

THE WORD OF

TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

11

THY KINGDOM COME

The prophecies relating to the political and religious/political history of earth up to the second coming of Jesus, all indicate that the end of this world occurs when Jesus returns and destroys the fifth and final world power. While that power is now already in the world, it has not yet manifested itself with the political muscle to take world dominance as it did during the dark ages. But as we view the global political tension, financial instability and religious declension, the time is now ripe for this power to rise.

The fifth power was studied in our previous lesson. This lesson will examine the next part of that prophecy, the setting up of Christ's kingdom.

1. In the vision of the great image, what is meant by the stone that strikes the image at its base and destroys it?

Daniel 2:34,35,44,45 _____

Daniel 8:23-25 _____

2. In terms of world history, when can it be expected that Jesus will set up His kingdom?

Daniel 2:43-44 _____

Note: Review lesson 10 for a summary of relevant world empires.

3. After the appearance of the little horn power and the seven other horns, the prophecy describes another kingdom. Give a description of this new dominion.

Daniel 7:13,14 _____

4 Where is the everlasting kingdom of Christ to be located?

Revelation 21:1-5; Matthew 5:5 _____

5. In establishing His kingdom, Jesus and the Father have another work to do. Describe this preparatory scene.

Daniel 7:9,10 _____

Compare Daniel 12:1; Revelation 20:11,12 _____

6. What is the result of the judgement?

Daniel 7:26,27 _____

Compare Revelation 21:27; Matthew 5:5 _____

Note: If the "saints" are to possess the earth, as described here, then every case must be decided before Jesus returns to this earth. He will need to determine, who are the righteous and who are the wicked. This is what takes place when it is said that Jesus came to the Ancient of Days. Every case is decided before Jesus returns. He receives, or identifies His people in name, then comes to receive, or claim them in person. The statement that judgement was given to the saints

(Dan.7:22), is not to say that the saints will do the judging, but rather that the judgement was given in favour of the saints (Dan.7:27).

Other parts of Scripture (e.g. Rev. 20:4; 1Cor. 6:2,3; Luke 22:29,30) seem to suggest that the people of God will have a part to play in the judgement, deciding the case of fellow human beings. Fortunately for each of us, it is Jesus who faithfully discharges this duty (John 5:22; Isaiah 11:4; 1Peter 2:23c). The judgement conducted by the saints is in reality the saints examining the records of the judgement, as pronounced upon all men, that they may understand why God had judged the way He did. Everyone will acknowledge that God has been fair, merciful, longsuffering, just and right in all His dealings with fallen man (Deut. 32:4; Exodus 34:6-7). God will be vindicated.

7. Further to this prophecy, what did God say would take place unto 2300 days (years), or at the completion of 2300 days (years)?

Daniel 8:14 _____

Note: i) The three parallel prophecies of Daniel 2, 7 and 8 have been consistent in every point so far discussed. It would seem reasonable to accept this statement of Daniel 8:14 to be read in conjunction with the related portions of these prophecies. For example, Daniel 7:9,10. Hence, the cleansing of the sanctuary deals with the trying of every man and woman that has ever lived.

ii) The relevance of days for years when considering prophetic time, was discussed in lesson 10, pages 10 & 11.

8. When Jesus enters into the holy place in heaven, before whom does He appear?

Hebrews 9:24 _____

Compare Daniel 7:13 _____

9. What name is given to the holy places in heaven?

Hebrews 8:1,2 _____

Note: It is in the heavenly sanctuary where the Son of God comes near to the Ancient of Days to appear for us as our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16). It is the same sanctuary as portrayed in Daniel 8:14.

But why is it necessary to "cleanse" the heavenly sanctuary? This question will be discussed in detail in lessons 14 and 15. But for now let us focus our attention on what we are required to do if we are planning on being a part of Christ's eternal kingdom.

PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S KINGDOM

To understand the requirements of this preparation while Jesus is ministering in the heavenly Sanctuary, it is much clearer and more meaningful if we examine the model God gave for that very purpose.

10. Concerning the construction of the sanctuary, what was given to Moses when he was on Mount Sinai?

Hebrews 8:5, Exodus 25:8,9 _____

One of the services of the sanctuary on earth, was that known as "cleansing the sanctuary". This was conducted once a year on the 10th day of the 7th month, the day known as the "Day of Atonement".

11. What were the people required to do on the Day of Atonement, while the priest was ministering in the sanctuary on their behalf?

Leviticus 16:29-31 _____

Note: To afflict our soul is to examine our heart/mind with scrupulous diligence, that every sin be confessed and forsaken (Proverbs 28:13; 2Corinthians 13:5).

12. What help is necessary in the afflicting of the soul?

Psalms 139:23-24; 51:10-12 _____

13. In afflicting our soul, what are we seeking from the Lord?

Ezra 8:21 _____

14. What will happen to those who do not afflict their soul to put away sin and seek a right way from God?

Leviticus 23:29 _____

Note: The context of this passage is the Day of Atonement (verse 27). The reference to not doing work on this day is an indication of its solemnity and grave importance, for it was a time when earthly pursuits were out of the mind and the salvation of one's soul was the all consuming interest. Similarly, at this stage of Christ's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary, we too, are as it were, in a type of "Day of Atonement". We are therefore required to afflict our souls, confess every sin before God and with Divine aid, have every sin removed. This blueprint of the beautiful salvation plan was discussed at length in lessons 3, 4, 5 and 6.

