



BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Cnr Marcus & Thompsons Roads, LWR TEMPLESTOWE VIC 3107
03 9850 9633 / www.bulleenbaptist.org.au

SERIES : "THE LAST THINGS"

Study 4 "The Kingdom Of God 2 - Now and Not Yet"

Notes by Rev. Gary Lockyer

August 27, 2006

INTRODUCTION : to the series

The "Last Things" is a Series on God's ultimate purposes for his people and his creation. The Series will pick up on the main themes through the Scriptures; themes which find their ultimate fulfilment when Jesus returns to the world. Then the whole of creation is renewed, his people are "clothed with immortality," and God reigns supreme.

INTRODUCTION : to Study 4

Today's Study is about the reality of the Kingdom of God. For there to be a Kingdom, there has to be a people who live under its RULE and who recognise the REIGN of the King

From Study 3 : That God calls out a people belonging to him is CENTRAL to both the OT & NT

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. Dt7:6 also Ex19:3-6

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness 1Ptr2:9 also Titus2:14

From last week's Study we saw that the "the Church" is the English translation of the Greek word "ekklesia" which, in turn, is the equivalent of the Hebrew "Qahal." Both "ekklesia" and "qahal" refer to the "called out Assembly / Congregation" of God's people.

What differentiates the Old Testament People of God from the New is the PRESENCE of the King - and that the believing Gentile is included with the believing Jew as one . (Eph2:11-22; Rom4:16; Gal3:8,28-29)

OT rituals? " are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality is found in Christ. Col2:17

Speaking of the OT promises : For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. 2Cor1:20

Christians are described as those "on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come." 1Cor10:11

Therefore, because the King has come in POWER, the Kingdom is a REALITY

"If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." Mt12:28

A. KINGDOM OF GOD - NOW PRESENT

The Kingdom was not what was expected ("My Kingdom is not of this world") but it could be DISCERNED and ENTERED

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Mt5:3, 10

Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within (among) you." Lk17:20-21

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. John came ... to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. Mt21:31-32

B. KINGDOM OF GOD - STARTS SMALL

.... but GROWS in influence and effect

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed ... planted in his field. Though ... the smallest of all seeds ... (it) becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." Mt13:31-32

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." Mt31:33

C. KINGDOM OF GOD - CONTINUES NOW

... as the Christian's PRIMARY address (Php3:20) / identity

God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. Col1:13

D. KINGDOM OF GOD - NOW, BUT NOT YET

... awaits a FUTURE consummation / fulfilment.

Jesus said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Lk22:15-18

Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? Jas2:5

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack & bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom 2Tm4:18

What we know in part, we will one day experience fully.

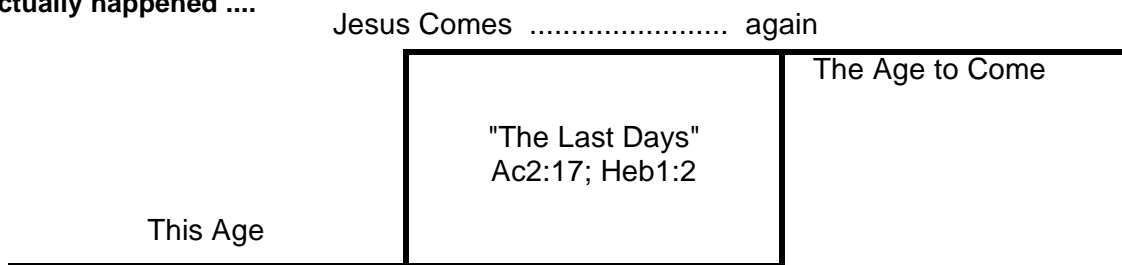
And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth ... having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ... a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession. Eph1:13-14 also 1cor13:12; 1jn3:2

E. WHAT IS HAPPENING a helpful diagram

What was expecteded



What actually happened



F. HOW ALL THIS DIFFERS FROM "POP PROPHECY"

See : Dan2:31-45 : Daniel interprets the King's dream as being a statue representing 4 Empires (Kingdoms) that follow on after each other. A rock "not made with human hands" strikes the statue on the feet (which is the last kingdom of the four; the Roman Empire) v.44 is the interpretation of this event - "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."

Since "pop prophecy" says the Church and Israel are totally separate entities and that the Kingdom of God has nothing to do with the Church, v44 did not happen when Jesus came the first time, so the Roman Empire must be "revived" in the future for the Kingdom (whixh is also totally future) to be set up and the prophecy fulfilled.

This one verse - and not understanding that Jesus did indeed set up his kingdom when the prophecy said he would - is the main basis for all the speculation about a dictatorial future "one world" government ("Revived Rome" - the European Union, headed by Antichrist) that will be destroyed when Jesus returns and then sets up and rules a Jewish Kingdom on earth.