Israel that they needed to repent before the Messiah would rule and reign over them! And, so we read in Hosea 3...

Hosea 3:4-5 - *For the children of Israel shall abide (shall continue to remain/exist) many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim.*<sup>5</sup> *Afterward the children of Israel shall return (repent) and seek the LORD their God and David their king (the Son of David Who is the Messiah). They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days.* Hosea is prophesying that Israel will exist BUT will be without kings and sacrifices – without their political and religious world as seen in the OT – UNTIL Israel, as a nation, repents (turns) and seeks God – and then the MESSIAH will RETURN at His physical Second Coming.

And so, we read Jesus' words to the nation of Israel one day after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem – a few days before His crucifixion...

Matt. 23:37-39 - *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!*<sup>38</sup> *See! Your house is left to you desolate;*<sup>39</sup> *for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'* Jesus spoke of His departure. As a nation, Israel needed to repent of their sins before the Messiah would return and rule over them as King! Wrapped up in the word, *till*, is HOPE!

The Gospel of Matthew proves that Jesus is the Messiah and King in fulfillment of the OT. AND, the Gospel of Matthew explains WHY the promised Kingdom of God on earth has not yet arrived. The Gospel of Matthew explains WHY the giving of the Kingdom of God on earth has been POSTPONED!!!