

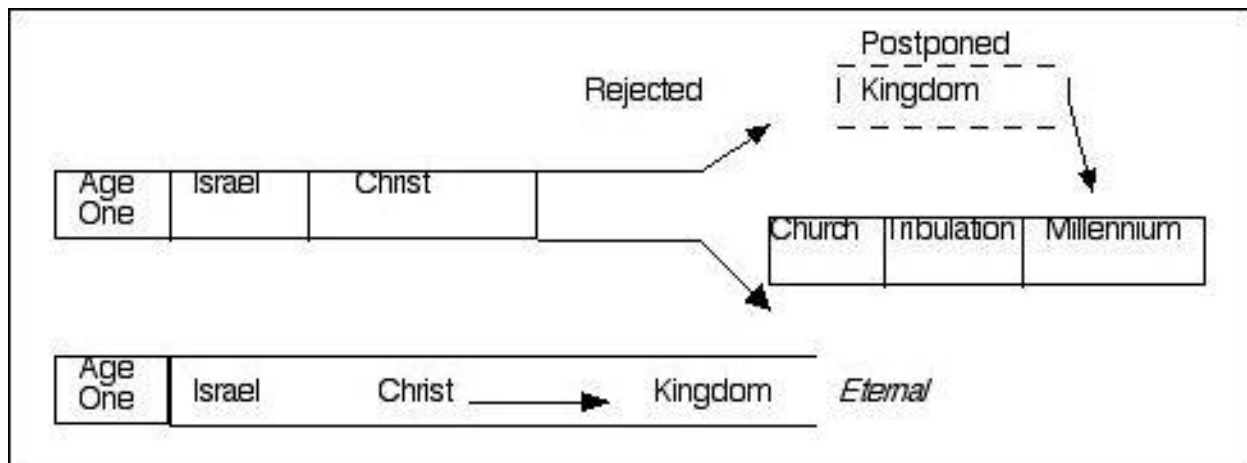
1. Last week when the clock tolled 10:45 we were in the middle of a study of the Greek phrase βασιλεια Θεου translated “the kingdom of God.”
2. Before continuing, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may be necessary.
3. Let’s begin with an expanded translation of Gal 5:19 and 20.

Gal 5:19 Understand the production from the Old Sin Nature is certainly seen in various sexual sins, such as adultery, filthy thoughts, and shameful sexual conduct ...

Gal 5:20 idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, inordinate ambition, dissension, factions ...

4. So far we have exegeted that portion of Gal 5:21 which in the KJV has been translated “*and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit* ... noting it might better be rendered “**envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit** ...

5. One cannot understand the meaning of “the kingdom of God” unless an understanding of what Israel missed when they rejected Christ Kingdom message. An acceptance of the message would have brought about the four unconditional covenants.



6. Before reviewing the covenants, let’s pick-up where we left off last week:

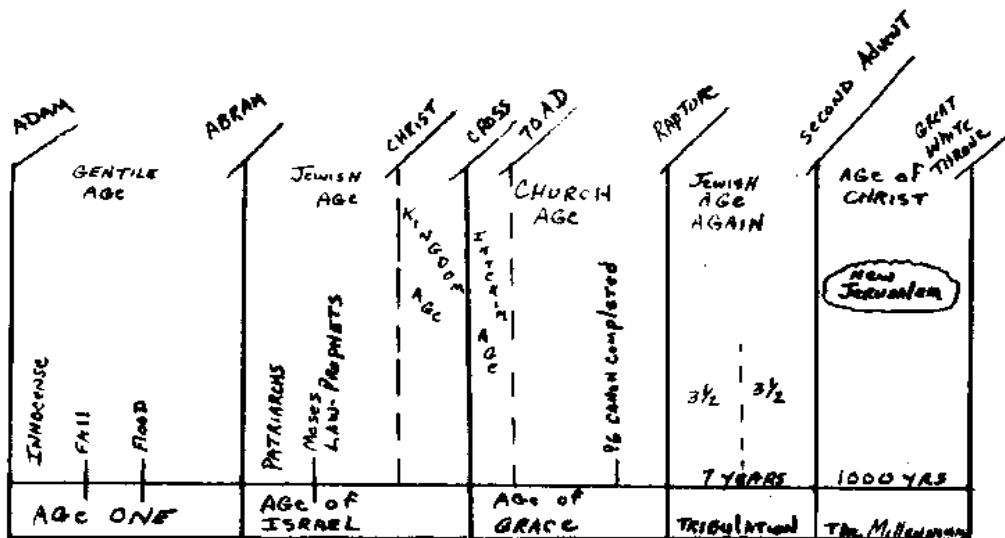
7. The people of our Lord’s day expected their Messiah to come in shining armor to muster an invincible army to defeat the hated Romans. They had no expectation of a Church Age, Tribulation or Millennium. What they did expect can best be understood by a simple chart:

GENTILES				ISRAEL	KINGDOM
Positive Volition	Negative Volition	Noah's Family	Jewish Patriarchs	Jewish Client Nation	+
Creation of man	Fall of Adam	Flood	Abraham	Moses and the Exodus	Birth of Christ

8. Many of our Muslim friends today will say “Oh I can believe JESUS was God’s Son but not the cross and death of that Son.”

