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Tillamook, Oregon

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## *Christmas 2021 – A Kingdom Without End*

*December 26, 2021*

**Sermon Text:** Isaiah 9

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 9

Isa 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (7) Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

I suppose every nation that has ever existed fancied that it would last forever – or at least for a very, very, very long time. Our own nation here in the USA has only been around for a bit over 200 years, but who can imagine the world without it?

If you have studied history, you know that nations – world empires even – rise and fall. Hitler had his idea of the Third Reich which the Nazis referred to as the Thousand Year Reich – claiming it to be the successor to the Holy Roman Empire which did last for 1,000 years. It went down in destruction only 12 years later.

Other empires have fared better:

- Egyptians
- Babylonians
- Assyrians
- Media Persia
- Greece under Alexander

- Rome
- The Asian empires and dynasties
- Mayans and Aztecs

And yet they are nothing but ruins today.

There is a kingdom however that has already begun to form which will last forever and ever and ever. It is the kingdom which we pray for as Christ taught us to pray – *thy kingdom come* – a kingdom that will encompass not only the earth but the entire universe and where God’s will shall be done just as it is in heaven now.

This kingdom of Christ is promised repeatedly throughout Scripture. For example:

Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,

Dan 7:13-14 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. (14) And 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 one that shall not be destroyed.

Psa 145:13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.]

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

Heb 1:8 But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness

is the scepter of your kingdom.

These are just a few of the many such scriptures which announce the eternal nature of the kingdom of God. And then listen once more to our text for this morning:

Isa 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(7) Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Notice the emphasis on the forever nature of the kingdom:

- Everlasting Father
- There will be no end
- This time forth and forevermore

There are many other incredible topics in these two short verses which deserve attention:

- A child is born who is a Son
- His names – Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

The nature of His kingdom:

- His Absolute Authority
- The universality of His kingdom
- Righteousness and peace characterize it

But what I want to focus our thoughts upon this morning is this subject: *The eternal nature of Christ's kingdom.* “Of his government and of peace there will be no end.”

How do kingdoms end? What happened to the Babylonians, the Assyrians, to Alexander the Great and all the rest? Well, they all fell pretty much like this:

Dan 5:22-31 And you his son,

Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, (23) but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored. (24) “Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. (25) And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. (26) This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; (27) TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; (28) PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.” (29) Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a

proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. (30) That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. (31) And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

Kingdoms rise and fall. They implode from within like the Roman Empire did, and then are conquered by another nation. In this fallen world there have always been, as Jesus said, “wars and rumors of wars.” Think about this just in our own lifetimes:

- WWII
- Korea
- VietNam
- Constant war in the Middle East
- And many more we may not even know much about

Kingdoms, nations, coming and going. Rising and falling.

Now, if a kingdom is to be eternal, a kingdom that will never end, think about what is necessary:

- There can never again be war. No possibility of it at all. No nation can ever rise up and be a threat to this kingdom.
- The King of this kingdom must be all-powerful

1Co 15:24-25 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. (25) For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

- Every part of the universe must be included in this kingdom (note the phrase “the increase of His government will not end – expansion throughout the creation). There cannot be any other kingdoms in which the citizens are subject to another king.
- This King must be eternal. If His throne and kingdom is eternal, then necessarily HE is eternal.

Luk 1:31-33 And behold, you will

conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (32) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to 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.”

This is the only way that the Davidic Covenant could ever be fulfilled:

2Sa 7:16-17 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” (17) In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

- The New Heavens and Earth could not be eternal if the King were not eternal. But Christ’s kingdom is incorruptible, as are our resurrection bodies. An eternal people requires an eternal King:

1Co 15:50-53 I tell you this,

brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (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 imperishable, and we shall be changed. (53) For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

- An eternal kingdom requires a people who love the King, who love one another, who are perfectly content, who know nothing ever again of sin. There will never ever be discontent, grumbling, or rebellion in the King's kingdom. In other words, there will be no sin.

Rev 21:8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is

the second death.”

Rev 22:14-15 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. (15) Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

- An eternal kingdom means that death is no more. No separation ever again. No aspect of the curse. Nothing that hurts.

Rev 21:1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4)

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

- And an eternal kingdom, a kingdom that is forever and ever, requires a King who is...like this (Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 2) -

1. There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and most righteous will, for His own glory, most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth,

forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him; and withal most just and terrible in His judgments; hating all sin; and who will by no means clear the guilty.

2. God hath all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of Himself; and is alone in and unto Himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which He hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting His own glory in, by, unto, and upon them; He is the alone foundation of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom, are all things; and hath most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them, whatsoever Himself pleaseth. In His sight all things are open and manifest; His knowledge is

infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature; so as nothing is to Him contingent or uncertain. He is most holy in all His counsels, in all His works, and in all His commands. To Him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience He is pleased to require of them.

- An eternal kingdom requires a king who not only has conquered all enemies in this world, but all enemies in the heavenlies as well. This business has to be brought to an end once and for all-

Eph 6:11-12 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Rev 20:10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

We have never ever lived for a moment in a world where the devil was not prowling around working his evil. His attacks on us are far more common than we might realize and it is a great mistake on our part to not realize it. One of the most amazing aspects of our life to come in the new creation is going to be absolute peace and absence of any enemy attacks. Probably only then will we understand just how often Satan and his servants launched their missiles at us.

- Finally (though no doubt there are more qualities of a King whose kingdom is forever)...the King of the new creation, the King of kings...our King...*must be one of us*. He must be God, but He must be man. And this is just what we have in Christ:



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