

Morning Sermon December 30, 2018

"Increase of His Government..." Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:1-2

I. Whose Government?

⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace ... (Isaiah 9:7 NKJ)

1. Take this passage back, it is the Prince of Peace's Government, the Wonderful Counselor's Government, the Mighty God's and Everlasting Father's Government ...

2. It is the Government of the Child Born & Son Given –

3. It is the Government of the Light, Who shines in the darkness –

Nevertheless the gloom **will not be** upon her who **is** distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed **her**, **By** the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles.² The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. (Isaiah 9:1-2 NKJ)

4. It is the Government which brings:

A. Multiplication - ³ You have multiplied the nation (Isaiah 9:3 NKJ)

B. Increased joy –

And increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As **men** rejoice when they divide the spoil. (Isaiah 9:3B NKJ)

C. The end of oppression –

For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. (Isaiah 9:4 NKJ)

D. Ultimately the end of war –

For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning **and** fuel of fire. (Isaiah 9:5 NKJ)

This is Jesus Christ's government -

II. This is God's government, the Government of the Prince of Peace, a different kind of Government –

1. A government of service –

A. This was to be a distinguishing mark of Christ's Kingdom -

Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.²⁵ And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.'²⁶ "But not so **among** you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and

he who governs as he who serves.²⁷ "For who **is** greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? **Is** it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. (Luke 22:24-27 NKJ)

B. The ultimate Servant was Christ Himself, the ultimate service, giving your life –

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45 NKJ)

2. God's government is a government of God-given fair law, teachings, intelligence, Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor –

A. There are two kinds of "government" in the world recognized and described in Scripture

- Horn government, beastly, animal passions and power and
- Craftsmen government, obedient to God, characterized by wisdom -

Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were four horns.¹⁹ And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?" So he answered me, "These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem."²⁰ Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen.²¹ And I said, "What are these coming to do?" So he said, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up **their** horn against the land of Judah to scatter it." (Zechariah 1:18-21 NKJ)

B. God gave Israel and us, in the Scriptures true wise teachings to govern our lives, to which He requires obedience -

"Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to **them** in the land which you go to possess.⁶ "Therefore be careful to observe **them**; for this **is** your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation **is** a wise and understanding people.'⁷ "For what great nation **is there** that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God **is** to us, for whatever **reason** we may call upon Him?⁸ "And what great nation **is there** that has **such** statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? (Deuteronomy 4:5-8 NKJ)

C. Christ, our Lord, was obedient unto death –

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to **the point** of death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:8 NKJ)

D. *The ungodly always oppose such government, they nailed Christ to the cross, they remove the Bible from government and education, why? Because they count themselves wiser than God, and like beasts they would throw off His rule –*

Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, ³"Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." ⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. (Psalm 2:1-4 NKJ)

- *This battle has been raging a while –*

Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us; They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek. ²"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." (Micah 5:1-2 NKJ)

(1) *Micah 5:1 references a seeming end of the Davidic Kingdom, as Judah's king would be deposed by Babylon and later rulers like Zerubbabel would be counted governors under Persian, Greek or Roman "beast" rule –*

(2) *Yet it is during this "beast rule" God brings His eternal rule into being –*

"As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. 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. ¹⁴Then 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. (Daniel 7:12-14 NKJ)

III. This is an eternal Kingdom –

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. (Isaiah 9:7 NKJ)

1. *Jesus is from everlasting – Micah 5:2, yet born in Bethlehem*

2. *He establishes the throne of David, rule with God's Law, in God's Way even forever, as Daniel says - ¹⁴Then 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.*

IV. The Zeal of the LORD of Hosts guarantees this –
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:7 NKJ)

1. *Zeal – passion, extreme effort*

2. *LORD of Hosts – the God of Armies, of all armies, He Who controls everything*

3. *This is why we:*

A. *Confidently Pray - ¹⁰Your kingdom come. (Matthew 6:10 NKJ)*

B. *Aim for godly obedience to godly government:*

- *Self-government or self-control - ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is ... self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23 NKJ)*

- *Family Government –*

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, (Ephesians 5:22-25 NKJ)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (Ephesians 6:1 NKJ)

- *Church government –*

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (Hebrews 13:17 NKJ)

C. *Make His Kingdom our priority –*

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NKJ)

D. *This is even why we observe the Lord's Supper, at least part of the reason –*

And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. ²⁵"Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." ²⁶And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (Mark 14:24-26 NKJ)

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