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STRAIGHT TALK

"If a mortal Jesus appeared on the church scene again today the churchgoers would kill Him again ... like they did before."

—Ben Williams

KINGDOM PRINCIPLES People Get What They Want

DEFINING TERMS

For the sake of clarity let's start by defining "the Kingdom of God" or "the Kingship of God."

The Kingship or Kingdom of God is a time, place or circumstance in which God is Sovereign.

Now, common sense demands that we recognize that God is Sovereign over all his creation. There can be no part or parcel of his creation that somehow escapes his Kingship ... even temporarily.

In other words, The Creator is Sovereign over ALL his creation. He always has been. He always will be.

Upon this one thing we must agree first: God (Yahweh) has always been, is, and will always be Sovereign King over his creation, and that his Kingdom (Kingship) is inviolate and unquestioned. He is the ultimate Sovereign. His Kingdom is ALWAYS present on Earth. There never has been, and never will be, a time when his Kingship does not exist or is not here.

If we can agree with that, then we can go forward to consider how his Kingdom/Kingship works, and how we must perceive it ... and how the Bible describes it.

THE MYTHICAL KINGDOMS OF THE CHURCHES

The churches, the "church fathers" and the many theologians over the centuries have put forth some very strange views of God and his Kingdom.

These views range from the idea of a kingdom in the sky, to a kingdom that appears on Earth after everything on Earth is burned up in a fiery judgment.

The one thing most of the church teachings have in common is the general idea that the Kingdom does not exist on Earth during this current age. Church theology generally has it that this current age is under the influence of another strange god named "Satan."

Furthermore, churches generally agree that Christians today must wait to experience God's Kingdom until after they die and "go to heaven," or until an unknown date in the

future when Jesus will "return" from an outpost in the sky. At that time, according to them, "the Kingdom" will arrive, and everything will be perfect. Not until then will "the Kingdom" exist and function on Earth.

This thinking dominates the minds of churchgoers. The result is that none of these people look for, or expect to see, the principles of God's Kingdom present and working in today's world.

Thus, all the Bible's teachings about the Kingdom get dismissed as non-applicable in this age. They find themselves attempting to explain life today in terms that exclude God's laws or his Kingdom. In fact, they also attempt to explain their lives in terms that exclude Jesus as their King ... except to say, in some circles, that He (Jesus) is "reigning in Heaven" in some strange way ... but not on Earth. That leaves Earth dwellers to survive on their own, left alone to do battle with the many demons of all kinds, as well as the great demon, "Satan."

However, the Bible describes "the Kingdom" much differently. For example, when God spoke to Samuel, in 1 Samuel 8, He gave us a clear look Kingdom life as it actually is.

GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL

4. *Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel at Ramah,*
5. *And said to him, Behold, you are old, and your sons walk not in your ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.*
6. *But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed to Yahweh.*
7. *And Yahweh said to Samuel, Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you: for they have not*

rejected you, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

8. *According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also to you.*

9. *Now therefore listen to their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly to them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.*

1 Sam 8:4-9

GOD LETS MEN HAVE WHAT THEY WANT

It is perhaps the most common theme in history ... men tend to pursue the things that hurt them. Natural man usually wants the things he ought not to want.

God gave his law to man to guide him and keep him from making grave errors. When men transgress God's laws He gives them time to rethink it ... but if men persist in wanting those things and won't repent, then God lets them have what they lust after. As it was in Samuel's day, so too in Paul's day. This is God's "justice" meted out according to his laws in his Kingship.

In the wilderness, after being delivered from their oppressors in Egypt, God provided for the welfare of Israel. He gave them manna from heaven for nourishment. But the people lusted after meat and garnishments they remembered from Egypt. They complained and murmured to Moses until God gave them what they wanted:

4. *And the mixed multitude that was among them began lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?*

5. *We remember the fish we ate in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic:*

6. *But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.*

10. *Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of Yahweh was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.*

13. *... for they weep to me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.*

16. *And Yahweh said to Moses, ...*

18. *... say you to the people, ... you have wept in the ears of Yahweh, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore Yahweh will give you flesh, and you shall eat.*

19. *You shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days,*

neither ten days, nor twenty days;

20. *But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome to you: because you have despised Yahweh which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?*

31. *And there went forth a wind from Yahweh, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.*

32. *And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp.*

33. *And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of Yahweh was kindled against the people, and Yahweh smote the people with a very great plague.*

34. *And he called the name of that place Kibrothhattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted.*

Num. 11: 4-34

Even in the presence of God's miraculous delivery from Egypt the Children of Israel lusted for the things they had back in their slavery ... so God's judgment was to give them what they wanted. It was justice in God's Kingdom.

