

The Kingdom of God - What will it be Like? - 10

The gospel, or “Good News”, which was preached by the apostles consists of “the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ” - Acts 8:12. “The things of the Kingdom of God” are the facts testified concerning the Kingdom of God in the writings of the prophets and apostles - in summary, that God will set up a kingdom on the earth, which will overthrow all others, and change them into “the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ” - Revelation 11:15.

- For this purpose God will send Jesus Christ personally to the earth at the close of the times of the Gentiles. The kingdom which he will establish will be the kingdom of Israel restored, in the territory it formerly occupied, which is the land promised for an everlasting possession to Abraham and his seed (the Christ) by covenant.

Micah 5:2 speaks of one born in “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...” In fulfilment Matthew 2:1 reports, “...Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea.” The angel Gabriel told Mary, that her son “shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” - Luke 1:32.

- David was king over the descendants of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham - in the territory which God promised to Abraham, which was then called the land of Canaan - Genesis 13:14. Micah continues, 5:4 “And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God...5 And this One shall be peace. when the Assyrian comes into our land, and when he treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princely men. 6 They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances; thus He shall deliver us from the Assyrian, when he comes into our land and when he treads within our borders” - Micah 5:2

So Jesus will be established in Zion, and at first, the hostile nations will not react. They will be temporarily paralyzed by the startling and sudden display of power when Israel conquers and takes over the countries which attacked her. Having led a united attack on the Jewish State, the modern occupants of “Assyria” will be overthrown by the newly returned Messiah. Working with Jesus will be Micah’s “seven shepherds and eight princely men” - those believers who have been judged worthy at Christ’s tribunal -

- “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” - 2 Corinthians 5:10. God 6 “will render to each one according to his deeds - 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality - 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness - indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek - 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good” - Romans 2.

The King reigning in Zion will give these immortals authority - both as “shepherds”, guiding and teaching the mortals, and as “princes” - Psalms 45:16, or rulers. So ends the first phase of “the kingdoms of this world” becoming the possession “of our Lord and his Christ”.