



The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Matthew 13

07-19-19

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Part 11, Jesus' Present Spiritual Kingdom Will Suddenly Turn Material and Political!

I am thankful for another Friday! We are closing in on the end of our theme for the last couple of months, "The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...". We have studied eight parables from Matthew 13 that Jesus expounded to curious listeners on the shore of Lake Gennesaret (a.k.a., the Sea of Galilee). Also listening intently were Jesus' twelve disciples who were with Him in the fishing boat. They had pushed a few yards off shore, to escape the press of the crowd. And now to today's thoughts in Part 11, Jesus' Present Spiritual Kingdom Will Suddenly Turn Material and Political!

- **Point 1 — Jesus' Kingdom is Now Still Spiritual and Parables are a Secret Code for Kingdom Citizens**

Jesus taught His disciples and even His enemies that His Kingdom at His present time was, and even now still is, spiritual in form and function. For example, He told Pontius Pilate, *My kingdom is **not** of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. 37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice* (John 19:36-37).

The first point of today's installment is actually a reiteration from parts 1 and 2. Jesus taught in parables in order to impart Kingdom principles and understanding to **citizens** of His spiritual kingdom, i.e., those who were born again by the Holy Spirit (John 3:3; 3:7; 1Peter 1:23), and conversely, to hide those same Kingdom principles and understanding from those who were enemies of God, from those who remained dead in their trespasses and sins. The parables then, were a kind of "secret operations code" for the children of God!

Spiritual principles are available only to those who have the Holy Spirit living inside them. Paul writes that God's Kingdom principles are *spiritually discerned* (1Corinthians 2:14). We

become children of God, i.e., Kingdom citizens, when we **admit** to God that we are lost, condemned sinners, then we repent (change our minds about how to become reconciled to God) and we **believe** (i.e., cling to the Gospel, meaning the forgiveness of sins only through the shed blood of Jesus through the death, burial, and resurrection), and finally then by appropriating God's grace by **calling out** to Jesus FOR his salvation. Paul writes, *For whosoever shall CALL upon the name of the LORD shall be saved* (Romans 10:13). When we do that, the Holy Spirit re-birth's our sin-deadened spirit, and He moves in eternally. He seals us! THIS is that spiritual re-birth Jesus was emphasizing to Nicodemus in John 3:3. Being "born again" isn't some tenant of radical, red-necked, ignorant, unlearned religionists! No indeed! Jesus Himself said it's the ONLY way to get into His Kingdom!

The Heavenly principle is this, *For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath* (Matthew 13:12). If you account yourself unworthy of God's grace and His precious regeneration, and then the precious Truths of His inspired and eternally preserved Word, then God will not impose upon you! He will make sure His grace is lavished upon those who account it more precious than all the riches of this Universe! If any man or woman is going to get into Jesus' Kingdom, he/she is going to come Jesus' way and Jesus' way ONLY. Jesus said, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me* (John 14:6). And that way, as Jesus emphasized to a VERY religious Nicodemus, was by being born again by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8, 9)! *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God* (John 3:3).

- **Point 2 - God's Physical Kingdom is Almost Here—The Next Big Event on God's End-days Timetable is the Catching Away**

Have you ever stopped to realize that the vast, Vast, VAST majority of our World's population is blind? Of course, I'm not referring to physical blindness, but to spiritual blindness. When it comes to Truth, being in the majority is the very worst place to be.

For example, when the vast majority of this planet's citizenry considers our Cosmos¹...

and then this vast majority has the audacity to proclaim that our Cosmos and all of its infinite complexity came into existence through some ludicrous, fairy tale Big Bang, or an even more ludicrous, "it has just always been", or apart from the material creation, that biological LIFE just "happened" ...

then it's not a stretch to have a majority populace who will curl their lips and mock at the supposed "superstition" of those who believe Holy Writ and hold to those coming eschatological events foretold in said Holy Writ by the Prophets and Apostles through the perfect inspiration and preservation of the Holy Ghost. Peter alludes to such proud mockers, writing in 2Peter 3:1-7,

¹ [and by "Cosmos" I am referring to the scope of Creation from the quantum-micro to the lightyear-macro, a Creation that testifies of a Creator with infinite Wisdom and Ability, a Creation that defies any other possibility other than Special Creation (see Romans 1:19-21)]

This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour; 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

These ungodly, lust- and pride-driven scoffers, are WILLINGLY IGNORANT of events like the global flood, an event that very plainly testifies that things have NOT continued as they were since the literal six 24-hour-day Creation. And if thy are willingly ignorant of that which is geologically-obvious, then they are also willingly ignorant of God's promises, and one of those glorious promises—a mystery unknown and unrevealed to the Old Testament Prophets, which was revealed in these later days for us—is the Resurrection and Rapture Event, the Great Catching Away, which will occur at the end of this very Church Age!

The next big event on God's calendar of end-time (eschatological) events is what Christians call "the Resurrection and Rapture". Paul reveals this once-unknown event in two New Testament books. The first is 1Corinthians 15:51-58,

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

The second is 1Thessalonians 4:13-18,

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up

together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

This resurrection and rapture *mystery* is not something that cannot be understood, but was something hitherto unrevealed until the Holy Spirit revealed it and then inspired Paul to record it. Now, there is a LOT of end-days theology in these two passages but here it is in Cliff's Notes form.

