

America: Restored Or Rebuked

I. Two Points Of Reference:

A. Citizens Of A Nation

B. Citizens Of A Kingdom

John 18:36 (NIV®)

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

Matthew 26:52-53 (NIV®)

⁵² "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.

⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

Colossians 3:1-2, 11 (NIV®)

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. . . . ¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

- ❖ National identity; a part of this present world order
- ❖ Kingdom identity; another realm, an eternal identification

II. The Disciple's National Aspirations

Acts 1:6

So when they met together, they asked him, "**Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?**"

A. A Kingdom Assignment

Acts 1:1-9 (NIV®)

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.

He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "**Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?**" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will



receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

B. Jesus' Declarations Of Judgment On The Nation

Matthew 21:42-46 (NIV®)

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes"? ⁴³ "Therefore **I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.** ⁴⁴ He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them.

⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Luke 19:37-44 (NIV®)

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: ³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" ⁴⁰ "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." ⁴¹ **As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it** ⁴² and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace--but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

C. John The Baptist's Warning

Luke 3:7-9 (NIV®)

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

III. The Assignment

A. "Be My Witnesses"

Acts 1:7-9 (NIV®)

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.



Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV®)

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

B. "You will receive power"

John 1:33-34 (NIV®)

³³ I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is **he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.**' ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

Matthew 3:11 (NIV®)

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**

Luke 3:16 (NIV®)

John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**

Mark 1:7-8 (NIV®)

⁷ And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but **he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit**"