

Pentwater Bible Church

Hebrews Message 43

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The Temple of Solomon Artist unknown

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Hebrews
Message Forty–Three
THE KINGDOM OF GOD
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THE KINGDOM

Hebrews 12:27–29

²⁷And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that have been made, that those things which are not shaken may remain. ²⁸Wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well-pleasing to God with reverence and awe: ²⁹for our God is a consuming fire (ASV, 1901).

In verse 27 the final shaking of the Tribulation before the Second Coming will introduce a final unshakeable order. This is the Messianic Kingdom. The apostle is still quoting from the book of Haggai, *Yet once more*, to illustrate how this applies. The application is that which is shakable is temporary; that which is unshakable is eternal. The fact regarding God shaking the earth once and will be shaken again shows that the earth is temporary. That is why the shaking *signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that have been made*. The shakable is to be destroyed in order *that those things which are not shaken may remain* because those things which are unshakable are eternal. That is they are outside of the natural decaying world in time and space. The present system is shakable in its corruption and therefore it must be destroyed, but when the Messianic Kingdom is set up, it will be unshakable. This epistle was written sometime between A.D. 64–66, and the First Jewish Revolt against Rome would break out in full force in A.D. 66. In the two years preceding A.D. 66, there were several mini-revolts in various cities located in the Land of Israel. These mini-revolts were a prelude to the big revolt. In this verse, the writer implies the shaking has already begun, but the current shaking is merely the prelude to the shaking that will bring an end to the present system. He anticipated a very imminent destruction of Jerusalem. The Temple and the Old Covenant are shakable and, therefore, they are temporary; but the New Jerusalem and the New Covenant are unshakable and, thus, they are eternal. According to Haggai 2:6, in that final shaking, the old will pass away and the new will be brought in. This action will give the saints a fit place to live for all eternity. The application to his audience is that to go back to the Levitical system is to go back to something that is about to be destroyed.

Why do they need to do this? They need to appropriate grace because, in verse 29, the writer says the alternative is divine judgment. He quotes Deuteronomy 4:24: *for our God is a consuming fire*. This phrase points out that, while God is a God of grace, He is also a God of judgment for those who fail to accept grace. If they fail to accept grace and instead return to Judaism, they will be judged with physical death. It is a warning of discipline in this life for those who return to Judaism. Further, if any have not fully accepted the saving grace of salvation they will have to endure the Tribulation and be sent to Hell. What is the Kingdom that is spoken of here?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE KINGDOM

Mark 1:14-15

¹⁴ Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into 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 ye, and believe the gospel (KJV).

Mark says that Jesus *came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God*. He was proclaiming the appointed time of His arrival on earth as prophesied in the Old Testament. Two terms frequently found in the New Testament are the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. It is important to distinguish between these two terms because both of them appear in the Gospels and elsewhere. The basic distinction is that the “Kingdom of God” which appears here in Mark chapter one is universal in that it includes all the elect and those who have been regenerated of all ages (Luke 13:28-29; Hebrews 12:22-23). Therefore, this is the more inclusive term to include all “saved” people of all times. Whereas the term “Kingdom of Heaven” is a very Messianic term found in the book of Matthew. It can be said that it is Davidic, and Messianic describing the establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth over Israel and placing them in a position of government over the nations of the world. Davidic refers to the covenant which bears his name given in II Samuel 7:18-29. The Davidic Covenant and it had four eternal promises. An eternal dynasty

An eternal throne
An eternal kingdom
One eternal person

The Dynasty became eternal because it culminated in a Person Who is Himself eternal: Jesus the Messiah. For that reason, the Throne and Kingdom will be eternal as well. Jesus has yet to sit on the Throne of David ruling over a Kingdom of Israel. The fulfillment of this reestablishment of David’s Throne over the Kingdom of Israel is yet future to us today. It will be realized in the Messianic Kingdom after Christ returns.

