

## Episode #439 The Revolt Against the Kingdom 1 – The Great Testing

I. It is my conviction that we are currently living in the dispensation of the grace of God. This means that God is acting only and exclusively in grace. If He cannot act in grace, He will not act at all. This is what God is doing now, but it is plain that He will not be doing this forever.

II. Next on God's agenda is a dispensation of God's government upon earth. This time period will begin with the pouring forth of His Spirit on all mankind. God will take control of all the nations on earth and will govern them. This world needs God to govern it now more than ever.

III. There are many Biblical titles, given in the New Testament, for the Kingdom of God.

- A. The regeneration. Matthew 19:28. The Greek *palingenesis*, to generate or begin anew. The kingdom will be a new beginning for Israel, for mankind, and for the world.
- B. The times of refreshing. Acts 3:19. The earth has suffered under the terrible power of sin and death for long ages. This world needs a refreshing. Someday, it will get it.
- C. The times of restoration. Acts 3:21. Many things that once existed that were good and right have now been destroyed or corrupted. All such things will one day be restored.
- D. The day of Christ. Philippians 1:6. God had begun a good work in the Philippians. That work will find its completion in the kingdom of God. The day of Christ Jesus is the day of the Kingdom of God. Then Christ Jesus will have His day.
- E. The last days. Acts 2:17-21. Many wonders of the kingdom of God are spoken of here: the Spirit poured out on all flesh, blessings on the young, blessings on the old, even the lowest in society have the Spirit, wonders appear in heaven and on earth, whoever calls on the Lord's name shall be saved. This all takes place in the "last days." *Eschatos* days has to do with the resultant days, the result of God's long work to bring in the kingdom and bring these days to pass.

IV. Truth about the Kingdom.

- A. Many believe it comes with the second coming of Christ. As I showed in my series on "Bins for Bible Prophecies," this idea does not fit the Bible. The kingdom of God comes before the second coming of Christ. It is not the millennium.
- B. The kingdom of God is a long period of time, covering centuries. We do not know exactly how long it will be, but it will include all of Daniel's seventy weeks of years, or five hundred years. Thus, it covers centuries.
- C. When it comes, God makes the laws, creates order, gives light, and enforces righteousness. There will be sin, but it will be the exception, not the rule, and those who do sin will quickly receive the just penalty for that sin.

V. How will the kingdom end?

- A. The kingdom of God is a period of school, to teach all men on earth righteousness, Isaiah 26:9. It will end with a great test of all its subjects. One outcome of this test is that some who fail it will revolt against the kingdom.
- B. Many who will readily accept that God would step in and take control of earth's governments have difficulty imagining that there could ever be a revolt against that government. Yet the Bible teaches this, and so we must accept it. Perhaps we have several misconceptions about this.
  1. Just because there is a revolt does not mean it is successful or the kingdom is overthrown by it.
  2. This does not mean that all men, or even the majority of men, actually revolt.

- C. Matthew 26:52. This is one of the principles God's people will be expected to follow in the kingdom. Note that if no one would take up arms to stop a revolt, that revolt could succeed quite easily.
- D. Thus, part of the revolt's success is because those who remain obedient to the kingdom laws are forbidden from taking up arms against it. This is part of the test that comes upon all the world at that time. Revelation 3:10.
- E. There would be little point to God testing men on earth today. Over and over again men have proven their inability to govern themselves or to live according to God's righteous standards. In the kingdom of God, however, people will have learned better. Thus the revolt is a legitimate test that many will pass.

#### VI. The Testing of Adam.

- A. Love can never be forced. Adam was created and blessed by God, but now to develop in his relationship with God, Adam needed to be given a choice. God set up a test. This test involved risk. Adam could (and did) fail and fall into sin and evil. Yet God was equal to the situation, even when this occurred.
- B. Adam had a real choice. He was in a perfect environment, and had every opportunity to stay there. The choice was his to freely make, and he made it freely.
- C. If God had removed the tree, he would have never been disobedient. But he never would have been obedient either. God counted the positive benefit if he passed the test as worth the risk. Love is always worth the risk.
- D. The kingdom test is similar. All nations will be in a perfect environment in the kingdom, but they will not be given a choice about following God. God will have hedged them around with His judgment, His order, His justice, and His protection.
- E. Perhaps Satan will accuse men before God as he did Job. He is the accuser of the brethren at that time (Revelation 12:10). God responds by testing men upon earth by removing the kingdom controls and letting them walk in their own ways again for a short time.
- F. This strange period of time is set forth in many passages of Scripture. All the truth regarding Daniel's seventieth week is related to this. The first nineteen chapters of Revelation are related to it as well. Let us examine some of these passages.

VII. Conclusion: The long and glorious kingdom of God on earth in the future will end with a test of all Adamkind to reveal if we have learned to love and serve God from the heart. Many will pass this test, but some will fail. The result of their failure will be that they will revolt against the kingdom. What a strange period of time this will be! We will examine the revolt against the kingdom in our next program.