



The Kingdom of God

Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD

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Scripture quotations

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The Kingdom of God

To understand the Kingdom of God, we should begin by asking what constitutes a kingdom? A kingdom is primarily defined as a “community or major territorial unit having a monarchical form of government headed by a king or queen.” (Merriam-Webster.com)

This is also the Biblical definition of a kingdom. Four things are necessary to constitute a real kingdom: 1) a king or ruling agent; 2) land or territory; 3) subjects or citizens within that territorial jurisdiction; and finally, 4) laws and a form of government. If we leave any of these elements out, we do not have a real kingdom. And if we believe in some ethereal sort of “kingdom,” we do not believe in the true Gospel!

The truth on the subject of the Kingdom is revealed in God’s Word. What men think may be interesting and appealing to the intellect, but the truth is in the Holy Scripture. Let us begin with a prayer. Yeshua’s prayer for His Apostles is recorded in John 17:6-19 we find, ⁶ *“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. ⁹ I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. Look at these words and read them very carefully. These words represent **the true Lord’s Prayer**. Yeshua is asking God, the Father to watch over His Apostles and to keep them from Satan and out of harm’s way.*

Let’s take this section of Scripture and go one step further. Read what Yeshua asked the Father, for you and I, next in verses 20-26, ²⁰ *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”* The model prayer, that most men call the Lord’s Prayer, should be called the “people’s prayer.” It was given to mankind as an example of how we should pray, however, it is not the Lord’s Prayer.

Because of the nature of our study, we do need to go back to the Old Testament and understand a few things prior to our study in the New Testament. First, we need to investigate a Godly Kingdom and how and what does it say about such an entity. Turn to the prophet Isaiah and read in Isaiah 9:6-7, ⁶ *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and **over His kingdom.** To order it and establish*

it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Shortly before Yeshua's human conception, the Angel Gabriel told Mary, who would be His earthly mother, the following as recorded in Luke 1:28-35, ²⁸ *And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"* ²⁹ *But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.* ³⁰ *Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.* ³¹ *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Yeshua.* ³² **He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.** ³³ **And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.**" ³⁴ *Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"* ³⁵ *And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*

There is an interesting statement that is made in John 2:4. Recall that this was spoken at the wedding in Cana, ⁴ *Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour (hour is also stated as time in other translations) has not yet come."* Now turn to Mark 1:14-15, ¹⁴ *Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,* ¹⁵ *and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."* We observe that at some point between the wedding at Cana, and, AFTER His baptizing by John, that Yeshua's **time** began and that *the kingdom of God is at hand.* Doesn't that last phrase indicate that the Kingdom of God had begun and was present through Yeshua? Other verses tell to us even more of the beginning of the Kingdom. Look at Matthew 5:3, as taken from the Beatitudes, ³ *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. And, as asked by the Pharisees in Luke 17:20-21,* ²⁰ *Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed,* ²¹ *nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."* (ESV) There are two other passages found in Matthew that we need in order to understand what Yeshua is saying. The first verse is Matthew 11:12-13, ¹² *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.* ¹³ *For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.* The second verse is Matthew 12:28, ²⁸ **But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.**

There also seems to be a transition through the ages from the time of Abraham to the time of Yeshua concerning how God judges people. At the time of Abraham God judged people by their righteousness, Romans 4:3, ³ *For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." . . .* ¹³ *For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.* We also find the following in Matthew 5:20, ²⁰ *For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.* At the time of Moses, it was the law that God used to judge people, Luke 16:16, ¹⁶ *The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.* ¹⁷ *And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.* At the time of Yeshua it was by grace that people were judged, Romans 6:14-16, ¹⁴ *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

¹⁵ *What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? **Certainly not!*** ¹⁶ *Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?* ¹⁷ *But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.* ¹⁸ *And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

We next desire to observe the verses that define Yeshua as the King over the Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven. Haven't we already touched on this slightly? Look at the following verse from the statement made by Gabriel to Mary in Luke 1: 32, ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end. Let's turn to Daniel 7:13-14, ¹³ "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