A part of the coming 7-year Tribulation period will include the Wrath of God, poured out upon the Seat (government) of the Beast (the Antichrist) (Revelation 16:10), to include all of his billions of Jesus-hating followers. Since God's born-again believers are not appointed unto wrath (1Thessalonians 5:9), God will remove His children prior to this horrible outpouring of wrath (represented by the Seven Vial Judgments of Revelation 16). Paul writes that at an appointed time Jesus Himself will descend into this planet's atmosphere BRINGING WITH HIM ALL BORN-AGAIN BELIEVERS WHO HAVE GONE TO BE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN, from righteous Adam to the last believer to die before this event. He will station Himself in orbit and shout a great shout. Also a great trumpet will sound! Instantly, at those sounds, a perfect resurrected body, a body that will self-repair forever, a body that is just like the body that Christ now has, will cloth every believer who has come into orbit with King Jesus.

Then, in an instant after those perfect bodies are resurrected from those earthly graves for those believers gone on before, another wondrous thing happens to the mortal believers who are still living on the planet. Paul writes, *in the twinkling of an eye... we shall be changed*. This is the "catching away" or the "rapture" part. Every born-again believer alive on this planet at that moment will shed this present sin-cursed, dying physical body and, like those who had died in Christ, we will be given a new, sinless, eternally self-repairing body, a body just like the body that Christ now has. John the Apostle writes, *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is* (1John 3:2).

All of these re clothed and now three-fold perfect (a new mind and body to go with their already born-again spirit) children of God will travel back to Heaven to await out the Tribulation period that will refine the Nation of Israel and will judge the Antichrist and his hate-filled throng.

- **Point 3 - All Hail The King!**

To describe the events that will befall this physical planet and it's citizenry during the 7-year Tribulation period as **eye-opening**, would be the understatement of all understatements. During this period John the Revelator describes the greatest seismic, volcanic, meteorologic, oceanographic, and even space events that this planet has ever seen or will ever see. And all of it is judgment from God upon those who despised righteousness, upon those who hated His Christ! The great irony is that the wicked mockers of this earth will even recognize the

source of their calamity, and yet they will not repent or give God the glory He deserves. This speaks volumes to the depravity of the desperately-wicked human heart!

But what most people don't realize about that 7-year Tribulation period is that even though it is a time of God's wrath and judgment upon the wicked, it is also a time of great GRACE... because during this terrible 7 years millions upon millions will repent and turn to the Genuine Christ and be born-again! The purpose of the Tribulation Period is not just to judge unbelievers, but to refine the Nation of Israel!

For the last 2000+ years the Jews have been existing under a curse of spiritual blindness. When they, AS A NATION, rebuffed and then crucified their Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, God positionally cut the nation off, and in its place he grafted in the wild olive tree (Believing Gentiles and the Institution of the Local New Testament Church). Paul talks all about this in Romans 11. He cautions the Gentiles believers in Rome,

*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 **And so all Israel shall be saved:** as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.*

Now, this does NOT mean that Jews are not already being saved. Praise God, there are many, many Jews that are recognizing that Jesus of Nazareth was and is THE Messiah, He is Yeshua, and they have and are trusting him as their Savior and King. These are Messianic Jews. But Paul states in Romans 11:26, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that there will come a day that **every** mortal Jew breathing air on this planet will be a Messianic Jew, all Jews will possess a born-again spirit, all Jews will be praising Jesus the King! How will that come to be?

It will come to be through the Grace of God poured out during the darkest, most horrible, time period that this earth has ever witnessed! During the Tribulation Period, God's Holy Spirit will "let", i.e., He will cease to restrain the Evil One. Satan will literally possess the body of a man (The Antichrist or Beast), and one of his ranking demons will possess the body of another man (the False Prophet), and through miracles, deception, lies, and spiritual delusion, this Satanic Trinity will capture the euphoria and allegiance of this sin-crazed world... including the Nation of Israel. The Antichrist will broker a treaty between Israel and her enemies and he will be perceived as Israel's true "savior", their true messiah.

But at some point God will providentially remove those scales of blindness from the eyes of his people, the Jews. And they, as an entire Nation, will recognize that they crucified their very own Messiah, and that they have been duped by Satan himself! My personal opinion is that this "point" is the mid-point of the Tribulation, when the False Prophet sets up an image of the Beast in a Holy Place and then demands that all humanity must fall before the image and worship. Would not the Nation of Israel recognize this act as a flagrant violation of the 1st and 2nd Commandment? Would not this serve as a catalyst for God to remove those providential scales of blindness from their eyes? As I emphasized, this is just my personal musing.

But what isn't my musing is the results of their providential eye-opening! Suddenly the Jews have gone from being the Antichrist's greatest supporter to his greatest enemy, and the result will be the greatest attempt at genocide that the world will have ever seen. Millions and millions of now born-again Jews will refuse to cooperate with the Beast and therefore will be martyred. But John in the Revelation amazes us with another fact. It's not only Jews who are being born again! Gentiles are also "seeing the light" so to speak. Even in the darkest of times the grace of God is saving precious souls for His own glory!

At the very end of the 7-year Tribulation, as the Antichrist has staged a monstrous Gentile army in the valley of Jezreel, near the ancient town of Megiddo, with the intent of wiping Jerusalem and the remaining Jews off the face of the globe, John writes starting in Revelation 19:11,

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

The King and His Cavalry arrives, and by speaking He destroys that staged Gentile Army. We call this the Battle of Armageddon, although it's not much of a battle! The Antichrist and his False Prophet are arrested and cast directly into the Lake of Fire there to be tormented forever. Satan is chained and incarcerated in the Abyss for 1000 years.

At this point God's Kingdom switches to a physical and spiritual kingdom and it will be a physical and spiritual kingdom from this point on into the eternal Heaven Ages. And who will be on this Kingdom's throne? It will be the LAMB, Jesus, the LORD of hosts, the King of Glory! (Revelation 21:23-24)

Psalms 24:1-10 The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. 2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. 3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6 This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah. 7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. 9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

God bless and consider!