

Focus on the Kingdom

Vol. 24 No. 8

Anthony Buzzard, editor

May, 2022

The Court Will Convene

Daniel 7:26-28

by Tracy Zhykhovich, Minnesota

From the recent Theological Conference

We often neglect the reality of God's coming Kingdom. One day the court *will* convene and the kingdoms (countries) of this world will be judged and become the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and of the saints. Jesus will receive all authority and God's rule will be over all the earth. This earthly Kingdom will never be destroyed. 1000 years later it will be handed over to the Father so that God may be all in all, and then there will be no more pain, suffering or death (1 Cor. 15, Rev. 21).

Throughout Scripture we see that the promise, the reward, and our hope is God's Kingdom **on the earth**. In fact, God created the earth and created mankind to live on the earth (Ps. 115:16). Mankind's destiny and destination has not changed since that time (see Ps. 37:9, 11, 18, 22, 29, 34).

Abraham was promised the land, and did not receive it. David was promised an heir on the throne forever. Jesus told us that the meek would inherit the earth (Matt. 5:5).

In fact, the Lord's prayer that many pray every Sunday is clear: "Your Kingdom come, **on earth** as it is in heaven." Jesus is returning to the earth to crush the kingdoms of this world and establish his Father's Kingdom from Jerusalem, over all the earth. God's will is *not now* done on the earth as it is in heaven. It wasn't done when Jesus was here, and it isn't done now. It will be done only when Jesus comes at the end of this present evil age (see Acts 17:31).

Contrary to the popular "Christian" song, we are not "building His Kingdom now," nor should we be trying to. Our work is to proclaim God's Kingdom and to enlist people who will be managers with Jesus of the Kingdom when Jesus comes.

Hebrews 2:7-9 says that "mankind was made a little lower than the angels; but God crowned them with glory and honor and put everything under their feet. In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. **Yet at present we do not see everything subject** to them, but we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death."

Jesus has been exalted and crowned with glory and everything has been put under his feet, that is, **it has**

been declared to be put under his feet, yet everything is not subjected to him at this time. Psalm 110:1 says that he is still waiting in heaven for his enemies to become his footstool. And in 1 Corinthians 15 we are told that he must put everything under his feet, including death, which will only happen *after* the Great White Throne Judgement (Rev. 20:14), and then he will hand the Kingdom over to the Father so that God will be over all (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

Before Adam and Eve sinned, they were living under God's rule. Once they disobeyed and sinned, they took that rulership upon themselves and put the crown on their own heads.

Then as a chosen nation, Israel rejected God as their king and wanted to be like the rest of the world and have an earthly king. So today all of mankind is ruled over by mortal, unrighteous, selfish, and power-hungry leaders.

A Messiah, a human being like us, was prophesied back when God cursed Satan in the Garden. He revealed more information about who this person would be over the years until God's chosen and anointed human Messiah was begotten and born (Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:35).

Daniel wrote that at the end of this age a "rock" cut not by human hands would crush all the other governments and rule forever after (Dan. 2:35). Jesus from Nazareth is that "rock," the man Messiah who will crush every authority on earth.

Jesus is now immortal and that makes it possible for him to sit on David's throne forever. But today the world is not subjected to Jesus and there is no king on a throne in Jerusalem — only wicked governments, some worse than others, ruling all the nations. Perhaps soon, the Antichrist will emerge from them and rule the world (2 Thess. 2:4-9).

Daniel 7:27: The World Reset

But one day "the court will convene, and his ruling authority will be removed — destroyed and abolished forever!" (Dan 7:26). That is, the Antichrist's ruling authority will be abolished. He will be the last mortal "king" to rule the nations.

"Then the kingdom, authority, and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be delivered to the people of the holy ones of the Most-High. [This is so simple! The saints, God's people, will be getting all the nations turned over to them, on the earth!] God's kingdom is an eternal kingdom; all

authorities will serve and obey them. This is the conclusion of the matter!” (Dan. 7:27-28). This is how the story ends, or actually begins!

