

*Morning Sermon August 3, 2014*  
*“Thy Kingdom Come, and You Too Jesus”*  
*Luke 17:20-37*

*1. The advancement of God’s Kingdom is quiet, spiritual,  
gradual, and yet powerful –*

<sup>20</sup> Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; <sup>21</sup> "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20-21 NKJ)

*“Its glory does not strike men’s fancies, but affects their spirits, and its power is over their souls and consciences; from them it receives homage, and not from their bodies only. The kingdom of God will not change men’s outward condition, but their hearts and lives. Then it comes when it makes those humble, and serious, and heavenly, that were proud, and vain, and carnal,—when it weans those from the world that were wedded to the world; and therefore look for the kingdom of God in the revolutions of the heart, not of the civil government.”*  
*Matthew Henry*

*1. It is a kingdom advanced using SPIRITUAL WEAPONS –*

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, (2Corinthians 10:3-5 NKJ)

*2. It is a kingdom in which we enjoy SPIRITUAL FEASTS –*

<sup>17</sup> for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom 14:17 NKJ)

*3. It is a kingdom without a specific earthly headquarters –*

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (Philippians 3:20 NKJ)

*4. Scripture tells us this kingdom advance alongside, and against  
the kingdom of Satan, the ruler of this world –*

<sup>31</sup> "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. (John 12:31 NKJ)

<sup>30</sup> "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. (John 14:30 NKJ)

<sup>11</sup> "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (John 16:11 NKJ)

*The Devil, Satan is constantly trying to set up a kingdom, a visible, outwardly powerful WORLD GOVERNMENT, yet He is constantly thwarted by God’s judgment and providence. These things, which we see happening both now, and throughout history keep Satan and his kingdom at bay:*

*War -*

<sup>3</sup> When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." <sup>4</sup> Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. (Revelation 6:3-4 NKJ)

*Economic disparity -*

<sup>5</sup> When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. <sup>6</sup> And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine." <sup>7</sup> When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." (Revelation 6:5-7 NKJ)

*Death in general, with a variety of causes -*

<sup>8</sup> So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. (Revelation 6:8 NKJ)

*While these things are happening Christ’s Gospel goes forth,  
conquering hearts, winning SOULS for God’s Kingdom –*

<sup>NKJ</sup> Revelation 6:1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." <sup>2</sup> And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. (Revelation 6:1-2 NKJ)

Now, the battle between Christ and Satan and the nature of the TWO KINGDOMS is present symbolically in Scripture by TWO cities:

**Babylon - MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (Revelation 17:5 NKJ)**

**Jerusalem - <sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:2 NKJ)**

*The New Jerusalem is a Heavenly City whose population consists of those who are true followers of Christ –*

*“God’s people, in God’s place, under God’s rule.”*

*Graeme Goldsworthy*

*We no longer need an earthly Jerusalem because we have God’s Spirit Who is Everywhere and we serve Jesus Christ Who we know is in Heaven –*

## *II. We yearn for Christ’s return –*

<sup>22</sup> Then He said to the disciples, "The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. <sup>23</sup> "And they will say to you, 'Look here!' or 'Look there!' Do not go after them or follow them. (Luke 17:22-23 NKJ)

1. Don't listen to the "Look here or Look there" people -  
' Do not go after them or follow them. (Luke 17:22-23 NKJ)

2. Why shouldn't we believe the fortune tellers about Christ's coming?

A. Because when He does come it will be dramatic and obvious –  
<sup>24</sup> "For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. (Luke 17:24 NKJ)

B. Also because Christ suffers and so do we –  
<sup>25</sup> "But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. (Luke 17:25 NKJ)

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with

Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. <sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8:16-18 NKJ)

C. Christ's Second Coming will be SUDDEN, when no one expects –  
<sup>26</sup> "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: <sup>27</sup> "They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup> "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; <sup>29</sup> "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup> "Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. (Luke 17:26-30 NKJ)

## *III. We need to be READY (at ALL times) for His Coming -*

<sup>31</sup> "In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. <sup>32</sup> "Remember Lot's wife. <sup>33</sup> "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. <sup>34</sup> "I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. <sup>35</sup> "Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. <sup>36</sup> "Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left." <sup>37</sup> And they answered and said to Him, "Where, Lord?" So He said to them, "Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together." (Luke 17:31-37 NKJ)

1. In the day of Christ's coming there will be no time to change your opinion or ways, so get right with Christ, NOW - :31-32, see also Proverbs 1:20-27
2. :33- Referring to your life in this world
3. :34- 36 - Here is a reference to what we see in Revelation 14:12-20
4. :37 – As birds gathered around dead bodies – Revelation 19:17-21

The reply of Jesus means: "Neither here, nor there, nor in any particular place, but there where men are ripe for judgment." So it was in Noah's time, so in Lot's, and so it will be on the day of the final judgment. The fate of carrion that is devoured by eagles pictures the fate of all who fed only their earthly lives. The judgment is only for the ungodly who make this world their all; the godly do not come into the judgment –

R.C.H. Lenski

*Arnold A. Brevick*