

Restoration of the Kingdom of God

When Jesus returns he will raise the believers from every generation - **John 5:28** - and bestow the divine nature - **1 John 3:2** - on all the faithful. It is these who will have the privilege of crushing the international rebellion against Jesus, the new king in Jerusalem who threatens their status quo. These faithful are the saints who will fulfil **Psalm 149:5**, *“Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds. 6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, 7 To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples; 8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; 9 To execute on them the written judgment -- This honor have all His saints. Praise the LORD!”*

In order to appreciate why there will be this forcible unseating of governments worldwide, it will help to step back to get the big picture in the purpose of God with mankind. At a time when most of mankind were still worshipping pieces of wood, stone and metal, **Habakkuk 2:14** declared, *“The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”* This might be called God’s mission statement concerning the earth. It will be realized when every person on this globe will *“know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent”* and will be able to enjoy that knowledge eternally - **John 17:3**. These are *“the meek”* who *“will inherit the earth”* - **Matthew 5:5**.

But at Christ’s coming *“darkness shall cover the earth, and deep - moral and spiritual - darkness the people”* - **Isaiah 60:2**, which has been mankind’s natural tendency from the beginning. Noah and his family were the only enlightened ones remaining when *“God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”* - **Genesis 6:5**.

After the great flood only Noah and his family were left on earth, so it could be said that all mankind then had that knowledge of God. But not many generations later there began an organized rebellion against God, which was nipped in the bud at Babel - **Genesis 11**. God then set out to establish a theocratic kingdom whose Law was of divine origin, the Kingdom of God. First God called Abram out of the paganism into which the world had sunk. God promised him everlasting possession of Canaan, into which he sent him and his family to live as foreign residents. God then sent Abraham’s grandson Jacob with his twelve sons and family from there to live in Egypt, where their descendants grew into the nation of Israel. God afterwards sent Moses to wrench Israel from the clutches of Egyptian slavery by an open show of divine power. He then began to establish the Kingdom of God by giving Israel his law at mount Sinai - **Exodus 19:6**. After that, God sent Joshua to lead Israel in an invasion of the Promised Land of Canaan by another open show of divine intervention. At a time when there was not yet a king, but judges ruling Israel, God was their king - **1 Samuel 12:12**. But the people eventually demanded a heroic, military leader to be their king. King Saul was that kind of man, but failed to uphold God’s law. So God replaced him with David, *“a man after his own heart”* - **1 Samuel 13:14**, promising David a descendant whose *“throne of his kingdom”* he would *“establish forever”*, and that *“he shall be My - God’s - son”* - **2 Samuel 7:13**.

But that would only occur after the overturning of the Kingdom of God, which began with the overthrow of Judah by Babylon - **Ezekiel 21:27** - and ended with the destruction of the Jewish state by Rome - **Matthew 21:43**. But God promised the restoration of the Kingdom of God under David’s dynasty - **Amos 9:11**, and it will be restored by Jesus - **Acts 1:6** - after his return - when the apostles will rule over the twelve tribes of Israel - **Luke 22:29**. Meanwhile, the nations continue to studiously ignore the word of God, often denying His very existence - electing governments which uphold and support this attitude toward the Creator.