8.1 Several years earlier I was amazed at an Egyptian student who voiced just such an objection: “God would never let His Son suffer and die. I therefore cannot become a Christian for that reason.”

8.2. The message of the "kingdom of heaven" as first set forth by Matthew had a limited and national meaning. It was addressed to Israel alone and to those living in the **Age of the Hypostatic Union**.



9. Kingdom passages often create problems in the minds of believers and unbelievers.

9.1 Another acquaintance to whom I witnessed said, “I could never believe the Bible because Christ said he would bring peace on earth and here we are in the middle of a war-torn world. There is no peace on earth.”

10. The message of the "kingdom of heaven" did not concern itself so much with the Person of the King as it did with His Kingdom. But Israel had never dreamed of a Kingdom apart from the presence and power of the expected King.

Luk 17:20 Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, Luk 17:21 nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst--in the person of the King.

11. The Kingdom as foreseen in the Old Testament and as described by our Lord, had as a condition precedent a righteousness which would have its source in acceptance of the Messiah and His platform.

11.1 Rather than accept JESUS' platform Israel wanted it their way. Many loved the terrible yoke of the Mosaic Law and their façade of righteous living. Christ provided an interesting response concerning "what they were to do."

"What shall we do that we might work the works of God?" and to this He replied: "This is the work of God that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." (Joh 6:28, 29)

12. It should be borne in mind that the Kingdom requirements as stated in the Sermon on the Mount are meant to prepare the way for the earthly Davidic Kingdom when it shall be established on the earth, when the four unconditional covenants will be implemented.



13. It may be concluded that the term "kingdom of heaven" as used in the early ministry of Jesus referred to the Messianic earthly Kingdom seen in the Old Testament. As has been noted, the Jewish preachers needed no instruction in the details of that message.

14. It was the hope of their nation, and it was addressed to that nation alone. Israel's Kingdom was faithfully offered to them by their King at His First Advent and repeatedly rejected by our Lord's generation. Unfortunately, Israel did not display an acceptance and obedience as set forth in Deu 30:1-3.

Deu 30:1 When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you ...
Deu 30:2 and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today,

Deu 30:3 then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.

15. Repentance and change therefore, became an imperative part of the message concerning the Kingdom. The Kingdom as foreseen in the Old Testament had ever in view the righteousness in life and conduct of its subjects; had Israel accepted Christ's kingdom message; the New Covenant would have taken care of all the difficulties associated with the impossible standards demanded by Christ's platform.

16. First let's look at a small sample of impossible standards and then we will review the method of fulfillment.

16.1 The IMPOSSIBLE STANDARD – The Olivet Discourse

Mat 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Mat 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Mat 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God ...

Mat 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men ...

Mat 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'

Mat 5:22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment ... in danger of the fire of hell ...

Mat 5:27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.'

Mat 5:28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart ...

Mat 5:31 "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.'

Mat 5:32 But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

Mat 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Mat 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Mat 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Mar 11:25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

16.2 The METHOD OF FULFILLMENT--The New Covenant

Jer 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Jer 31:32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17. The Kingdom Teachings will one day be implemented at the return of Christ, at His Second Advent. As has been stated, whatever was meant by this announcement of the "kingdom of heaven," it was clearly understood by those who proclaimed it. No other Kingdom message could have thus been received by those people in that day.

18. So, also, it was addressed to one nation, Israel, and to them as a whole, rather than to individuals. Thus the "kingdom of heaven" as a message must ever be distinguished from the message of the gospel of grace which came by the cross.

19. Let me give you a quote from Lewis Sperry Chafer regarding the Kingdom Age.

“When reading a Gospel (particularly a synoptic gospel) the Church Age believer must keep in mind to whom these books have primary application-Israel. According to the Scriptures, all time is divided into ... dispensations. Due recognition of the essential character of each of these dispensations is the key to the understanding of the Bible ... The fact of confusing ... the characteristics ... in each is common, and is, doubtless, the greatest error into which many devout Bible interpreters fall.”

20. Now back to Paul's last phrase “shall not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.”

21. In heaven there will be a Kingdom of Heaven without sin or evil.

22. There will be nothing but perfect people in heaven. All those entering will be changed before entry. Believers will be perfect in body, soul and spirit. Now let's see what we can learn about the fruits of the Spirit.

KJV

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Gal 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Gal 5:26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

NIV

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Gal 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

Gal 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Gal 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

End Lesson

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