

The Kingdom of God - What will it be Like? - 15

The first two military incursions of Israel will suffer decisive defeats by Christ. But the nations, unwilling to negotiate with this new Middle East power, will regroup for a multi-national assault to overthrow him. As we saw in Psalms 2:2 “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed” = Messiah. The book of Revelation speaks of the kings who lead this rebellion, as not merely a political conflict, but a religious one even more so -

Revelation 17:14 “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.” Those “faithful” ones declare of the Lamb, “You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” -5:9.

These who have been “redeemed” from sin and death “are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes” - 14:4. They are those who heard, says Jesus, “these sayings of Mine, and” done them. They are like, says Jesus “a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock” - Matthew 7:24.

But these ten kings are the leading men among those who heard “these sayings of Mine”, said Jesus, and did “not do them.” They are “like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” Those who will “make war with the Lamb” belong to this class of men who paid no heed to Jesus’ warning -

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits”. The apostle Paul afterwards also warned believers, “After my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves” - Acts 20:29. Peter repeated the warning -

“There will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.” This means that soon after the time of the apostles, those holding to the original Gospel taught by Jesus would become a minority and the apostasy in the majority. Peter added, 3 “By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words” - 2 Peter 2:1.

The false teachers, after the apostles had passed off the scene, then organized into a separate class, the clergy. The book of Revelation calls them “merchants” whose business and livelihood was in “the bodies and souls of men” - Revelation 18:13. So enriched did they become in their heyday that during most of the Christian era they became 23 “the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.” The last apostle to give such warning was John -

1 John 2:18 “As you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour” - Soon there would be no more apostles left, and there were now many false teachers - and they would be headed up by one man.