Pentwater Bible Church

Gospel of Mark
Message 6
May 4, 2014

Jesus Handing the Keys to Peter by Pietro Perugino Cir. 1481-82

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The Book of Mark
Message Six
Jesus Proclaims the Kingdom Cont.
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THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE KINGDOM

Mark 1:14-15

> *14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel (KJV).*

THE KINGDOM IS NOT A PREVALENT TOPIC IN THE CHURCH

Psalm 25:14

> *"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant " (KJV).*

Because of this revelation given in Psalm 25:1 knowledge of the Kingdom is sorely lacking in the Church. With the apostasy, biblical ignorance, and assertive moral turpitude God has withdrawn from those who could be enlightened regarding the facts of His Theocratic Kingdom. As a result of this, the concept of the Kingdom has come to mean almost anything. Typically we see definitions such as:

1. Messiah's spiritual reign during the Church Age.
2. The Gospel
3. A renewed heart
4. Religion
5. The truth
6. Salvation
7. Heaven
8. The way of salvation
9. Following the Savior.
10. The world to come

This is hardly an exhaustive list but it provides enough examples to show that there is a variety of different topics that Bible teachers, theologians, and pastors use to define the Lord's Kingdom. There are other sound reasons for this lack of understanding of this important doctrine. Chief among these is a lack of trust in the Bible.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE KINGDOM IS STRICTLY OBTAINED FROM THE BIBLE

There is no other source for the knowledge of God that He has given to this earth. He is

the center of all things and our Lord Jesus is God in the flesh that came to save us and during His time on this earth He validated the authenticity of the Scriptures (Mark 12:10; Luke 4:21; John 7:42; Acts 8:32 etc.).

The Bible claims to the very Word of God (Psalm 19:7, 119:98-99; 2 Samuel 23:2; Matthew 21:42; Matthew 22:29,31-32,43; Matthew 26:54,56; Mark 12:24,36; John 10:35; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25; Romans 3:2; Romans 15:4; Galatians 3:8; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 3:7; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:19-21etc.). Underlined passages are where Jesus Himself declared that the so-called experts did not know the Bible.

As such today there a de-emphasis on learning the Bible and what it teaches. Churches do not teach it fully and accurately. They rely on topical teaching that is fraught with denominational bias and lack of understanding. Mostly this problem can be attributed to faulty seminary training or the lack thereof and an over emphasis on relationships between church members. It has become a man centered training instead of a God centered training of the Body of Christ. The apostle Paul said if he were just out to please man instead of God he would not be a servant of Christ (Galatians 1:10). However, this is what has become of the Church of Jesus Christ. It is a self-serving entity organized to make the lives of all leaders and congregants richer, healthier, and better off in this life in general. This is exactly the opposite of what Christ said. The Lord Jesus called life going to the other side not here. He also said that the path of getting in was straight and narrow and few will find it. He also said the path of destruction is wide and most of the world's inhabitants will be on that path (Matthew 7:14-15). Inherent with this is a de-emphasis of Bible prophecy. This is one of the keys to understanding the Kingdom since the Bible says that Jesus is the Spirit of Bible prophecy (Revelation 19:10). When prophecy is not taught one of the results is a lack of understanding of the Kingdom and the King Himself.

The inspiration of the Bible is being denied in many churches and seminaries. When this happens man's attention turns from the Scripture thinking it has limited value. It becomes mere speculation and its serious study falls be the wayside, which results in a poor or no understanding of the Theocratic Kingdom.

GOD IS THE KING IN JESUS CHRIST

The King Himself devised the plan before the foundation of the world of His Theocratic Kingdom and as such it is of supernatural origin. When Jesus who is of supernatural origin comes again He will set up the natural earthly kingdom. It will be the realization of the aspect of the broad concept of the Theocratic Kingdom, which He spoke of while training His apostles to pray (Matthew 6:10). Men who listen to these things today describe them as foolishness or strange and not believable. God foresaw this when He gave Isaiah prophecies 2,700 years ago describing the unbelief that would occur. Men may call this foolishness, incredible, etc., and from a natural experience position it is a "*strange work*" (Isaiah 28:21), "*a marvellous work and a wonder, for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid" because "their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men*" (Isaiah 29:13, 14). Isaiah says that the fear of men is taught superseding the fear of the Lord (Psalm 25:14).