Jesus announced this Kingdom of God as being “at hand” or immediately available. It was rejected by the ruling Jews of His time and it therefore was delayed. It was suspended until a time yet future to the Church Age after the Great Tribulation. In general, the ruling Jews did not accept the Gospel of Jesus but the Gentiles did during this period of Grace. The repentance that Jesus spoke of is a faith in the Gospel that is coupled with true repentance (II Corinthians 7:13). Interestingly many Jews understood this announcement of the Kingdom from the One who *only* can provide entrance into it. In fact Jesus told His apostles to ask for it during their prayers (Matthew 6:9-13).

At the point of His ascension back to Heaven the apostles asked Him if He was going to restore the kingdom to Israel at that time. His answer was essentially “not now.” (Acts 1:6-7)

This concept of the Kingdom was known in Israel at the time of Jesus and they were waiting for it. There is much confusion about the nature, development, and fulfillment of the Kingdom in the Bible. In order to sufficiently explain the Kingdom we must examine the entire Bible as the concept is developed beginning in the book of Genesis. Many in the Church teach a “Kingdom Now” theology. This is not how the Bible describes the Kingdom.

KINGDOM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

The establishment of this Kingdom was determined before, and designed or prepared from, the foundation of the world. As such it is connected with this supernatural outside of time and space. We see this referenced in Psalm 90:2; Matthew 25:34; John 17:24; Ephesians 1:4; Hebrews 4:3; I Peter 1:20 and Revelation 13:8. The Lord created the Heavenly Kingdom which existed before the earth was formed and before the Fall of mankind. Many believe that the Kingdom is too complex and obscure to be easily comprehended. The doctrine of the Kingdom can become better understood and appreciated with study and a clear presentation by a thorough understanding of the Whole Counsel of God.

THE KINGDOM WAS OFFERED TO THE JEWS

Such passages as Deuteronomy 7:6 and 14:2; Romans 11:28 and 9:11, etc., are decisive, that the sovereignty of God chose in the descendants of Abraham, the Jews, a people *through whom* should be manifested his Divine purpose in the salvation of man. The Kingdom was offered to this chosen, elected nation, as is seen, in Exodus 19:5, 6, where it is declared that if faithful and obedient, it should be God’s “*peculiar treasure above all people,*” and it should become “*a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*” The Kingdom itself was offered to them is *a divine-political* (church and state united) dominion, over which *God Himself, as an earthly Ruler,* presides or rules as the Supreme.

THE KINGDOM IS NOT A PREVALENT TOPIC IN THE CHURCH

Psalm 25:14

“The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant “ (KJV).

Because of this revelation given in Psalm 25:1 knowledge of the Kingdom is sorely lacking in the Church. With the apostasy, biblical ignorance, and assertive moral turpitude God has withdrawn from those who could be enlightened regarding the facts of His Theocratic Kingdom. As a result of this, the concept of the Kingdom has come to mean almost anything. Typically, we see definitions such as:

1. Messiah’s spiritual reign during the Church Age.
2. The Gospel
3. A renewed heart
4. Religion
5. The truth
6. Salvation
7. Heaven
8. The way of salvation
9. Following the Savior.
10. The world to come

This is hardly an exhaustive list but it provides enough examples to show that there is a variety of different topics that Bible teachers, theologians, and pastors use to define the Lord's Kingdom. There are other sound reasons for this lack of understanding of this important doctrine. Chief among these is a lack of trust in the Bible.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE KINGDOM IS STRICTLY OBTAINED FROM THE BIBLE

There is no other source for the knowledge of God that He has given to this earth. He is the center of all things and our Lord Jesus is God in the flesh that came to save us and during His time on this earth He validated the authenticity of the Scriptures (Mark 12:10; Luke 4:21; John 7:42; Acts 8:32 etc.).