God's Kingship functions flawlessly, and his judgment is justice ... ALWAYS. When we violate his laws He lets us experience the bad fruit of our sins. When hard times come upon us we are getting the things we wrongly lusted after. God gives them to us as judgment. If we lust after things we shouldn't eat, He lets us eat till we kill ourselves. It is judgment in God's Kingdom.

Today, Americans lust after the Beast System. They insist upon having it ... and in God's perfect judgment He is letting Americans have it. Americans are getting what they want and they are getting it in abundance, living their lusts ... and it is ruining them.

This same law and judgment was at work in Paul's day as well. Paul told the Thessalonians that a twisted spirit of lawlessness was at work in their midst, and that judgment from God was at hand:

7. *For the mystery of lawlessness does already work within: now only the one who resists will stand out from their midst.*

8. *And then will the lawless ones be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus consumes with the spirit of his mouth, and*

abolishes with the manifestation of his presence:

11. *And for this cause God sends them strong delusion, so they believe what is false:*
12. *That they all are judged who believe not the truth, but are pleased with injustice.*

2 Thess. 2:7-12

Also in Corinth, Paul explained to the people that God's laws and principles of his Kingdom, with Christ appointed as King:

20. *For the Kingship of God is not in word, but in power.*
21. *What will you? shall I come to you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?*

1 Cor. 4:20-21

Paul then chastises the Corinthians concerning some evil practices, and tells them to purge the evil from among them. The method he tells them to follow is to deliver the offenders over to their own lusts (i.e., their adversary). In other words, let them wallow in the very things for which they lusted, and let them reap the fruits of their own ways. This was justice and judgment under Christ's Kingship.

4. *By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
5. *To deliver such an one to the adversary (Gk: "satan") for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord (i.e., in judgment).*

1 Cor. 4:20 - 5:5

AMERICA IN THE HANDS OF ADVERSARIES

Ask yourself this: is there anything happening to America today that we as a people do not deserve? Yes, lots of bad things are befalling us. But why?

Some may try to tell us that it is because evil men rule the Earth. Some tell us it is Obama. Some tell us it is Al Qaeda. Some say Satan is running amok. Some blame the Federal Reserve. Some claim that Muslims are to blame for America's woes.

Let's see ... we can make a lengthy list of current problems that need to be laid at someone's doorstep. The whole fabric of American life seems to be falling apart. The politicians lie to us, the police bully us, the military and the president push us into unjust wars, our roads, bridges and infrastructure are in disrepair, taxes are way too high, the FBI and CIA are spying on us and treating us as if we are criminals ... putting camera's everywhere to watch our every move, the IRS is draining us of what little profits we still make, the banks are stealing our sustenance through their debt usury, the hospitals want our savings and our homes when we stay in their facilities for a couple days, the

pharmaceutical companies are poisoning us with bad drugs, the schools are brainwashing our kids and turning them into fools, Hollywood and the movie/music industry is destroying any remaining vestiges of morality left in America, 100 million Americans are unemployed, young folks are enlisting in the military because they can't get work, millions of Americans are on food stamps – for 6 million of them it is their only source of income, 20 million of the fortunate ones who have jobs make less than \$9,500/yr., more American soldiers are dying by suicide than by fighting in battles, over 80 percent of American marriages end in divorce and broken families, and last but not least, the churches are blinding Americans so they cannot see the Kingdom of God. I could go on and on. The general picture is bleak to say the least.

Yes, America has problems. So we must ask, "Why?" What has brought all this evil upon us? Americans are full of fear and hopelessness. We are living longer, but to what end? Old folks end up alone and in rest homes wishing they could die. Their lives are meaningless.

Yes, America is in deep, deep trouble. Therefore, people – especially church people – are apt to conclude that we need Christ to return to set things straight. They reason that things couldn't be this bad if He were here to dispense judgment and justice.

It almost sounds logical, doesn't it?

But wait! What if things are already "set straight"? What if our troubles are the result of God setting things straight? What if the evils befalling us are exactly what we deserve? Can you show me any of the hardships befalling us that are not in accord with God's Kingdom principles?