Daniel 7:28 says that when Daniel heard all of this, his thoughts troubled him greatly, and the color drained from his face. I wonder if Christians today take this prophecy as seriously as Daniel did?

Daniel 7:21-22 explains that while Daniel was watching, “a horn began to wage war against the holy ones and was defeating them, until the Ancient of Days arrived and judgment was rendered in favor of the holy ones of the Most High. **Then the time came for the holy ones to take possession of the Kingdom.**”

This is Hebrews 2 finally being fulfilled. At that time everything, including the nations, will be subject to Jesus and the saints! The location does not change! The only change is *who* is ruling, not *where* anyone is ruling.

At that time the holy ones will take possession of the kingdoms of the earth and establish one Kingdom rule over the entire earth, over all the nations. God’s Kingdom rule through His agent, His anointed Messiah, Jesus, and the holy ones, will be the beginning of a new Kingdom on the earth, a single universal Kingdom, truly a new world order! Jesus’ enemies will be made a footstool for his feet and he will reign on the Father’s behalf. “The holy ones of the Most-High will receive the kingdom and will take possession of the kingdom forever and ever” (Dan. 7:18).

But before this happens the earth will be “trampled and crushed,” the “holy ones of the Most High will be harassed continually,” and they will be delivered into the hands of Antichrist for 3½ years (Dan. 7:25). “If anyone is meant for captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed by the sword, then by the sword he must be killed. This requires steadfast endurance and faith from the saints” (Rev. 13:10).

But be encouraged! The court will convene, and Antichrist’s and all worldly governments’ ruling authority will be removed — destroyed and abolished forever! *Hallelujah, Amen!*

“Then the kingdom, authority, and greatness of the kingdoms **under the whole heaven** will be delivered to the people of the holy ones of the Most-High. Their Kingdom is an eternal Kingdom; all authorities will serve and obey them” (Dan. 7:27). Again, this Kingdom is on the earth and Jesus, with the saints, will be ruling, or governing, “under the whole heaven,” not suspended “over” the earth or “in heaven.” This Kingdom rule is a world politics and economics reset for real, and for eternity.

Your Will Be Done on Earth

Daniel saw all of this happening **on the earth**. Even John, in Revelation, although he saw things in the

spirit in heaven at times, as on a movie screen, these are events that will happen **on the earth** in the future.

Jesus said the meek will **inherit the earth** (Matt. 5:5) and we pray, “Your Kingdom come on earth!” The prayer is that God’s Kingdom, that is His rule that is now in heaven, would finally come to the earth as well. The prayer asks the Father that His government would be upon the earth, which means over all the nations that are on the earth.

Unlike Israel when they chose a king over YHVH, the Christian’s prayer is for YHVH to be supreme ruler, instead of the present ruling authorities who are greedy, violent, and power-hungry leaders. At no time does “Your Kingdom come” all of a sudden become a Kingdom above the earth or in heaven, or prior to the return of Messiah Jesus.

Christians were not told to usher in this Kingdom; they were told to herald it, and announce it as Jesus did (Luke 4:43). Our purpose or goal today cannot be to try to bring about this Kingdom, or make the governments of this world rule people or countries righteously, as only Jesus will when he comes and is King.

Jesus is not ruling from heaven, nor is he enthroned as King yet on earth. In fact, he is still waiting to come to earth and to put all of his enemies put under his feet at that time.

With that said, followers of Messiah can and should live and practice a Kingdom lifestyle today. We are in training, and we have been given a job to do as we see in the parable of the master going away for a while after giving his servants “talents” to use. The talents can be anything that we have been given. The bottom line is that our lives and everything we have been blessed with, are what he has given us and what we will be required to give an account for. We must invest what we have, and our lives, in productive Kingdom activity for the master. It is a dangerous thing to bury, or just sit on what we have been given!

Our Commission and Positions Prepared

In Luke 4:43 Jesus told them that he must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God to the other towns too, because that is what he was sent to do. Jesus was sent, or commissioned by God, to tell people about God’s coming rule, His government, on the earth, what it will be like, and how one can have citizenship.