The Bible takes the existence of God for granted. It does not defend God not does it attempt to force one to believe that He exists. God's existence is prevalent in nature and

through our reasoning process with cause and effect we see that there is an Intelligent Designer. Which then it is reasonable, to say that an intelligent Designer, with some ultimate glorious end in view, created all things, and, will bring about the final display of His power and goodness on this earth. This is exactly what the Bible teaches. The Kingdom is coming. The King will reign on the earth as He does now in Heaven. The King Himself is God in Christ (Matthew 1:1,2:1-2, 9:27, 12:23; John 1:49; Matthew 21:1-9; Zechariah 9:9; Revelation 11:15; Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:33; Hebrews 1:8; Psalm 45:6 etc.).

REGARDLESS OF WHAT MEN SAY THE KINGDOM IS DEVELOPING

It does not matter how sinful and what level of apostasy men fall into, God's plan will unfold exactly as He said it would. The Bible is a revelation describing God's plan to save man from his fallen condition. As such by implementing His plan for the Kingdom on earth He will establish it in His own timing. First, He gave the chosen Jews the Mosaic Law laying out His expectation for mankind. Then He gave the Jews the Theocratic earthly Kingdom, which the Jews were expected to rely on Him for supreme leadership and direction. Failing that the King Himself came to this earth to provide for the means of entrance into the earthly Messianic Kingdom, which is yet future to us. The plan of redemption is based upon the principle annunciated by Jesus: *"They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.* (Matthew 9:12)" The disease, as well as the physician and remedy, must be kept in view in order to appreciate the provision He made for us. The whole world is sick, sinful and dying. We need a Savior not more sin. The activists of the various sinful groups all clamor for more license not to be free from the sin. The sin atonement has been made available to us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The next step on the broad prophetic horizon will be the Great Tribulation. It is a vast world war orchestrated by God (Revelation chapters 4 & 5) and carried out for seven years to affect three goals.

1. Make and end of wickedness and sinful ones (Isaiah 13:9)
2. Bring about a world wide revival (Revelation 7:1-17)
3. Break the power (will) of the holy people (Daniel 12:5-7; Ezekiel 20:33-38).

The King will return when the Jewish nation calls out to Him in belief to return. One of the principal reasons for the Great Tribulation is to break the will of the Holy People, the Jews (Daniel 12:7). Because of the tremendous pressure of the Tribulation the remnant will be under and the circumstances surrounding their confession they will accept their King.

There are two aspects to this national regeneration and they are the same as for anybody coming into God's Kingdom as a believer.

1. Confession of Sins
2. Requesting (pleading) for God to save them.

The confessional aspect is given in the *three* passages of the Old Testament. The first is in Leviticus 26:40-42, which discusses God's blessings and cursings, prophesies

pertaining to the Nation Israel. Another key passage related to Israel's repentance is Jeremiah 3:11-18. The third passage is found in Hosea 5:15.

The second requirement for the regeneration of the Nation Israel is for them to plead for their Messiah to return. This is found in two passages, Zechariah 12:10 and Matthew 23:37-39. Hosea 6:1-3 shows the Jewish leaders telling the nation to repent and confess their national sins. Israel's leaders will finally realize that the entire Tribulation has come upon them due to their turning away from Jehovah and the Lord Jesus. Several communication mediums have been given to them to try and reach them.

1. Scriptures
2. Preaching of the 144,000 Jewish Evangelists
3. The Two Witnesses
4. The third sign of Jonah (Luke 11:32)
5. Ministry of Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6)

They admit that the nation looked upon Jesus as nothing more than an ordinary man, even a criminal who died for His own sins. Now they realize that He was no ordinary man but the perfect Lamb of God, the Christ (Messiah) Himself. They also realize that He died for their (our) sins so that they (we) need not be stricken by God with eternal punishment.

The national regeneration will come about by means of the confession given in Isaiah. On the third day the entire nation will be saved fulfilling the prophecy the Apostle Paul gave us in Romans eleven.

> *Romans 11:25-27 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.* ***And so all Israel shall be saved:*** *as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins (KJV).*

Following this will be a seventy-day period where in the King Himself will establish supremacy over the earth by conducting at least nine activities. A new segment of His Kingdom will be implemented. The Messianic Kingdom on earth does not start right away at the close of the Great tribulation. Comparisons of Scripture passages that speak to the tribulation's duration demonstrate that there is a seventy-day interval at the end prior to the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom. The interval is demonstrated in Daniel.

Daniel 12:11-12

> *And from the time that the continual burnt-offering shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand and two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that*

waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

Scripture tells us that the duration of the first half of the Tribulation 1,260 days (3 ½ years). This is the duration of the time between two significant events. They are the signing of the covenant with Israel by the Antichrist initiating the Great Tribulation and the Abomination of Desolation which is the mid point event. Scripture also tells us that the last half of the Tribulation will be 1,260 days counting from the Abomination of Desolation to the demise of the Antichrist. This is a total of seven years.

