

The Kingdom of God - What will it be Like? - 18

After the miraculous destruction of the invasion - Ezekiel 38:2 - which was led by the prince of Russia - of Moscow and Tobolski, also described in Joel 3 and in Revelation 14 as “the Harvest of the Earth”, Joel 3:17 shows that “So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again” -.

This is followed by Armageddon, whose summary is given in Revelation 14:19 “So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city...” The winepress is also associated with the expression of Divine anger in Isaiah 63:2 “Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?” His reply -

3 “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come.” Through all ages, mortal men have persecuted the people of God, yet seemed to have escaped justice. But Jesus alone brings salvation.

At his second coming the role of Jesus will be to bring justice - as he declared to the folk in his home town by quoting Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God...”

At his second coming Jesus will raise and glorify his faithful, and together they will move as One Man to oversee the events of Armageddon. This will result in the overthrow of all mortal government which upholds “all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life”- 1 John 2:16. This victory over those who would resist the authority of God over His own creation was described to John in -

Revelation 11:15 “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’ ...17 ...You have taken Your great power and reigned. 18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”

While it is true that mankind has been polluting the air, waters and land of this physical earth, it is necessary to keep in mind the opening verse - “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants - things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified” = to represent by sign or symbol “it by His angel to His servant John” - Revelation 1:1.

Isaiah uses similar figurative speech, “I create new heavens and a new earth...18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy” - Isaiah 65:17. So “the earth” in Revelation 11 are the people who have been led away from the knowledge of salvation by the false teachers who have long dominated Christianity.