This Kingdom was referred to as the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom **of** heaven, but never a Kingdom **in** heaven. Even the verse many like to argue where Jesus said that he goes to prepare a place for us (John 14:2-3) does not say that that place remains in heaven. In fact, if this is referring to the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:1-5), that too, as Jesus does, comes down out of heaven to the earth.

John 14:1-3: “Do not let your hearts be distressed. You believe in God; believe also in me. There are many dwelling places in my Father’s house. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going away to make ready a place for you. And if I go and make ready a place for you, **I will come again** and take you to be with me, so that **where I am you may be too.**” Jesus did not give any further details about this “place” he was going to prepare for us. We do know from his constant teaching on the future Kingdom, that we will have *positions* on the earth.

James and John asked about places or positions *prepared* for believers in the coming Kingdom in Mark 10:40, but Jesus replied, “to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give. It is for those for whom it has been prepared.” Even if those places are “prepared” in heaven, neither Jesus nor James and John ever entertained the idea that those places would be somewhere other than in the Kingdom on the earth.

The main hope is that where Jesus will be, there we will be too. If we read the rest of Scripture, we see that Jesus will be on the earth. Zechariah 14:4 says that his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives. Here Jesus represents YHWH as His agent.

If preaching and teaching about the coming Kingdom was what the Almighty God commissioned Jesus to do leading up to his ultimate sacrifice, ought we not lead with this same message and hope? This message of God’s rule finally being administered over all nations on the earth, is the hope of those same nations. There will finally be a government that has its citizens’ interests in mind, and one that truly rules righteously (Isa. 32:1).

Kingdom and Priests

Revelation 5:9-10 says that “Jesus was killed, and at the cost of his own blood he purchased for God persons from every tribe, language, people, and nation. He has appointed them as a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign **on the earth.**”

Again, this kingdom of priests ruling the nations happens after the Great Tribulation and Armageddon, both of which also happen **on the earth!**

It is important to understand the role of priests here. It is not about offering sacrifices in a temple. In 2 Chronicles 17:3-10 priests were sent and taught throughout Judah, taking with them the scroll of the law of the LORD. They traveled to all the cities of Judah and taught the people. This was after the new king got rid of all idolatry and wicked practices.

Jesus will conquer and destroy the Antichrist who had set himself up as God over all the earth (2 Thess. 2:8). Idolatry and the Abomination that caused Desolation will be cut down and destroyed. At that time, the saints will rule with Jesus, and my guess, as

his kingdom of priests, we will be sent to teach the mortals about the law of the Lord, governing one, five or ten cities.

Daniel 12

In Daniel 12:8 Daniel said that he heard, but did not understand. So he said, “My lord, what will happen after these things?” The angel replied, “Go, Daniel. For these matters are closed and sealed until the time of the end.” (But we do see more was revealed in these last days, since the time of Jesus’ resurrection. He revealed a lot more information to John in Revelation!)

Daniel was told that “many will be purified, made clean, and refined, but the wicked will go on being wicked. None of the wicked will understand, though the wise will understand” (Dan. 12:10).

The angel then tells Daniel that “from the time that the daily sacrifice is removed and the abomination that causes desolation is set in place, there are 1,290 days. Blessed is the one who waits and attains to the 1,335 days. But you should go your way until the end. You will rest and then at the end of the days you will arise to receive what you have been allotted, your inheritance” (Dan. 12:11-13). Daniel’s hope was resurrection, and ours is as well.

God’s plan from creation was the hope of resurrection. People live on the earth. They die and return to the earth. Then they are resurrected and will either receive their reward and inheritance, *the earth and immortality*, or they will be condemned and destroyed and their memory forgotten.

Daniel 2

Daniel 2:42-45 tells us that the latter stages of the present worldly kingdom on the earth at the time near the end of this age will be partly strong and partly fragile. As iron mixed with wet clay, so people will be mixed with one another without adhering to one another.

“In the days of those last kings [who are ruling the earth on the earth] the God of heaven will raise up an everlasting Kingdom [in place of the present temporary kingdoms which are on the earth] that will not be destroyed and a Kingdom that will not be left to another people [not because it is in heaven, but because it is God’s Kingdom for God’s people]” (Dan. 2:44).

