

THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS COME UPON YOU



(Matthew 12:28; Luke 17:21)

Be praise, adored and thanked, O Lord, the God of Israel our [forefather], forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for that is in the heavens and the earth is Your; Yours is the Kingdom, O lord and Yours it is to be exalted as Head over all. Both riches and honor come from You and You reign over all. In your hands are power and might; in Your hands it is to make great and to give strength to all. Now therefore our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name and those attributes which that name denotes (I Chronicles 29:10-13) – a prayer of David, the servant of God.

When YAHSHUA appointed seventy of His disciples He gave them a message to tell to every house they entered: "Say to them, The kingdom of God has come close to you." (Luke 10: 9b). He was not referring to an earthly kingdom, for He told Pilate, My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My followers would have been fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My kingdom is not from here. Pilate said to Him, Then You are a King? YAHSHUA answered, You say it for I am a King. This is why I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the Truth. Everyone who is of the Truth hears and listens to My voice (John 19:36). David's prayer summarized the meaning of a kingdom well when he said, Yours is the Kingdom and Yours it is to be exalted as Head over all... You reign over all. That's the definition of a kingdom. The spiritual kingdom however, is invisible to all except that we the believers have accepted Him as King by faith and have understood His position in our life, although, we do not give Him the right to reign over us the way He should.

Pilate, a powerful man, feared the words of YAHSHUA, I am a King. He could not understand the true meaning of that phrase in YAHSHUA, otherwise he would have not agreed to have YAHSHUA crucified by his nation; neither did he care to know the Truth, and decided at the request of the Jewish nation, to crucify the Lord. The beautiful words of YAHSHUA resounded deeply in that room when He said, This is why I was born, and for this I have come into the world... Plainly, He was referring to His death, when many would receive Him as King of their life and ultimately, be part of His physical kingdom someday. His message to the people was, Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matt. 4:17). He emphasized the fact that "Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). The kingdom of heaven is for those who walk in obedience to God. He came as Israel's Messiah; He came to establish His kingdom, but Israel rejected Him and had He killed outside the city, as we read in His parables. In spite of that, He remained Who He was – a King. And as such, He announced to the nation that "The kingdom is near." The kingdom had come to them because the King of the kingdom of God had come to them. He was announcing His spiritual kingship. Refuting the authorities of those days for accusing Him of casting demons under the power of Satan, He said, If I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you (Luke 11:20). When He came to earth He started His kingdom and will consummate it at His return. Now we see only in

part, but when He comes we will see and understand things for what they are. The condition for us to enter the kingdom of heaven is the new birth in YAHSHUA the Messiah. He told Nicodemus that unless a man is born of water and even the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. What is born of the flesh is flesh; and what is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3:5). Flesh cannot inherit the kingdom of God because it can never be spiritually regenerated. It is the spirit that is regenerated and saved. In repentance there will be forgiveness and a new birth.

Truly I say to you, whoever does not accept and receive and welcome the kingdom of God like a little child shall not in any way enter it (Luke 18: 17). YAHSHUA'S words reflect a humble spirit. A humble and contrite spirit the Lord will not forsake, the word of God says. A person who comes to salvation in brokenness and in repentance will be able to enter the kingdom of heaven. In the sermon of the mountain, YAHSHUA said, Blessed are the poor in spirit (humble) for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:2). The meaning of the kingdom of God embraces different aspects in Scripture. We see that God rules over the universe in sovereignty. Psalm 103:19 says The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. Giving credit to God before Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel said, How great are His signs! And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation. In the spiritual sphere, the kingdom of God rules the hearts of those who committed their lives to Him in repentance and in salvation. Flesh and blood will never enter heaven, for they have no part in the kingdom of God. They are destined to perish a physical death; however, the spirit will have access to the kingdom of heaven through the new birth, for in Christ all has been made new. If any person is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has passed away. Behold, all has been made new (II Cor. 5:17).

There will be a millennium kingdom which will be ruled by YAHSHUA. His kingdom will expand to eternity with no time, and no end. Daniel writes: and in the days of these [final ten] kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people; but it shall break and crush and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever (Dan. 2:44). And there was given Him [Messiah] dominion and glory and kingdom that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom is one which shall not be destroyed (Dan. 7:13). YAHSHUA although being essentially one with God and in

the form of God, did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, but stripped Himself, so as to assume the guise of a servant in that He became like men and was born a human being. And after He had appeared as a human being and after He had appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross! Therefore, God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, that in the name of YAHSHUA every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess and acknowledge that YAHSHUA the Messiah is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2: 7-11).

We do not have to wait until YAHSHUA will be crowned King of kings and Lord of lords, to submit to His authority; for we have Him now in our heart as King and Lord of our life. The only way the world will ever perceive this invisible kingdom is by the complete surrendering of our emotion, will and intellect to YAHSHUA'S spiritual kingship. Then there will be light that will break through into the darkness of the world's understanding of Whom He is to us. He taught the disciples to pray for His kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. His kingdom coming to every heart His will, will be accomplished on earth. His will, will prevail and this world will be a better place to live in.