

MSB266
MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

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THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS A RETURN

by David R. Hettema

The subject of the Bible is the Kingdom of God. Those who study God's Word will recognize that this promised coming period of time is the first of two great steps in God's prophetic plan to take to Himself His authority to rule this earth with redeemed mankind. The Lord Jesus Christ, totally victorious in His work of redemption, has the power and authority to wrest the stolen dominion of this world from Satan's control. This earth was God's perfect creation for mankind until this "angel of light"¹ usurped and spoiled it with his deadly lies to Eve and to Adam. Believing Satan rather than God brought in the fatal contagion of sin and death that affects all life in this world that God still loves.

When God takes over and establishes His kingdom in the earth, it is in reality a *return*. Divine intervention will bring a renewed, revised start in God's plan for mankind and his earth. The original plan was set into motion at the six days of creation before Satan upset it. Peter speaks of the coming of God's government in and over this earth as being a restoration: **...The times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began** Acts 3:21. The prophets speak of the restoration of a multitude of things that were lost in the fall. Their words of promised coming changes are scattered throughout the old and new Testaments, such wonderful things as renewed physical fellowship with God, the dominion of the earth, the resurrection of the dead, eonian life, perfect health, and a righteous, fruitful earth under God's control. There are just too many things to enumerate here, but when all things are summed up and God's restoration is complete, redeemed mankind will not have lost anything because Jesus Christ's victorious sacrifice has paid the price for this world's

complete redemption. Every living thing lost much in Adam's failure. Sin tore away the "eonian life" that man once possessed:

1 See 2 Cor. 11:14, Satan himself is transferred into an angel of light. Jesus description: John 8:44, He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

EDEN'S PERFECT CONDITIONS

When placing man in the garden, God said "Be fruitful and multiply, replenish the earth and subdue it, Eden's garden was perpetual, as God had provided every tree in which the fruit bears seed to multiply. The garden was watered by a mist, not rain (Gen 2:6). In his God-given domain, Adam's assignment was to "dress it and keep it." Adam and Eve were not subject to corruption nor death, nor sickness, nor strife. They were alive and living. They had access to every tree in the garden for food including the tree of life, but there was one exception. They were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for God had said "**In the day that you eat of that tree, you shall surely die**"(The Hebrew reads; *dying you shall die*, Gen. 2:17). God put His new creation on the line by testing the man He had created in his own image. The test was about obedience. For Adam and Eve, the test was an opportunity for faith, by taking God at His word and responding accordingly. Obedience would please God and bring great reward to Adam and Eve. But they failed the test by believing Satan's words and disobeying God.

Before man was created, Satan as a created son of God was among the heavenly host watching the six days of re-creation, an awesome display of God's power that on the sixth day was crowned with the creation of man. A man made in the image of God, made from the soil of the earth itself. Regarding His creation, Job reports God's words: "**Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?**" Job 38:4-7.

Satan, a beautiful created being, was one of the sons of God, a covering cherub until iniquity was found in him (Ezek. 28: 14-18).

SATAN'S INTERVENTION

The third chapter of Genesis is the record of Satan in the garden. He probably was not in the form of a serpent. The word serpent is a descriptive name for his character; he has many other descriptive names. In Rev. 20:2, he is called "a dragon, that old serpent which is the Devil and Satan." I believe that Satan approached Eve in the garden as an "Angel of Light." A beautiful creature, appearing very wise, he immediately casts doubt on God's words by asking, "Has God said?," implying that God was not telling the whole truth about the fruit of the forbidden tree. He then spoke the most enduring lie in the world's history: "You shall not surely die." This awful lie is still fondly held by the vast majority of people on earth who are not willing to face up to the reality of death. However God's words still stand: **"The soul that sins, it shall die"** (Ezek. 18:4,20). **Paul adds: It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment** (Heb. 9:27).

Through the death of Christ the seed of the woman has triumphantly overcome Satan's head (the outflowing source of sin and death), Satan's doom is sealed by the words of God concerning his future destruction in the lake of fire as described in Rev. 20:10. His final judgment will fulfill God's promise of Gen. 3:15. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

2 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. (Job 1: 6-7) His answer to God's question of "Where do you come from? was that he had been going to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down in it.

3 Gen. 3:4-5, Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

SATAN WON THE BATTLE BUT GOD WILL WIN THE WAR

When Adam sinned, the dominion that God gave to mankind was forfeited to Satan. Jesus calls Satan the Prince of this world in John 12:31,14:30 and John 16:11. Satan is called the god of this world in 2 Cor. 4:4 and we are told to take on the whole armor of God to withstand the wiles of the devil. Eph 6:12, **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness**

of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Mankind lost much in Adam's failure. This earth, now very different than when "**God saw everything that He had made, and, behold it was very good**" (Gen. 1:31), is now under many curses. All of nature and animal life show the effects of sin and death. Sin brought in death making all of Adam's descendants *alive and dying* from birth to the grave. We learn this fact personally in our growing years, but look at the earth, the global scene today: **Sickness** is rampant in all the world today, **AIDS** is a raging plague in Africa, a great percentage of the population is infected, millions of parents are dying, leaving many thousands of orphans. **Famine:** A terrible world wide reality. **Death by starvation is a political tool.** In many nations food shortages continue to take their toll in the deaths of starving children and grownups everyday. Even in America thousands are going to bed hungry every night. **Wars:** No nation on earth today can say "no problem here," whether it is gang wars in our cities, or warlords and their armies in many countries of the world. In all of earth there is sorrow, death and destruction. There is no peace.

4 Gen 1:28, God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

THE VICTORIOUS RETURN TO GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins (Col 1:13-14).

It took a new obedient Adam, Jesus Christ, to redeem mankind and bring him back to God. Christ conquered death that we might have life. **God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved,** John 3:17. **And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent** (commissioned) **the Son to be the Savior of the world,** 1 John 4:14.

When God establishes His government in this earth it will be a new start in God's plan for man. Those who have by faith inherited a portion in Heavens' government will each day experience the joyful fulfillment of their salvation brought about by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Prophet Isaiah told of its coming: **The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God** (Isa 52:10).

God in Christ, ruling this earth will bring about changes. A reversal of many things that presently are part of the curse:

LIFE EONION: Alive and living, life and health flowing from God. The eyes of the blind will be opened, the deaf shall hear and the lame man leaps as a deer (Isa. 35) We shall all be changed and put on immortality. The dead shall be raised, in their order (1 Cor. 15).

ENLIGHTENMENT BRINGS KNOWLEDGE: God will remove every veil and national blindness and reveal Jesus Christ to every living being. He will make plain who and what Jesus Christ is in His sight. They shall all know me, from the least to the greatest of them.

PEACE: He causes wars to cease to the ends of the earth. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore, Isa 2:4.

THE EARTH RETURNS TO CREATIONS GLORY: "Instead of the thorn, the fir tree" Isa. 32, The earth yields her increase, no famine, no hunger Psa. 67. Animal life will return to creations purposes, "the wolf and the lamb will lie down together, a little child shall lead them," Isa. 11.

THE GLORY BELONGS TO JESUS CHRIST

When You (God) make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied (Isa 53:10-11).

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