During Yeshua's trial, Pontius Pilate asked Him if He was a king. John 18:33-37 provides us with this discussion, ³³ Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Yeshua, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Yeshua answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" ³⁶ Yeshua answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Yeshua answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

What is the nature of the government that is to rest on Yeshua's shoulders? God's message and plan for mankind is consistent. The prophet Daniel was inspired, nearly 600 years before Yeshua's birth, to write about the coming Kingdom of God. But, even more amazing to me is the statement that the prophet Isaiah wrote about 150 years prior to Daniel's words of prophecy. Read the 46th chapter of Isaiah: ¹ Bel bows down, Nebo stoops; Their idols were on the beasts and on the cattle. Your carriages were heavily loaded, A burden to the weary beast. ² They stoop, they bow down together; They could not deliver the burden, But have themselves gone into captivity. ³ "Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld by Me from birth, Who have been carried from the womb: ⁴ Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you. ⁵ "To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal And compare Me, that we should be alike? ⁶ They lavish gold out of the bag, And weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship. ⁷ They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it And set it in its place, and it stands; From its place it shall not move. Though one cries out to it, yet it cannot answer Nor save him out of his trouble. ⁸ "Remember this, and show yourselves men; Recall to mind, O you transgressors. ⁹ Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,' ¹¹ Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it. ¹² "Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, Who are far from righteousness: ¹³ I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger. And I will place salvation in Zion, For Israel My glory. Notice several things recorded in this passage of Scripture. In verse 3, God states that this pertains to both the House of Judah and the House of Israel. In verses 3b and 4, God tells us that he carries (cares for) us from birth to death. God declares Himself from the beginning to the end; the beginning is the former things of old. God is God and there is no other! There is no other entity known to mankind that is like God! God is consistent, He was in times past, He is today and in the future and He declares the end from the beginning. God has that unique capability to formulate the future from the beginning and to bring things to pass in their proper time. But, look at the last statement: And I will place salvation in Zion, For Israel My glory. Isn't that another foretelling of the Kingdom of God?

During the Jews captivity in ancient Babylon, Daniel served his masters in the palace of king Nebuchadnezzar. This world ruler had a vivid dream which so troubled him that he was losing sleep over it (Daniel 2:1). He just had to know its meaning! So, Nebuchadnezzar ordered his court magicians, astrologers, and sorcerers to reveal to him the dream's meaning. However, this shrewd despot would not even tell his "trusted" advisors what he had dreamt! They were first required to tell him his dream so that he could know their interpretations were trustworthy (vv. 2-9). They, of course, were unable to do so (vv. 10-11).

God, however, had given Daniel "understanding in all visions and dreams" (Daniel 1:17). When Daniel was brought before the king (2:25) he explained, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king, but there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to the king what will be in the latter days" (vv.27-28).

So God's purpose here was to reveal to this pagan ruler that there is a real God who rules the vast universe, as well as to reveal what would happen "in the latter days." The dream was revealed to the king in Daniel 2:31-36, ³¹ *"You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. ³² This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴ You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. ³⁶ "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.*

Did this dream mean something? Yes, of course it did! It was inspired from God to be revealed at that time to this pagan king, but, with its dual purpose, it was also to reveal future events in the "latter days." God's Word tells us that, *"all Scripture . . . is profitable"* (2 Timothy 3:16). Additionally, Revelation 19:10 teaches us that *"the testimony of Yeshua is the spirit of prophecy."* The Apostle Peter wrote that *"we have the prophetic word confirmed . . . knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"* (2 Peter 1:19-21). We must never try to interpret the Bible by reading our ideas into it! And we must not believe the personal interpretation of other human beings. We must deeply study the Bible, comparing scripture with scripture. We must let the Bible interpret itself.

Daniel gave God's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream as it is recorded in Daniel 2:37-45, ³⁷ *You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; ³⁸ and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. ³⁹ But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰ And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. ⁴¹ Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. ⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. ⁴³ As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. ⁴⁵ Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."* God did a marvelous thing by showing this dream to king Nebuchadnezzar. God showed the king the future. He revealed, through the interpretation of the dream by Daniel, that there

would be five kingdoms upon the earth. The first kingdom was that of Babylon, the second would be the Medo-Persian empire, the third would be the empire of Alexander the Great, the fourth would be the Roman empire and the final kingdom would be the Kingdom of God.

