

WEEK 7

I. THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

A. The theme of the Bible

1. A common misunderstanding

We, as born again Christians, have such a tremendous appreciation for our salvation that we often _____ the theme of the Bible with what took place in our lives the DAY we were saved. Although the scripture declares our salvation throughout, although God desires all men to be saved and rejoices at our salvation, and although this is the greatest day in our lives... it is NOT the greatest day on God's calendar.

The greatest day on God's calendar is the day His Son returns to this earth for the second time and establishes, in true righteousness, the _____.

2. The theme of the Bible is:

"The _____" sometimes referred to as "*The Battle Over the _____*" also known as "*The Second Coming of Christ*".

The Bible is the story of a _____ over the Kingdom, not just a book written about the salvation of mankind. The Bible is not just a book about Jesus Christ our Savior, although He is the central character, and is found on every page, and in every story.

The Bible records for us the battle over the throne, and who will sit on that throne to rule and reign.

REMEMBER: God is still God and in complete control!

- The Bible is the revelation of God's plan, its temporary interruption because of sin, and the final and complete fulfillment of God's plan as He intended from the very _____.
- The relating word or words and the Bible:
 - King(s) or Kingdom(s) – 3,273 times in Bible

It is the Kingdom referred to by the apostles in Act 1:6. The Kingdom that they as Jews were familiar with from the prophecies of the Old Testament. Their question to Jesus in Acts 1:6 is completely and totally reasonable. They are expecting a _____, physical Kingdom to be established by their Messiah.
 - Throne(s) - 185 times in Bible (130 times in OT; ____ Times in NT)

- This day is referred to in the Bible _____ times as “*The day of the Lord,*” or “*The day of the LORD,*” and “*That day,*” among others. (every time either directly or indirectly)
- It is the theme of the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation and everywhere in between.

GenesisRevelation

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| ● Gen. 1:28 - Adam | Rev. 4:2 - The first thing you and I will see... |
| ● Gen. 9:2 - Noah | Rev. 4:6-8 -The first words we will hear... |
| ● Gen. 12:2 - Abraham | Rev. 4:10 - The first thing we will do... |
| ● Gen. 49:10 - Judah... | Rev. 4:11 - The first words we will say... |

NOTE: The Bible concludes in Revelation 22 with Jesus Christ seated on the throne ruling for all eternity.

- The book of Matthew...the bridge to the New Testament:
 - A Jewish gospel that presents Christ as “_____.”
 - Commonly referred to as the “Gospel of the Kingdom.”
 - The term “**Kingdom of Heaven**” is found ONLY in Matthew and is named 33 times.
 - Every chapter details some aspect of the King (JESUS) and His literal, physical Kingdom.
 - Doctrinally, Matthew details how the plan and offer of the King and Kingdom are rejected by Israel. How the Jewish Messiah then pays the price for all humanity by dying on the cross, being buried, and raising from the dead three days later. This spiritual “gospel of Grace” now goes forth to all nations. Matthew details how the original plan and offer of the _____ Kingdom will, one day, be reinstated by Jesus Christ at His second coming - Matthew 24:14.
- It is the theme of _____
 - Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4
- It is the theme of Bible _____
 - Acts 3:19-21 -
- It is the theme of Bible _____
 - Enoch... Jude 14-15; Genesis 5 -
 - **All OT Prophets:** It is theme of EVERY prophetic book in the Bible!
 - Major Prophets (named such as they are longer books)
 - Isaiah – 100 specific references (16:5, 11:10-11, 2:1-5)
 - Jeremiah -
 - Lamentations -

- Ezekiel – 12 chapters dealing specifically with this kingdom (43:2,7 – 38:35)
- Daniel – Chapters 2, 7, 9, 12

- Minor Prophets (shorter books)

- Hosea -
- Joel – 2:1, 3:21
- Amos – 9:1, 14-15
- Obadiah – 15, 17, 21
- Jonah -
- Micah – 4:11-13
- Nahum -
- Habakkuk -
- Zephaniah – 1:2,7, 11-14; 3:19-20
- Haggai – 2:21-23
- Zechariah – 12:3-10, 14:1
- Malachi – 4:1-2

3. It is the “*spiritual*” theme of Salvation

- Upon Salvation ALL believers receive “The Kingdom of God”

Ro. 14:17; 1 Co. 4:20; 15:50; Lk. 17:20-21

NOTE: This is NOT the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is a physical, literal Kingdom with a throne as we just saw.

- This (Kingdom of God) is the _____ aspect of “The Kingdom.” It is available to all men now, at this time in history, but only “spiritually.” It is a spiritual result of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.

It is an invisible, moral, righteous, holy, “Spiritual Kingdom,” where Christ _____ and reigns from WITHIN each individual believer.

Jo 14:17-23; Ro 8:10; 2 Co 6:16; Gal 2:20; Col 1:26-27; Eph 2:22; 3:17

Although 1 is physical and 1 is spiritual, the common issue is rulership!

Think about it:

Who will *sit* on the throne? **KING** _____!

NOTE: There is nothing anyone or anything can do to either usher in this Kingdom or prevent it.

Who will *worship* at the throne? **All** _____!

NOTE: There IS something we can do to affect this part of God’s plan!