It will break in pieces and bring about the demise of all these worldly kingdoms. But unlike them, God’s Kingdom will stand forever. In interpreting the king’s dream Daniel told him that “he saw that a stone that was cut from a mountain, but not by human hands; it smashed the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold into pieces. The great God made known to the king what will occur in the future. **The dream is certain, and its interpretation is reliable**” (Dan. 2:45).

The Two Resurrections

After the 1000-year reign when the White Throne Judgment takes place, the dead who were not raised when Jesus returned are raised from their graves on the earth; they are not called back from heaven and it does not say their “soul” was put back into them. They become living souls once again, just as God created Adam from the dust of the earth, and they will be judged. Some will be granted immortality, as those received it earlier when Jesus returned, and others will be condemned to destruction.

Revelation 20:13 says that “the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to his deeds.” It is clear that the dead, all who died and were in the sea or in their graves, came up out of the sea and out of their graves. *They came up from the earth, not down from heaven.* We even see a New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven to the earth at that time, and God Himself will make His home with us; we do not go to Him (Rev. 21:2-3, 22:18-19). His tabernacle will be here and he will be “tabernacling” with us; He will “pitch His tent” and live in unbroken communion with us.

John 5:28-29 says, “Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out [come out of their graves, wake up! Not come back from heaven] — the ones who have done what is good to the resurrection resulting in life, and the ones who have done what is evil to the resurrection resulting in judgment.”

Resurrection is the key! If there is no resurrection, there is no life after death. We would just remain dead, as Jesus would have (1 Cor. 15). And life after death, or better yet, coming to life after being dead, only happens at Jesus’ return, which is at the first resurrection, or at the resurrection of judgement, the Great White Throne Judgement. *All humans who ever lived will come back to life at one of these resurrections.*

John 5:28-29 is similar to Daniel 12:2: “Many of those who sleep in the dusty ground will awake — some to the life of the age to come, and others to shame and contempt.”

These two verses are the short version. They are an overview of what will happen, simply stating the fact that everyone will be resurrected. Some will receive life and others will be punished and destroyed forever. It does not give a timeframe or imply that there is only one resurrection where all this takes place at once. Revelation is clear about the **two** resurrections, agreeing with the first resurrection Jesus spoke about in Matthew 24.

People and Nations

Micah 4 talks about future days when “people and nations will go up to the mountain of YHWH for instruction and judgments” (to get disputes settled). “Swords will be made into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks. Nations will not use weapons against other nations, and they will no longer train for war.” **Life will be very different**, but life will still be here on the earth.

“Each will sit under his own grapevine or under his own fig tree without any fear. [It doesn’t say that each will get his own cloud!] The LORD of Heaven’s Armies has decreed this!” (Mic. 4:2-4).

God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and everything in them, has decreed that this earth will be renewed and restored and that human beings will live on it and rule over it, just as He intended from the beginning (Gen. 1:28, Rev. 21).

Inherit the World

Humanity’s hope is to **inherit the world**. The promise was to Abraham and to his descendants, and believers are his descendants through Jesus. This promise to inherit the world will not come through military strength or wealthy rulers; it will be fulfilled through the righteousness that comes by faith (Rom. 4:13).

The governments and leaders of the world have refused to hear and obey the One who gave them their authority, the One who has allowed them to rule this planet for the time being.

But be encouraged and know that “the court will convene, and the world’s ruling authority will be removed — destroyed and abolished forever! At that time, the kingdom, authority, and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be delivered to the people of the holy ones of the Most-High and God’s kingdom will be an eternal kingdom; all authorities will serve and obey them. This is the conclusion of the matter!” (Dan. 7:26-28). ✧

“The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous” (Psalm 125:3, NIV).

“Truly, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD” (Num. 14:21).

“The whole earth is at rest and is quiet; they break forth into shouts of joy” (Isa. 14:7).