The Daniel passage gives us two additional figures. The first is 1,290 days, or an additional thirty days, during which time the Abomination of Desolation will remain in the Temple before it is removed. The second figure is 1,335 days which as another 45 days beyond the 1,290 and 75 days beyond the 1,260 days. A special blessing is pronounced upon those who survive to the 1,335th day. The blessing is that those who survive will enter into the Messianic kingdom. Many will not make it that far, even though they made it to the end of the Tribulation.

These are the nine known events during this period.

1. The removal of the Abomination of Desolation
2. The Antichrist's final destination
3. The False Prophet's final destination
4. Satan's temporary destination
5. The Judgment of the Gentiles
6. The Resurrection of the Old Testament Saints
7. The Resurrection of the Tribulation Saints
8. The First Resurrection
9. The Marriage Feast of the Lamb (this is the formal start of the Millennium)

KING DAVID IS A KEY FACTOR OF THE KINGDOM

When David was on the throne of the Jewish worldly theocratic kingdom he was a man after God's heart. David loved God and wanted to please Him. During the earthly Messianic Kingdom God will make the earthly king David subordinate to the Heavenly King Jesus who will rule the earth in Jerusalem for one thousand years. Jesus will sit on the Throne of David in Jerusalem in fulfillment of the covenant that was made with David. This Kingdom of God on the earth over Israel will place them in a position of government over the nations of the world. Davidic refers to the covenant which bears his name given in II Samuel 7:18-29. The Davidic Covenant and it had four eternal promises.

An eternal dynasty
An eternal throne
An eternal kingdom
One eternal person

The Dynasty became eternal because it culminated in a Person Who is Himself eternal: Jesus the Messiah. For that reason the Throne and Kingdom will be eternal as well. Jesus has yet to sit on the Throne of David ruling over a Kingdom of Israel. The fulfillment of this reestablishment of David's Throne over the Kingdom of Israel is yet future to us today. It will be realized in the Messianic Kingdom after Christ returns. Because God initially chose the Jews to bring in His Kingdom and they failed, He did not eliminated the Gentiles from participating.

ISRAEL WILL BE THE CENTER OF GENTILE ATTENTION

At least seven passages in the Old Testament speak to this subject (Isaiah 14:1-2; Isaiah 49:22-23; Isaiah 60:1-3;Isaiah 61:4-9, Micah 7:14-17)

After the regeneration and their restoration Gentiles will align themselves with Israel to worship the same Lord. As Israel is being regathered, the Gentiles will be conducting the Jews back to the Land. Finally, Gentiles will be possessed by Israel and become their servants.

Isaiah says that The Lord will command the Gentiles to lead the Jews back to the land and all strata of the Gentiles from the Kings and Queens down to the common people will aid in the regathering. They will pay deep obeisance to the Jews, as the Jews have never had before. The Lord concludes this passage that affirms that those who continue to trust God will never be put to shame. Those who refuse God and will not believe have no such promise.

Isaiah in his sixty-first chapter states the reason of Israel becoming the center of Gentile attention is the fact that the *Shekinah* Glory (Jesus) will abide over Israel. At the regathering Israel will rebuild all the desolate cities of the Land. Remember much was destroyed during the Great Tribulation's wars. Gentiles will become servants to Israel feeding their livestock and providing agricultural labor. The Jews will become ministers of God's Word to the Gentiles and will receive the wealth of the Gentiles for their enjoyment. The Gentiles will never again shame Israel, but rather the Jews will receive a double portion of all blessings and possessions. This will all be the result of the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34). The Jews will all be known among the Gentiles, and all the Gentiles will acknowledge that it is the Jews who have been especially chosen by God for the special blessings.

Miracles will accompany the regathering. When the Gentiles see this they will stop reproaching the Jews and will have a reverential fear of them. They will then submit to the God of Israel in fear. The restoration will cause the Jews to become the center of Gentile attention (Zephaniah 3:20).

Finally, when ten Gentiles grabbed the Jews clothes in the past it for other reasons than to say, Let us go with you, for we have heard God is with you. At the time of the final restoration the Jews will be no longer reproached. The will instead be treated with reverential respect, for they shall be known as ministers of God.

Zechariah 8:23 Thus saith Jehovah of hosts: In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold, out of all the languages of the nations, they shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.

NEXT WEEK: MARK CHAPTER ONE CONTINUED – THE KINGDOM CONTINUED

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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