

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. Rev. 1:9

12 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

13 Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

14 And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written,

15 Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

16 These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him. John 12.

John was the brother of James, the sons of Zebedee. With Peter they made up a close inner circle with Jesus, and were privy to His most precious and tender moments. They were with him on the Mount of Transfiguration; they were the only ones permitted to witness the raising of the daughter of Jairus from the dead; The three came to ask Him privately about the destruction of the Temple and the end of the world; They witnessed the sweating of blood in the Garden.

But all of the Apostles had finished their earthly work now, and only John was left. His brother had perished under Herod at the beginning of the church, and now John is left alone on Patmos, in exile for the faith, and what a testimony it is, and we all ought to pay attention to it. He writes to the churches and says of himself:

Their brother
Companion in tribulation
And in the kingdom of Jesus Christ
And in the patience of Jesus Christ
In the isle that is called Patmos
Because of the word of God
Because of the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Wow! What a pedigree. But all of these things go together in all ages. The apostles were examples in themselves, examples of great purity, of what every Christian ought to be.

A member of the family of God; Companion in sufferings. Citizen of the Kingdom of Christ; patiently waiting for Jesus Christ; in a particular place, placed by God; Because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Each of these could be a sermon in themselves. [I don't know why a minister would plagiarize. I see a dozen sermon every time I open the Bible. Open your eyes, child of God: magnify the word of God and testify of Jesus Christ. What more is there?

John was there at the beginning: He was with John the Baptist and heard him declare, “The kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” He heard Jesus preach these same words, “The kingdom of

heaven is at hand.” Both said that the kingdom required men to repent their sins and believe the Promise of the Redeemer who was now present among them. Throughout His ministry the Lord Jesus kept saying things: “The kingdom of heaven is like _____,” and then teaching in parables and illustration the nature of the kingdom of God, or the kingdom of Heaven, for the phrases mean the same thing. The kingdom is of God and it is not of the world, but of heaven.

Then Jesus, at the end of His ministry, on that first Palm Sunday, rode into Jerusalem and the people and the children gather palm branches to cast before the donkey upon which He rode. They said, “Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.”

And now John, at the end of His life, understands far more about the kingdom than he did when he first heard John the Baptist preach. His eyes are opened and he sees things that were hidden from the beginning of the world but now revealed to us in Jesus Christ and the holy apostles.

I would touch on a couple of things about the Kingdom of God that should be of help to you in your walk with the Lord. It is good that many figures are used to describe the people of God: we are God’s family; His people; His Body; His church; His assembly; His flock; His household; His city; His New Creation and others. The kingdom is like leaven, like a pearl, like a net, etc. No one figure exhausts the relationship between God and His people, but we want to concentrate on this one image this morning, this Palm Sunday in the year 2014, many centuries after those children and the people cried “Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.” They had it right and we have it right to call Jesus our King who comes in the name of the Lord. Three things today: The Time, the Nature, Consummation of the Kingdom of God.

I. The Time

- A. Because it is the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven, it is in all times and all places. It was at Patmos in one aged man. It was also in Jerusalem in the witness and testimony of Stephen the Martyr; It was in Bethlehem when Christ was born; it was in David who prayed, “Ps 145:13 Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.”
- B. It was in all the promises of the Old Testament, from the promise that Satan’s head would be bruised, the promise that kings would come from Abraham, that the scepter belongs to Judah, to the promises to David, to Isaiah’s blessed promises of the King and His kingdom.
- C. There was a greater awareness among men at certain times in the history of the world. Abraham knew there was a city whose builder and maker is God; David was aware of the great blessings upon His house and the promises of His throne. Isaiah saw the throne room of God and heard blessed predictions of the coming of Christ.
- D. But the kingdom was at hand in a very special sense at the coming of Jesus of Nazareth, made of seed of David according to the flesh, but declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead....”

II. The Nature

- A. We will use one important parable to illustrate certain important things concerning the kingdom of Christ. We read it a moment before: the parable of the sower, found in Matthew 13. I want you to note certain things.
1. The seed of the kingdom is the word of God: verse 19. The word is to be received individually and responsibly. Four examples are used.
 - a. Wayside. People didn't understand.
 - b. Stony: shallow, temporary hearers; did not have patience to endure the heat.
 - c. Thorny: double minded. Choked out by the world and the love of the world. Put hand to the plow and looks back. Remember Lot's wife
 - d. Good soil. Bears the fruit of obedience, faith, love, patience. All the fruit of the Spirit.
 2. This parable does speak of the preparation of the soil and why there are difference, but Christ does in other places.
 3. Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.
 4. 1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.
 5. The nature of the kingdom: the rule of God through Jesus Christ in the soul of a man, through the word and spirit of God. Those who will not submit to His rule have no part in the kingdom of God.

III. The Consummation: Two passages

- A. Matt. 25:36-42 Read. “Taken away,” in the parallel passage in Luke 17:26,27 means “destroyed them all.” Sudden destruction and misery. 2 Peter 3:10-13
- B. Matt. 13:40-43. Great reward and blessing to those who endure unto the end for the glory of God. Amen and Amen.

The kingdom is NOW. Joh 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Text: Revelation 1:9 “The Kingdom of Heaven Is At Hand” April 13, 2014

Do you hear the voice of the Son of God in your soul
Do you believe His word, and do you trust in Him?
Are you ashamed of Him; or are you a faithful witness?

Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.