Re-examining Christian Torah Observance

by Carlos Xavier

The common Christian view that Jesus and his Apostles *remained* Torah-observant Jews needs to be thoroughly reexamined! It is tied to another common misconception that the *real* reason the Jewish authorities wanted Jesus killed was that he broke their “social norms” or “traditions,” not because Jesus actually sometimes *broke* Mosaic law. After all, people ask, Jesus was not a “lawbreaker,” i.e., a sinner, was he?!

Of course Jesus was not a sinner or a lawbreaker, because he was not under the Law of Moses. He was the promised Messiah, the **sinless** Lamb of God and, as a result, the **new lawmaker** of God. That’s why the NT calls Jesus, the son of David, *greater* than Moses! He was, after all, “found worthy of greater honor than Moses,” according to Hebrews 3.3.

So it’s only right that Jesus has the authority to correct the Jewish establishment for ignoring “the commandment of God” with their self-imposed traditions. Yet, these “traditions” themselves go back to Torah-keeping practices.

For example, a contextual reading of Mark 7 shows Jesus *explicitly* challenging the Jewish food laws from Leviticus! In Mark 7:15 Jesus says, “The food that you put into your mouth **does not** make you unclean.” And Mark later understood Jesus’ words: “by saying this, Jesus meant that **all foods were clean**” (Mark 7:19).

The other misconception is that when Jesus did “good works” on the Sabbath he was only breaking “man-made traditions,” not the actual Sabbath Law! But in Matthew 12 Jesus does not deny the fact that his own Apostles are breaking the Sabbath, “**yet are innocent**”! Jesus justifies their action by comparing them to the Temple priests and King David himself. Yet none of the twelve were Levites or descendants of David!

This points to the deeper meaning found later in the writings of Paul, Peter and John. In Christ, God has created a new “holy nation” of kings and priests because “there is no longer Jew or Gentile” (Gal. 3.28; 1 Pet. 2:5-10; Rev. 10).

Furthermore, the healings that take place on the Sabbath should remind us of the fact that Jesus has been made “lord of the Sabbath,” i.e., he owns it, is greater than it, and by definition is free to observe it or not! For example, in John 5, similarly to Matthew 12, Jesus *again* does not deny breaking the Sabbath *himself*. He instead doubles down by saying, “My Father is working until now, and **I am working**” (John 5.17). He says that on the Sabbath day!

The Jews later say, “This man is not from God, for he doesn’t **keep** the Sabbath” (John 9:16). On the latter point **they were right that Jesus was not keeping the Sabbath in the letter!** They had finally realized that no follower of Jesus can also be, *at the same time*, a follower of Moses (John 9:28).

Now there are many other Mosaic laws that Jesus either directly or indirectly contravenes, including:

- Doing away with the certificate of divorce in Matthew 19;
- Doing away with *all forms* of Torah-mandated violence, summarized by the *unqualified* “love of enemy” commandment in Matthew 5.

So the real reason some Jews wanted Jesus killed was due to his stance *against* certain Torah mandates and not just against social or traditional Jewish norms. ✧

Our Inheritance

“What is the inheritance? What are the objects of the verb ‘to inherit,’ *kleronomeo*?...They are as follows:

kingdom of God or *kingdom*, Matt. 25:34; 1 Cor 6:9ff; 15:50; Gal. 5:21, Eph. 5:5, James 2:5 (cf. Matt. 21:43, where the inheritance is identified with the kingdom)

the earth, Matt. 5:5

eternal life [the life of the age to come] Mark 10:17=Luke 18:18, Matt. 19:29, Luke 10:25, Tit. 3:7

salvation, Heb. 1:14

blessing, 1 Pet. 3:9; Heb. 12:17

incorruption, 1 Cor. 15:50

the promise(s), Heb. 6:12, 17; 11:9

the grace of life, 1 Pet. 3:7

glory, Rom. 8:17ff.

a place (i.e. Canaan), Heb. 11:8

the world, Rom. 4:13

the righteousness which is according to faith, Heb. 11:7...

these things, Rev. 21:7

“So ‘kingdom of God’ or ‘kingdom’ is the most characteristic description of the inheritance...For Christians **the inheritance is future**...The inheritance is the object of **hope**...Christians are heirs presumptive...Their **entering into their inheritance is still to come**.”

