

Episode #421 The Kingdom of God 4 – God’s Ultimate Purpose

I. As expressed in my message on “The Theme of the Bible,” I believe that the Kingdom of God is the theme of the Word of God. Christ is the Main Character, and salvation is the most crucial first thing for us to know, true. Yet the Kingdom of God is the ultimate theme of all God has written. We will now study that theme, and see what God teaches about His Kingdom.

II. Acts 17:31. God is going to judge the world.

- A. “Judge” does not mean “punish” or “condemn.” God’s judgments are wonderful and desirable, Psalm 19:9-10, at least for the righteous. The Judges in Israel determined what was right for the nation and then set things right that way. To judge, one must have authority to do so. When God judges the world, He governs the world, and He will do it in righteousness. What a change that will be!
- B. “World” is *oikoumenen*, the inhabited world of men. We are the most messed up part of this world God made!
- C. We can be assured of all this since He raised Christ from the dead!
- D. What will the earth be like when God does this?

III. Psalm 67:1-7. This Psalm, uncredited, tells us what the earth will be like when God governs.

- A. Verse 1. All will come about because God is merciful.
- B. Verse 2. There will be great knowledge of God and His ways on earth. The nations, so clueless of all things Godly now, will know His salvation.
- C. Verse 3. This knowledge will result in all the peoples of the earth praising God!
- D. Verse 4. This shows that “judging” is not the simplistic idea of deciding “you go to heaven and you go to the lake of fire” at the end of time. Judging is governing, and God will someday govern the nations on earth, not destroy them with fire!
- E. Verse 5. Again, this will result in all the peoples of the earth praising God.
- F. Verse 6. The curse on the ground will be reversed, Genesis 3:17-18. The Bible shows no picture of a future wasted and empty earth, as some claim!
- G. Verse 7. Israel is blessed, but even the most remote places on earth learn to respect Him. This will be the world that God wanted when He created in the beginning!

IV. Romans 15:8-13. The New Testament also testifies to the fact that God is going to take control of the governments of this earth and make them what He wishes them to be.

- A. Verse 8. Christ confirms the promises made to the Israelite fathers. These are not Gentile fathers, Romans 9:4-5, for the fathers belong to Israel. The so-called “church fathers” are nothing recognized by God.
- B. Verse 9. “Gentiles” is from the Greek *ethnos*, which means “nation.” The nations will have reason to glorify God for His mercy. This is not true today, for the nations by and large do not even recognize God today, except in calamities (acts of God)!
- C. Verse 10. The nations will rejoice along with His people Israel.
- D. Verse 11. All nations and all peoples will have cause to praise.
- E. Verse 12. Jesus Christ, the root of Jesse, shall rise to reign (govern) over the nations. Those nations will then learn to place their hope in Him. They do not do this today! Instead, nations hope in many things that cannot truly help them.
- F. Verse 13. Our hope too is bound up in this. We may be filled with all joy and peace in believing this, and in trusting in Christ, Who will accomplish all this.

V. What is God’s ultimate purpose in all this, as we see it in these passages? Why does He do all this? Otis Q. Sellers, founder of *The Word of Truth Ministry*, our parent ministry, said that the

Divine purpose is “to produce a people who know Him, understand Him, and appreciate Him, with whom He can dwell.” With this I fully agree. What an awe-inspiring truth, that the God of the universe would desire to dwell with us!

VI. Revelation 21:1-3. The purpose of God reached.

- A. Verse 1. A new heaven and a new earth. The first passed away. But this was not for the purpose of destruction, but renewal. There is no more sea. The Mediterranean? The earth could use to have much more of its surface covered by land and much less by water! Yet this also could mean the mass of humanity that does not know God.
- B. Verse 2. The New Jerusalem comes out of heaven from God to the New Earth.
- C. Verse 3. Now the result: the tabernacle of God is with men!
 - 1. A “tabernacle” strictly means a tent, but it was the center of life to a nomadic people, or to an army living in the field. It means a “base of operations,” a “home-office,” not just one or the other.
 - 2. God’s center of activity will be among Adam’s race. Not among angels or cherubs, not in heaven, but on the New Earth!

VII. Conclusion: God’s ultimate purpose is to dwell with humanity, to make His center of activities among us, and to make us His people. The Kingdom of God is one step on the road to accomplishing this, but it is only a step. But this is God’s ultimate purpose: He wants us to know Him, and He wants to establish a relationship with us. Let us take advantage of that and establish a relationship with Him even now through Jesus Christ!