Let's look more closely to verses 44 and 45. The meaning of the stone "cut out of the mountain without hands" that smashes the image represented the succession of human world-ruling empires and then grows to fill the whole earth. This is the revelation we have been seeking! Here, in the plain words of God Almighty, is the explanation of what the Kingdom of God really is: ⁴⁴ ***And in the days of these kings*** (the last revival of the Roman Empire) ***the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*** Revelation 11:15 affirms Daniel's prophecy. At the time of Yeshua's second coming, loud voices in heaven will proclaim: ¹⁵ *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*

Daniel's prophecy, when studied with the book of Revelation, should make it abundantly clear that the future Kingdom of God will be a literal government, just as were the previously mentioned world-ruling empires. As Daniel concluded, in verse 45, ⁴⁵ ***Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.*** This is gloriously wonderful Good News!

Regrettably, many do not have faith that God Almighty means what He says and says what He means! God clearly states in these prophecies that He is going to completely transform civilization. God has repeatedly foretold His end-time rule over the nations of this earth. Understand the following in Psalm 96:13, ¹³ *For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.* Again, just for emphasis, God repeated this prophecy in Psalm 98:9, ⁹ *For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.* Why do we not hear this type of Gospel preaching in today's world. In your heart, you probably know why! This message is extremely unpopular with most of the religious, political, and social leaders in today's power structures. They do not want to lose their power! Ha! That's the same reason that Satan wants to deceive as many as he possibly can—he doesn't want to lose his power. Nevertheless, there will be a real new world order established under Yeshua's leadership, totally changing this world's political and religious institutions. Will you believe what God says, or will you swallow the philosophical concoctions brewed up by disobedient, sinful men who have been deceived by Satan the Devil, the "god" of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4)?

There are several more items we need to observed concerning the Kingdom of Heaven. What about the purpose of the Kingdom? Yeshua makes His statement concerning His purpose in Luke 4:43-44, ⁴³ *but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."* ⁴⁴ *And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.*

Actually, we can learn much from the parable that Yeshua spoke in the 19th chapter of Luke, look at this parable, Luke 19:12-27, ¹² *Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. ¹³ So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'* ¹⁴ *But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'* ¹⁵ *And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. ¹⁶ Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.'* ¹⁷ *And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'* ¹⁸ *And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.'* ¹⁹ *Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five*

cities.’ ²⁰ *Then another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief.’* ²¹ *For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.’* ²² *And he said to him, ‘Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant. You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow.’* ²³ *Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’* ²⁴ *And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas.’* ²⁵ *(But they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas.’)* ²⁶ *For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.* ²⁷ *But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.’* “The nobleman, in verse 12, is Yeshua and the journey that He makes is the return to His Father, God, after His crucifixion. We see in verse 13 that those obedient to Yeshua are expected to work and function while He is away from them. Verse 14 tells us that there are those who oppose Yeshua and do not want Him as the King. Verse 15 provides to us the reassurance that He will return, but, at that time He wants to know what the obedient servants have done. To those who worked hard a reward was given to them and they were elevated in position and governed over cities within the kingdom. To those who sat on their backside and did nothing, as reflected in verses 20-23, they were punished and what little they were given was taken from them and given to the one who worked the hardest, verses 24-25. It is verse 27 that I really desire that you understand. Go back and read verse 14 once again. There are those who are under the influence of Satan who hate Yeshua and refuse to accept Him as King and LORD. Read with understanding verse 27. Those who hate Yeshua are identified as enemies who do not want Yeshua as their king. He tells His other servants to bring those who are His enemies and slay (remove) them before Him. Isn’t that the Great White Throne Judgment before God Almighty where all whose name is not written in the Book of Life are thrown into the outer darkness of Hell? We also find the wages of those within the Kingdom in Romans 6:23, ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus (Yeshua) our Lord.* Let’s add to this parable concerning work. Read what is recorded in Matthew 7:17-20, ¹⁷ *Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.* ¹⁸ *A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.* ¹⁹ *Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.* ²⁰ *Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