Alan Richardson, editor, *A Theological Word Book of the Bible*, p. 113

Persevering in Faith

by Terry Robinson, Arkansas

The doctrine of “once saved, always saved,” known in Calvinism as the “Perseverance (or Preservation) of the saints” — the “P” in Calvin’s TULIP — “asserts that since God is sovereign and his will cannot be frustrated by humans or anything else, those whom God has called into communion with himself will continue in faith until the end. Those who apparently fall away either **never had true faith to begin with**, or if they are saved but not presently walking in the Spirit, they will be divinely chastened and will repent” (Wikipedia).

So is it true, as Pastor Robert Morris has said, that “You can’t blow it bad enough for God not to love you”?

Didn’t the Father “love the world”? But will some that He loved perish? Yes. So God reaches out, with His love, but some are rebellious and continue in their sins.

What happens to the rebellious who remain unrepentant? All one need do is read 2 Peter 2:20 through 3:9 carefully to discern the answer. “If after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, their last state has become worse for them than their first...” (2 Pet. 2:20).

The Bible nowhere teaches that such people continue to be in good standing with the Father. No, that’s not what the Bible says. Instead it says that their last state is worse for them than their first.

Consider John 3:16: “In this manner God loved the world’s inhabitants: He offered His unique Son, so that any person who in faith gives himself/herself over to him, and continues actively in his/her allegiance, will not be destroyed. These people will have life in the coming age.” This is my personal amplified translation of the verse. The word commonly translated “believes” obviously means that one must *continue* to be faithful, like a faithful spouse, in order to ultimately have life in the coming age — the age following the resurrection of the faithful.

Allow me the liberty of one more supporting idea for the necessity of perseverance in faith in order to be saved. I’ll put it in the form of a question: If the prodigal son had never returned to his father, how could the Father welcome his return home? ✧

Beware of John Calvin!

Calvin wrote his definitive work on doctrine in his *Institutes* when he was only 27. Calvin’s comments give away his opposition and antagonism to the Christian Gospel of the Kingdom! Note his unhealthy approach to the final question of the disciples in **Acts 1:6**. Rather than applaud and approve Jesus’ trained students’ question, “Is this the time when you are going to restore the Kingdom to Israel?” Calvin wrote that “there are as many errors in this question as words.” There are 11 words in Greek in the question! Jesus did not in any way disapprove the question. It was the right question from anyone looking forward to the Kingdom. The *time* of its arrival was not then known. Calvin shows his own failure to understand the Parousia and Kingdom, and thus the Gospel.

In **1 Timothy 2:4-5** Paul declared the foundational truth that God “wants all people to be saved.” This is in direct contradiction to Calvin’s appalling idea of “double predestination” that God actively decreed before they were born that certain human beings would burn eternally, and there is nothing they can do about it! (From the “U” of TULIP — Unconditional election.) Calvin wrote, “**All are not created on equal terms**, but some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation.”¹

Rather than yield to 1 Timothy 2:4, Calvin twisted Paul’s words. God desires “all people” to be saved, but Calvin said it means “*all kinds* of people”! Calvin’s butchering of the text called forth some rightly critical words from Henry Alford: “Calvin most unworthily shuffles out of the decisive testimony borne by this passage to universal redemption [i.e. everyone has a chance to be saved].” The fact remains that some choose not to be saved. Calvin’s “horrible decree” (*decretum horribile* as he himself admitted) that God has predetermined that some human beings will suffer “eternal damnation” shows the hardness of his heart.

Calvin’s hardness of heart is demonstrated also by his involvement in the murder of many people, including unitarian Michael Servetus, of whom Calvin said, “If he comes here [Geneva], if my authority is worth anything, **I will never permit him to depart alive.**”² He later wrote about Servetus, “Posterity owes me a debt of gratitude for having purged the church of so pernicious a monster.”³

God invites human beings to choose: “I have set life and death, blessing and curse, before you. Therefore **choose life**” (Deut. 30:19). This would be impossible in fact, if human beings do not have the power to choose! ✧

¹ *Institutes of Christian Religion*, Vol. 3, ch. 3.