Biblically speaking, America deserves everything she is getting ... and more.

Should we believe the churches when they tell us that our troubles are because Jesus is not here to reign and rule? Should we accept the theory that God's Kingdom is being put on hold until a future time? Is it possible for God's Kingdom and his laws to be put on hold?

Remember the premise with which we began this study? We agreed that God's Kingship is always present and sovereign over his creation. That includes America. It also includes our homes, our families, and ourselves. We are NEVER exempt from God's Kingship and his Kingdom principles. The only way his Kingship could end is if He, Himself, ceased to exist.

So what has led to the trouble that America is in? Knowing what is causing it can help us think about a remedy. Has God lost control or been usurped by evil men? Is a new dispensation needed before God's justice can be rendered, and before evil can be overcome?

Or is it possible that America is experiencing on-going judgment under God's Kingdom principles?

GOD'S KINGDOM -VS- JOB?

The book of Job is the classic story of man losing sight of the fact that God manages his creation, and that his Kingdom principles are never mistakes.

Job's mistake was that he (like modern Americans) wrongly assumed that God was slipping by allowing evil to

triumph over good.

3: *Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God.*

18. *Behold now, I have ordered my cause; I know that I shall be justified.*

Job 13: 3,18

11. *God has delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked.*

Job 16:11

3. *Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat!*

4. *I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.*

7. *There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered for ever from my judge (i.e., from God).*

Job 23:3, 4, 7

6. *My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.*

Job 27:6

Job insists that God was not paying attention. He claims that if God would but listen to him he could make Him understand.

Then God answers Job “out of the whirlwind”:

1. ... *Yahweh answered Job, and said,*

2. *Shall he that contends with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproves God, let him answer it.*

Job 40:1-2

God puts Job in his place and makes Job realize that God’s judgment is not faulty. Then in chapter 42 Job repents and has an attitude adjustment ... and God blesses him and relieves him of his troubles.

This theme of misunderstanding the workings of God’s Kingdom is explained over and over in the Bible. In Job’s case he had a wrong view of how God’s Kingdom worked. He didn’t realize that judgment comes from God.

Likewise, the churches in their false religion have taught Americans that God’s Kingdom cannot exist here in this land. The reason they cite is that if God were in control then evil and sin could not exist.

But as explained in the Kingdom Parables taught by Jesus, both good and evil exist within the Kingdom of God.

CHRIST’S REIGN

In God’s Kingdom plan man is allowed to make his own decisions, both good and bad. Good decisions are rewarded

with blessings, and bad decisions are met with judgment. In this way Jesus is weeding out the bad elements and preserving the good. To accomplish this, God allows men to have and experience the lusts of their hearts, much like Job ... so they can learn by experience. (see **USING THE KINGDOM PARABLES TO FIND THE KINGDOM Pts 1, 2, 3** – The American Christian issues Nov 1998 through Mar 1999 - free for download at <www.benwilliamslibrary.com> - or write me for copies.

The mistaken concept that plagues many Christians is the assumption that God’s Kingdom is a place where evil cannot exist. They assume this even though the Bible often and clearly refutes that idea:

6. *That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am Yahweh, and there is none else.*

7. *I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I Yahweh do all these things.*

Is. 45:6-7

By the way, “evil” is not the same as “wickedness.” God is not the author of wickedness. “Evil” is hardship and destruction. God brings judgment (evil) upon men and nations. He blesses good decisions, and punishes bad decisions. This is Kingdom justice.

25. *For He (Jesus) must reign, till he has put all enemies under his feet.*

1 Cor. 15:25

Jesus is exposing sin. He is judging and separating. That is the Kingdom. Again, refer to the Kingdom Parables.

The Kingdom of Christ is called “New Jerusalem.” It is the city of the living, and it exists behind spiritual “walls.” Those walls separate the living from the dead. Those with “eyes to see and ears to hear” are seeing and entering in at the gates. The blind and deaf are not.

14. *Blessed are those doing his will, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

15. *Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the fornicators, and murderers, and idolaters, and those liking and making lies.*

Rev. 22:14-15

God allows men to choose what they prefer. We then live with our choices. If our circumstances are less than good it is because we are making bad choices.

“... therefore choose life, that both you and your seed may live: – Deut. 30:19

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