15. As the priest represented the people in the earthly sanctuary, how were the people counted as being present with the priest, not literally present, but in a symbolic sense?

Exodus 28:9-12 _____

Note: The name of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the two stones on the shoulders of the ephod. The ephod was a type of breastplate worn by the high priest during his ministrations in the sanctuary on the Day of Atonement.

Those people who afflict their souls and put away sin from their lives, were counted as though their name was written individually on the stones. Conversely, those who neglected this opportunity to receive the atonement for their sin, as ministered by the high priest, were not so represented before God and they were found in their sin and cut off. The sacrifice and atonement could not be applied to one who would not receive it according to God's terms (John 3:3). In a manner similar to that symbolised by the high priest in the earthly sanctuary, Jesus Christ is representing us in the heavenly sanctuary.

16. What does Jesus do for us before the heavenly Father?

Revelation 3:5 _____

Note: Jesus takes our name on His lips and pleads His blood, as we, in penitence, afflict our soul and seek forgiveness and salvation from sin (Micah 7:9). Notice that the souls whose names are taken in supplication upon the lips of Jesus are those who are overcomers and have kept their garments white (garments = character, lesson 5, Q6.). He does not plead the cause of the reprobate. Rather, these have their names blotted out of the book of life (Exodus 32:32,33).

17. Those who are in Christ Jesus, raised in newness of life and dead to sin, are said to be in a certain place. Where is that place?

Ephesians 2:4-6 _____

Compare Psalm 24:3-10. note vv. 3, 6, 7 _____

Note: Dead to sin, raised in newness of life, applies to us now. It does not refer to the resurrection at the second coming of Jesus (Rom. 6:1-8). Ephesians 2:2,3 talks about the old nature, in this life, while verses 4-10 refers to the character after conversion, in this life. When a man receives the character of Jesus into his mind, he is counted as present in the heavenly Sanctuary with Jesus as his Advocate (Titus 2:12; Romans 6:12; 2Corinthians 4:10,11; 1 John 2:1).

18. From where does the spiritual blessing come?

Ephesians 1:3 _____

19. Who shall receive these spiritual blessings?

Ephesians 1:4 _____

Note: This privilege is open to every man woman and child on this earth (Rom. 10:13; Rom. 2:11). Those who receive these blessings are those who choose them. They give evidence of their choice by the beautiful character of Jesus formed within (Gal. 4:19; Eph. 4:13).

The predestination spoken of in verses 4 and 5 does NOT mean that God has selected certain people to save and excluded all else. God has predestined every man to righteousness, not sin. He made man to serve and worship Him out of love and to reflect His image. He did NOT make man to live estranged from Himself (Eph.2:10; Rom.8:29; 1Thess.5:9; Acts.13:48; Isa.43:7; 2Thess.2:13,14; Isa.59:2).

20. God extends the grace that makes heaven open to us. What is our part, that through Christ, we may be in that heavenly place?

Ephesians 2:8 _____

Hebrews 11:8-16 _____

Note: Lesson 4 may be reviewed for detail of this essential part of our relationship with Christ. In this life, it is obvious we are not in the heavenly place physically, but by faith in what Jesus is doing for us before the throne of the Father, we are counted as present in the Sanctuary of heaven and citizens of the promised land, the earth made new (Revelation 21:1-5). In this way, Christ is receiving the subjects of His kingdom (Daniel 7:14).

21. When, by faith in Christ, we enter the heavenly Sanctuary and are made the people of the saints of the Most High (Daniel 7:14, 22, 27), how do we show our heavenly citizenship now?

Colossians 3:1-3 _____

Note: For a comparison of the unreformed life, to the life of a person renewed in the image of Christ, see 2Corinthians 3:18 and Colossians 3:5-17. The Bible talks of our eternal life in the present tense, not as beginning some time after the death of this body, or at the second coming of Jesus Christ. Our eternal life and heavenly citizenship starts NOW ! (Luke 17:21; 1John 3:15; John 17:3; 1John 5:13).

Having now seen how Jesus makes up the inhabitants of His eternal kingdom by His ministry in the heavenly Sanctuary, we may ask, when did this judgement to determine His subjects begin (Jesus knows His subjects 2Timothy 2:19)?

According to the sequence of events in the prophecies of Daniel 7 and 8, the judgement began some time after the rise of the little horn power and its attack on the saints of God. The exact year can be calculated from details of the prophecy of Daniel 9 and this topic will form part of the study in lesson 12. From these it will be noticed that the judgement is now in progress.

In conclusion. After the earthly powers are destroyed, Christ will establish His dominion on earth. When Jesus comes to the Ancient of Days by entering into the heavenly Sanctuary, He will receive His kingdom and that kingdom is made up of the people of God redeemed from all nations (Luke 22:29,30; Luke 12:32). To be one of these privileged saints of the Most High, requires us to examine our hearts (afflict our soul) and confess every sin before Him, that the atoning ministry of Christ may be on our behalf. The blood of Christ is never applied to the unpenitent sinner (1 Corinthians 6:9,15,16,17; Hebrews 10:26-29; Romans 11:17-24). Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of heaven (John 3:3).

Having now been made citizens of the new earth, we are to keep our garments white (righteous character Rev.3:4,5; Rev.19:8; Isa. 61:10; Mark 13:13; Gal.6:9), while we wait for the time when our beloved Redeemer will make our faith sight and we inherit the kingdom of God.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. **Thy kingdom come**, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for **Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever**. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13).