

The Kingdom of God - What will it be Like? - 14

The miraculous destruction of Gog's armies during their invasion of Israel will seize the attention of people world-wide. Up to that time various cultures will have taken great pride in their distinctive laws, customs, beliefs and outlook, and be highly resistant to change by outside influences. There will be billions of people lacking any familiarity or affinity with the purpose of God as it is unfolded in the books of the Old Testament and the New Testament.

What happens to Gog will suggest to many that they have something to learn from this strange new figure in Jerusalem. When the time comes for his power to extend into their domains they will have buried enough of their old national pride to be willing to listen to his message. In general such pride is difficult to overcome, but God knows how to get their ear - "...when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness" - Isaiah 26:9.

Initially, when Jesus returns to Jerusalem, he will be seen as a threat to the status quo, and his kingdom will be invaded in several international attempts to get rid of him. The first attempt will result in expanding the borders of Israel into neighbouring countries. The former allies of these countries will attempt to free their friends from this upstart empire-builder and will attack him - 2 "The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

The divine reaction is quite understandable when mortals decide to make war with an immortal opponent - 4 "He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision." We have seen how he will have handled Gog's massive invasion - 5 "Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure." In the former "battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity...3 Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle."

This will be the occasion signaling the return of Jesus to Jerusalem - "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives" - Zechariah 14:2. After which God can say, Psalms 2:6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." Unlike the first invasion, Gog's forces will fall in the field before they reach their objective. But even after these first two invasions, when the northern power has been smashed, the nations will regroup into the force which is predicted in the prophecy of Daniel and the book of Revelation to oppose God's Son.

They appear to be unaware of the words of Psalms 2:8 "Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession." They will stage the third and most massive international invasion, but the result will be - 9 "You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." There will now be no doubt who has all the power on his side, even though he began as ruler in Israel, one of the smallest of countries.

Only after this final conflict will those remaining see the wisdom in capitulation - 10 "Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him."