As such today there is a de-emphasis on learning the Bible and what it teaches. Churches do not teach it fully and accurately. They rely on topical teaching that is fraught with denominational bias and lack of understanding. Mostly this problem can be attributed to faulty seminary training or the lack thereof and an over emphasis on relationships between church members. It has become a man centered training instead of a God centered training of the Body of Christ. The apostle Paul said if he were just out to please man instead of God he would not be a servant of Christ (Galatians 1:10). However, this is what has become of the Church of Jesus Christ. It is a self-serving entity organized to make the lives of all leaders and congregants richer, healthier, and better off in this life in general. This is exactly the opposite of what Christ said. The Lord Jesus called life going to the other side not here. He also said that the path of getting in was straight and narrow and few will find it. He also said the path of destruction is wide and most of the world's inhabitants will be on that path (Matthew 7:14-15). Inherent with this is a de-emphasis of Bible prophecy. This is one of the keys to understanding the Kingdom since the Bible says that Jesus is the Spirit of Bible prophecy (Revelation 19:10). When prophecy is not taught one of the results is a lack of understanding of the Kingdom and the King Himself.

GOD IS THE KING IN JESUS CHRIST

The King Himself devised the plan before the foundation of the world of His Theocratic Kingdom and as such it is of supernatural origin. When Jesus who is of supernatural origin comes again He will set up the natural earthly kingdom. It will be the realization of the aspect of the broad concept of the Theocratic Kingdom, which He spoke of while training His apostles to pray (Matthew 6:10). Men who listen to these things today describe them as foolishness or strange and not believable. God foresaw this when He gave Isaiah prophecies 2,700 years ago describing the unbelief that would occur. Men may call this foolishness, incredible, etc., and from a natural experience position it is a "*strange work*" (Isaiah 28:21), "*a marvellous work and a wonder, for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid*" because "*their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men*" (Isaiah 29:13, 14). Isaiah says that the fear of men is taught superseding the fear of the Lord (Psalm 25:14).

REGARDLESS OF WHAT MEN SAY THE KINGDOM IS DEVELOPING

It does not matter how sinful and what level of apostasy men fall into, God's plan will unfold exactly as He said it would. The Bible is a revelation describing God's plan to save man from his fallen condition. As such by implementing His plan for the Kingdom on earth He will establish it in His own timing. First, He gave the chosen Jews the Mosaic Law laying out His expectation for mankind. Then He gave the Jews the Theocratic earthly Kingdom, which the Jews were expected

to rely on Him for supreme leadership and direction. Failing that the King Himself came to this earth to provide for the means of entrance into the earthly Messianic Kingdom, which is yet future to us. The plan of redemption is based upon the principle announced by Jesus: *“They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. (Matthew 9:12)”* The disease, as well as the physician and remedy, must be kept in view in order to appreciate the provision He made for us. The whole world is sick, sinful and dying. We need a Savior not more sin. The activists of the various sinful groups all clamor for more license not to be free from the sin. The sin atonement has been made available to us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The next step on the broad prophetic horizon will be the Great Tribulation. It is a vast world war orchestrated by God (Revelation chapters 4 & 5) and carried out for seven years to affect three goals.

1. Make an end of wickedness and sinful ones (Isaiah 13:9)
2. Bring about a worldwide revival (Revelation 7:1-17)
3. Break the power (will) of the holy people (Daniel 12:5-7; Ezekiel 20:33-38).

The King will return when the Jewish nation calls out to Him in belief to return. One of the principal reasons for the Great Tribulation is to break the will of the Holy People, the Jews (Daniel 12:7). Because of the tremendous pressure of the Tribulation the remnant will be under and the circumstances surrounding their confession they will accept their King.

THOSE GOING INTO THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM IN RESURRECTED BODIES WILL BE:

- The people who are in the Church from the first Pentecost until the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:14-17; I Corinthians 15:54; Jude 1:14; Revelation 19:14).
- Old Testament Saints (Isaiah 26:19).
- Great Tribulation Saints (Revelation 20:4).
- Possibly the 144,000 Jewish evangelists.

