

Kingdom Now & To Come - THE FULL GOSPEL MESSAGE (cont.)

- Kingdom Come
 - Still in relation to King (glory of God came & to come)
 - Where the King is the Kingdom is (reign, authority)
 - King is within us personally, among us corporately, and coming Himself
 - Still in relation to Spirit's presence
 - 3 stages of Spirit relationship = 3 stages of Kingdom
 1. Pre-Christ = Spirit visitation
 2. New life in Christ, Body = Spirit habitation (Joel 2:28=those days)
 3. Kingdom fully realized = glorification (Rom 8:28=fully sanctified) (theophany hint)
 - Kingdom presence is within us, among us, and coming
- Evaluating the Kingdom to come (end times) has an important order:
 - Millennium, Tribulation, Rapture, New Heaven & Earth

The Millennium - Rev 20

- Guides For Interpretation:
 1. Know the genre of literature = apocalyptic. Apocalyptic literature uses symbolic representation - like in Daniel with the 4 beasts (symbolic for Persia, Babylon, Greece, Rome)
 2. Know that numbers also have symbolic meaning in prophetic literature (of which apocalyptic literature is a part)
 - a. 1000 = 10x10x10. 3-divine perfection [Trinity], 10 completed order, completed cycle (at times with judgment or blessing) [10 commandments]
 - i. So three groups of 10 is the divine perfect completed order
 - b. 144,000 = 12x12x1000. 12 tribes of Jerusalem, 12 mirrored symbolically for Gentiles, 1000 in complete fullness
 - i. So all God's people divinely perfected and complete
 3. Time is tough to track - visions can be looking forward OR BACKWARD!
 - a. Progressive parallelism - often time can be further complicated because events that appear sequential are actually simultaneous (a circling back to tell a new aspect of the same event)
 - b. What seems like linear time is actually a deepening or building of the events spiritually (stacking)
- Rev 20:1-3
 - Does the millennium have to be a literal 1000 years
 - 2 Peter 3:8
 - When is the serpent first bound? (ie - what initiates the 1000 years?)
 - Matt 12:23-32 – Intertestamental Jewish hope of Spirit bearing Messiah
 - Christ restrained Satan and his hold at the cross
 - Satan gained rule in our lives with sin, so the cross (with Christ as the New and faithful Adam – Rom 5) is where this reign was bound
 - Remember previous notes on Garden of Gethsemane as a reversal of the Garden of Eden (Satan unleashed vs. Satan bound)

The Personhood of God, pt. 13 – The Work of Christ (cont.)

- The work of Satan is bound with power of the gospel, binding his stranglehold on all nations, to the ends of the earth
 - Matt 24:14
- Jesus' words in Matt 24 does not support the idea that the return of Christ is synonymous with a millennium of the gospel going forward for the benefit of the nations (Jew or Gentile). When He returns – that's it!
 - Matt 24:30-31, 42-51
- Rev 20:4-6
 - When do the dead in Christ come to life & reign with Christ?
 - 1 Cor 15:23-26, 40-55 (raised at last trumpet sound, at Christ's coming)
 - BUT... 2 Cor 5:8 & Luke 23:43, Eph 2:6
 - Verse 5 - this suggests strongly a time period where saints who died are alive with Christ and unrighteous who died (those outside Christ) are asleep in death until the last trumpet
 - So..."first resurrection" may be a heavenly reality
 - SEE Rev 6:10 - that time ("millennium") could be a current reality in God
 - 1 Thess 4:13-18
- Rev 20:7-15
 - vs.7-10 = Final battle (armageddon) where Satan is defeated once and for all
 - vs.11-15 = The second death (final judgement). Note second death has no power over those written in the book of life (throwback to vs.6)
- Summary Positions –
 - Premillennial = Millennium is a future literal 1000 years where Christ reigns but Satan is not fully defeated, those left on earth get a chance to recognize Christ (very fortunate for them!!). Some who hold that Israel is still only the ethnic Israel of the Old Covenant favor this interpretation as a time when Jews will receive their covenantal promises and recognize their King in the manner they originally expected Him. (There is also a dispensational type of premillennialism that we will deal with in the tribulation lecture)
 - Problems - 1) it doesn't fit Matt 24 or 1 Thess 4 = when Jesus returns it IS the end, 2) leaves a middle stage of Kingdom "almost" (neither now nor in full), 3) people who use this to save a place for ethnic Israel fail to see the Church as the fulfillment of Israel and the first coming as the fulfillment of OT promises to patriarchs (Gal 6:16), 4) this fails to see the 1st resurrection as an already existing reality
 - Postmillennial = Millennium is a time Christ reigns with & through the Church (His Body). This leaves room for Matt 24, when Christ returns to final triumph immediately.
 - Problems - 1) this has led to dominion theology and a failure to see "my kingdom is not of this world", 2) leaves Church responsible to usher in Christ's return by the way it relates to the world (can lead to legalism similar to 1st Century Pharisaism that Christ condemned), 3) our responsibility as the Church to bind Satan has led to horrific outcomes and does not match well with other verses (like "resist the devil and he will flee")

The Personhood of God, pt. 13 – The Work of Christ (cont.)

- Amillennial = Millennium is a symbolic amount of time (signifying the perfect amount of time - in God's time [2 Peter 3:8] - that Christ reigns in us. Similar to postmillennial in that sense EXCEPT that we do not usher in 1000 years. They began when Christ bound Satan (and his work, sin, hold) at the cross. The work was all Christ's. Allows for Matt 24 and 1 Thess 4 to speak of Christ's return in connection with His final triumph.
 - Problems – 1) does not take 1000 years as literal (if that is a problem for you!), 2) Does not leave a special time for ethnic Israel to receive fulfillment of promises (if you believe Israel is meant to remain ethnic and if you believe the promises were unconditional)

Assignment:

1) Read Rev 20, Matt 24, 1 Thess 4 & 5, Rev 21, 1 Cor 15 (in that order).