² Letter to William Farel, February 13, 1546.

³ Letter to Baudouin, 1562.

Classic Quotes

“It may be said that the teaching of Jesus concerning the Kingdom of God represents his whole teaching. It is the main, determinative subject of all his discourse. His ethics were ethics of the Kingdom; his theology was theology of the Kingdom; his teaching regarding himself cannot be understood apart from his interpretation of the Kingdom of God. And it may not only be said that all his teaching had relation to the Kingdom, but also his action, everything he did. From the day of his baptism...all the events of his life until the final, culminating event, the crucifixion, had reference to the coming of the Kingdom. From the baptism on, his whole life was dedicated to the mission of announcing its approach and of calling men to prepare for entering it upon the conditions which by divine authority he announced” (F.C. Grant, “The Gospel of the Kingdom,” *Biblical World*, 1917, p. 129).

There is “only one real problem in Christian theology...the problem of the future” (Jurgen Moltmann, *Theology of Hope*, 1993, p. 16).

“Many of the greatest [of Jesus’] sayings are found lying in a corner like explosive shells from which the charges have been removed. No small portion of elemental religious power needed to be drawn off from His sayings to prevent them from conflicting with our system of religious world-acceptance. We have made Jesus hold another language with our time from that which He really held” (Albert Schweitzer, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*, 1910, p. 398).

John Wesley “observed of the idea entertained by many, that the soul at death departed immediately to glory and the presence of Christ, that ‘This opinion has no foundation in the Scriptures’” (Daniel Taylor, *The Reign of Christ on Earth*, 1893, p. 248).

Comments

- “Thank you so much for *The Doctrine of the Trinity: Christianity’s Self-Inflicted Wound*. I’m up to chapter 7. I think it may be the ‘go-to’ book on the subject for laymen. Of all the volumes I’ve read so far, it is the most clear, concise, and well organized. I don’t see how any common man with an open mind would not be sympathetic after reading it.” — *Oklahoma*

- “Thank you for the online Theological Conference! This year’s Conference was well organized and well presented. The computer support was well done. In my opinion, it is the next best thing to a well-attended Conference as we had in the past.” — *Florida*

- “My faith in Jesus Christ has grown tremendously because of your teaching. Knowing that Jesus was a human like me and he fulfilled what God asked him to do through the holy spirit is so motivating for me to stay holy. It shows that it’s possible to live a holy life in a wicked world.” — *email*

- “I love what you teach and you exposed me to the Biblical unitarian teaching. I had never heard that point of view before. I am 63 and for about forty years I believed the Trinity teaching. But after re-studying the Bible I can see that that was false teaching. I loved the book *Our Fathers Who Aren’t in Heaven* and your other books as well.” — *email*

- “Thank you for still sending me your *Focus on the Kingdom* magazine. I’m now into my 86th year, and still learning.” — *England*

- “I have been learning the truth about the Trinity for over 10 years now. I find it hard to attend church for this reason — from one church to another they teach Jesus differently. A mile away from one church the Trinity is taught differently than another church two miles away. The church as a whole really doesn’t know how to explain the Trinity, although some churches believe that they can. One preacher invited me to listen to him preach on the Trinity. I said I would show up on one condition: if I could ask questions when he was done. He allowed me to ask a question when he was finished. I mustered up the courage and then asked him why Jesus has a God. He wrinkled up his forehead and took a few seconds to respond. He replied with ‘Well, Jesus has a God and Jesus doesn’t have a God.’ I believe the people in attendance that night were stunned just a little bit!” — *email*

- “Thank you so much for your internet broadcasts. I listen everyday via YouTube or podcast. I’ve learned so much and coming from a Reformed background, I’ve been searching for truth for a long time. I’m happy to have found it. Thank you for helping me understand the Bible better and giving me the Bible study that I crave. I’m trying to teach my 4 young children what I’ve come to believe. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.” — *Iowa*

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