We have seen that the Kingdom has territory and cities. We have also seen that we are expected to work and there are consequences for not working. We can see this ability to work illustrated by other verses within the Bible. Look at another statement of Yeshua in Matthew 6:17-21, 33, ¹⁷ *But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,* ¹⁸ *so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

¹⁹ *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;”* ²⁰ *but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.* ²¹ *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. . . .* ³³ *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Paul spoke several statements that follow the teachings of Yeshua and at the same time add more support to what Yeshua taught. First, look at Acts 19:8-10, ⁸ *And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.* ⁹ *But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.* ¹⁰ *And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.* Now turn to Acts 14:21-22, ²¹ *And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,* ²² *strengthening the souls of the disciples,*

exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." There is one other little item that we need to address. Where is a statement pertaining to subjects in the Kingdom of God. There is such a verse, and it also tells us that God's feast days will also be observed, look at Zechariah 14:16, ¹⁶ And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

What we have been doing is showing you, the reader, the truth pertaining to the Kingdom of God, even so, there is another side to these facts. We saw in the parable of the nobleman that there were enemies of the King. There are many verses in scripture that will also tell us the negative side. We must show you those verses so that you have adequate information for you to make a sound decision on where you want your eternal soul to spend eternity. Here goes those verses, I will begin with short verses and progress to those verses that are very specific. John 3:3, 5, ³ *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." . . . ⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Luke 18:17, ¹⁷ Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." Luke 13:22-28, ²² And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³ Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, ²⁴ "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵ When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' ²⁶ then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' ²⁷ But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' ²⁸ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. Matthew 7:21-23. ²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' Galatians 5:19-21, ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Ephesians 5:5-7, ⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. Finally, Revelation 21:8, ⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

There is also a warning that is given to those who would stand in the way of another trying to enter the Kingdom of God. Read the following, Matthew 23:13, ¹³ *But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.* Read also, Matthew 5:19-20, ¹⁹ *Whoever therefore breaks*

one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Our final selection of material that we need to review to understand, even in some small way, the very nature of the Kingdom of God is how Yeshua's teachings speak of eternity and the impact upon our soul and spirit. Let us beginning in the Old Testament with a passage from Daniel, Daniel 2:44-45, ⁴⁴ *And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.* ⁴⁵ *Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”* Revelation 5:10, ¹⁰ *And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”* John 14:6, ⁶ *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* Revelation 21:3-7, ³ *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” ⁶ And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. Revelation 1:5-8, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Matthew 25:31-46, ³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ ⁴¹ Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” 1*

Corinthians 15:50-54, ⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell 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 trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will 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 has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1 John 5:13, ¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Let's re-examine a passage of Scripture from the book of Matthew, Matthew 24:4-14, ⁴ And Yeshua answered and said to them: “**Take heed that no one deceives you.** ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows. ⁹ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² **And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.** ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴ **And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

Over the course of time, I have learned to accept what Yeshua said and meant by this passage. Through this study of the Kingdom of God, there is no indication to me that there will be a second opportunity for mankind to stand before Almighty God at the second resurrection judgment to learn of Yeshua and have an opportunity to accept Yeshua as Lord and Savior. It just doesn't fit into what I read in the Bible. Yes, there is the Old Testament passage pertaining to dry bones being raised up, but that does not fulfill Scripture pertaining to who will and who will not be allowed to enter into the Kingdom of God. People really must understand that Satan is very happy to mislead you into believing false doctrine. Be careful of what you accept as being truth. Even the Bible tells us to check and test all things!

Look around you. We are now living in an age when technology is advancing at a rate that doubles about every three months. Our world is in a rush to get to wherever, and if it doesn't happen fast enough to suit the players they move on to something else, and lose faith in whatever was new last week. Please understand who Yeshua is, what His message is and where the Kingdom of God shall be. Your eternal state of affairs depends on those three things. Repent and change your ways!

Maranatha



VQP



VQP



VQP

