

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship



"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28

"The Kingdom of God"

Part 1

Luke 17:20-30

October 8, 2023

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- Pharisees had a twisted view of the Kingdom of God.
 - It will come with signs.
 - It will be visible.
 - It will destroy the Romans.
 - It will restore Israel.
 - The true King will usher it in.
 - We cannot have a King who hangs out with sinners and the sick and the diseased and the poor.
 - Must be a military commander and not some compassionate healer.

“Like many today, the Pharisees said they wanted the Kingdom of God to come; but you can’t want the Kingdom and reject the King. “The Pharisees asked Him when the Kingdom of God would appear, while it was right in their midst because the King Himself was there.””

- G. Campbell Morgan

21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

- You are not going to be able to see it in its inauguration.
- Jesus says the Kingdom is right here, right now.
- “Haven’t you guys taken any Bible Survey classes in your system?”
- In the O.T. it lays out: 1. who the king will be. 2. that He will die as a sacrifice for sin. 3. that a time of wrath is coming on the earth before the visible Kingdom of God will be established.

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Joel 2:1-4,10,11

1 Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the Lord is coming; Surely it is near,

2 A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been anything like it, Nor will there be again after it o the years of many generations.

3 A fire consumes before them And behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them But a desolate wilderness behind them, And nothing at all escapes them.

4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run.

10 Before them the earth quakes,

The heavens tremble,

The sun and the moon grow dark

And the stars lose their brightness.

11 The Lord utters His voice before His army;

Surely His camp is very great,

For strong is he who carries out His word.

The day of the Lord is indeed great and very awesome,

And who can endure it?

21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

- So Jesus is saying. "I am the King. I am right now in your midst."

Luke 11:20

20 "But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, **then the kingdom of God has come upon you.**

- Wherever the King is, the Kingdom is.
- The Kingdom of God is God's rule in the life of the believer.
- That rule is expanding all of the time as people are becoming believers.
- So if anyone is going to see the Kingdom of God, they will need to be born again.

John 3:3

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the **kingdom of God.**"

22 And He said to the disciples, "The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.

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- Now Jesus begins to shift from the "now" invisible Kingdom of God" to the "future" visible Kingdom of God.
- The disciples will long to see the future Kingdom but they will not see it.
- They are not to be fooled by false prophets and false Messiahs.

Matt 24:23-24

23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him.

24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

- Dr. Charles Feinberg - since the time of Jesus, sixty-four different individuals have appeared claiming to be the Messiah.
- David Koresh, Jim Jones, Sun Myung Moon, and many, many others have all claimed to be the Messiah. Many Orthodox Jews thought (and still think) that a Brooklyn Rabbi named Mendel Schneerson was the Messiah.

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- The 2nd coming won't be hidden. Like lightning, the whole sky will be lit up for those who are in the nighttime darkness.
- This is the Day of the Lord.

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Day of Christ

The Day of Christ is that period of time which begins with the rapture of the Church (1 Thess. 4:14-18) and includes the events which follow in heaven as the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage of the Lamb (1 Cor. 1:8; 5:5; 2 Cor. 1:14; Phil. 1:6, 10; 2:16). The Day of Christ is a time of reward and blessing for the Church following the Rapture.

Day of God

The events of the Day of God include the dissolving of the old heavens and the old earth (2 Pet. 3:10-14).

Day of the Lord

This is the period of time which begins with the Tribulation judgments and extends through the millennial reign of Christ on earth through the destruction of the heavens and the earth and into the ushering in of the new heavens and earth and the eternal state. This day comes as a thief (1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10) during the time mankind is believing a new time of peace and safety has been ushered in.

25 "But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

- This really throws the Pharisees for a loop.
- Suffer? Where is the conquering King?
- But that is why that generation of Jews rejected Jesus.
- They ignored the coming judgments found in the minor prophets and instead embraced the glories of the Millennial Kingdom. How did they miss it?

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- Jesus now uses 2 illustrations from the O.T. to show what the 2nd Coming is going to be like.
- Both illustrations speak of God's judgment on sinful man.

Illustration #1 – Noah and the flood.

27 they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

- Notice that it is "life as usual" right up until judgment fell.
- The condition of the world was evil, wicked, and sinful. But it was all accepted as normal and routine.

Gen 6:5,11,12

5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

11 Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence.

12 God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.

- Noah and his family were the only ones saved from judgment.

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Illustration #2 – Lot and the destruction of Sodom.

- Again it's business as usual.

29 *but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.*

- But Sodom was an evil, wicked, immoral city and this was accepted as normal and routine.

Gen 18:20

20 And the Lord said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.

Gen 19:24-25

24 Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven,

25 and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

- Lot and his family were the only ones saved from judgment.

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Application

1. **Awesome thought:** If you are a born-again believer, you have the invisible Kingdom of God living in you right now.
2. People who want heaven without first facing the need for removal of condemnation will be swept away in the waters of the flood and targets for the fire of judgment.
3. There is only 1 way you will ever see the Kingdom of God – you must be born again.

30 "It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.

- At the 2nd coming when Christ returns to set up his earthly visible Kingdom, judgment falls first.
- Don't expect the Kingdom without first God's judgment.
- **Note:** Before judgment fell in these 2 illustrations, God removed the righteous. He will do the same with the Church before the 7-year Tribulation.

1 Thess 5:9

9 For God has not destined us for wrath,

Rev 3:10

10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, **I also will keep you** from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.