THOSE GOING INTO THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM IN NATURAL BODIES WILL BE:

- The Jews who made it through the Tribulation.
- The Gentiles who survived the Tribulation and the Lord’s judgment in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Matthew 25:31-46; Joel 3:2).

At the start of the Messianic Kingdom Satan, the evil source of all entropy, unrest and sin in the world will be bound for the entire thousand-year Kingdom. This will greatly reduce the general angst on the earth. It will not eliminate the sin nature for those in natural bodies but greatly reduce it. Satan is the progenitor of sin, violence, and corruption that has been on the earth since he entered the Garden of Eden. Satan indwelling a serpent beguiled the first man and woman to violate God’s Word therefore bringing these wicked concepts into the world.

Revelation 20:1-3

¹And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, ³and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the

nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season (KJV).

During the Millennium there will be several topographical and physics related changes that begin at the start of the Tribulation and continue to the start of the Messianic Kingdom.

Revelation 6:12-14

¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; ¹³ and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. ¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places (KJV).

In the Millennial Kingdom God will cause the speed of light to increase (Isaiah 30:26). The aspect of this that pertains to the Messianic Kingdom is the resulting increased productivity of the land and crops, the population increase and the longevity of life as it was prior to the Flood (Isaiah 30:23–26).

The land will be well watered, produce abundant food and have a seven fold increase in light. All physical infirmities will be healed. Since the speed of light has been significantly faster closer to the creation than it is now, it is apparent that light will increase in speed during this Millennial Kingdom. This will be the reason for the increase in food production and the longevity of life in the Millennium. Again, Isaiah received God declaration regarding the changes in the earth that will occur before the Millennial Kingdom (Isaiah 65: 17–25).

God has given us through Isaiah many characteristics of this new era coming on the earth.

1. A New creation of the heavens and the earth. This is actually better translated as newer or renovated.
2. Jerusalem will be significantly changed to accommodate the restructuring of the world government headquarters under King Jesus the Messiah.
3. Life and death in the Millennial Kingdom will be significantly different. Life will be characterized by longevity.
4. Due to the peace and prosperity as well as the acceleration of light in the Kingdom, building and planting will be enabled in abundance (Isaiah 30:23).
5. There will be an absence of war and calamity.
6. The animal kingdom will be at peace with one another and with humans as well.

THE RENOVATION

For the entire period of the Messianic Kingdom circumstances will be significantly better than the conditions of this earth which we are presently experiencing. It should not be confused with the genuine and completely new earth and heavens of the Eternal Order which appears following the Messianic Kingdom (Revelation 21-22). There will be a continuation of many of the characteristics

and practices of the present earth albeit without the angst of sin as Satan the sin originator is bound for the one-thousand years.

The land of Israel will undergo many topographical alterations as a result of the Tribulation and the inauguration of the New Covenant. The Millennial Mountain upon which the city of Jerusalem and the Temple will sit will be the highest in the earth. However, the Mediterranean Sea as well as the Dead Sea will remain for example. The Dead Sea will no longer be void of life as the Millennial River will flow through into it causing it to teem with life as never before (Ezekiel 47:8-10).

LONGEVITY OF LIFE

Infant mortality in the Millennium will cease to exist because everyone who is born in the Kingdom will reach a minimum age of one-hundred years. The entire outlook on the length of one's life will alter significantly. People who die at the age of one hundred will be considered as having died young. Because of the Jews being unable to sin as a result of the New Covenant, and many will be there in resurrected bodies, death will be limited to those in natural bodies only. They will be unbelievers, as only they would be considered *accursed*. Death in the Kingdom will be for unbelievers only who are the offspring of those that came into the Kingdom in natural bodies and never accepted the gospel of Christ. The sin nature will continue to exist for those in natural bodies in the Kingdom but will be greatly reduced by the imprisonment of Satan in the Abyss. Those born in natural bodies will have until they reach one-hundred years of age to profess faith in Jesus or they will die as accursed.

INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY OF THE LAND

The production of the food will be greatly increased because of the watering and increased light speed. The deserts of Israel will be again rich in food and productivity (Isaiah 35:1-2). Large volumes of food will come from the areas on the east and west side of Millennial Jerusalem on the Millennial Mountain. In the southern section of the map of the Millennial Mountain on a previous page the area will be ten miles by fifty miles. In the midst of this section Jerusalem will be located, measuring ten miles by ten miles. On either side of the city will be field areas, each measuring ten by twenty miles, for growing food. These areas will be controlled by the prince, the resurrected David, who will apportion the Land according to each tribe. The city is to cover an area of ten square miles. The areas on either side will also be for grazing land, as well as highly productive farmland (Ezekiel 48:15-18).

WAR WILL BE ABSENT FOR MOST OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM.

With the Messiah on His throne in Jerusalem on the Millennial Mountain the Word of God will be the governing authority in the entire earth with no need for war (Isaiah 2:1-4). Jesus will settle all differences in a peaceful manner and as a result there will no longer be any need to have the implements of war available. So, the nations will reform most of their war armaments into tools used for peaceful purposes. When the complete one-thousand-year Kingdom is over, Satan will be released from the Abyss. He will be able to convince some of the unsaved Gentiles to conduct an

insurrection against Jerusalem. It will be quickly put down by God as they reach the city by fire that He brings down from Heaven (Revelation 20:9).

PEACE WILL REIGN BETWEEN ANIMALS AND HUMANS

Man was given dominion over all living things (Genesis 1:28c). The entire animal kingdom on the earth, in the air, and in the sea was put under the authority of man. The first exercise of this authority was man's naming of the animals (Genesis 2:19-20).

Man was to be a vegetarian (Genesis 1:29-30; 2:16). His relationship to the wildlife was one of coexistence in peace and he was to exercise authority over the animal kingdom. No blood of any kind was to be shed. God brought all the animals to Adam for him to provide names for them. After the Flood the animals were without still fear and docile toward man and each other. They easily propagated and filled the earth. At the command of God Noah sacrificed every clean beast and bird (Genesis 8:20). Up to this sacrifice the animals coexisted with humans in relative peace. After that God put the fear of man within the animal's nature. He includes "*every beast of the earth*", "*every bird of the air*", "*all wherewith the ground teemeth*" (i.e. crawls on the ground), and "*all the fishes of the sea*" (Genesis 9:2). The cattle and the domesticated animals were excluded. They would not have an inner fear of mankind, because one aspect of the Noahic covenant is that they became a food source for man. God gives man dominion over the animal kingdom, and man is required to provide responsible stewardship over the creatures of the earth. This relationship with the animal kingdom will continue until the Great Tribulation when the animal kingdom will turn on mankind in an adversarial relationship. They will assist the Lord in the destruction of twenty-five percent of the world's human population:

Revelation 6:8

"And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and the beasts of the earth." (KJV, underlining added)

Following the Great Tribulation comes the seventy-five-day interval and then the inauguration of the Messianic Kingdom where the animal-human relationship will revert back to its Edenic state. The knowledge of God will permeate throughout the entire world, causing man and animals alike to all live peaceably together in harmony. The curse will be lifted and peace and harmony will again exist between the animal kingdom and their relationship to humans. The wolf, leopard lion, and bear are mentioned as examples of wild animals that will dwell safely with farm animals (the lamb, goat, calf, cow, and oxen). A little child will be able to safely play with lions, bears, cobras, and vipers (Isaiah 65:25). And on the temple mount of The Millennial Mountain there will be complete tranquility.

Isaiah 11:6-9

⁶And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead

them. ⁷And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea (ASV, 1901).

The only exception to this is the serpent will retain its place following the curse God placed upon it for allowing itself to be used by Satan as a vehicle to enter the Garden of Eden and bring sin into the world. It too though will be harmless.

Isaiah 65:25

²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

Next message: CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW
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