

How Christ will rule the World - 7

Not only will Christ's rule be without the shortcomings, weaknesses and faults of mortal rulers, it will be all-powerful. This is in total contrast with the feeble influence held by man's best effort to resolve the most pressing problems faced by the world's most vulnerable citizens. The work of Christ will not encounter the conflict of national sovereignty. Jesus will have the authority to interfere in the domestic affairs of the nations.

The King over all nations will have power to enforce the performance of his wise decisions and orders. This is in contrast with the imperfect results of the otherwise beneficial laws of man in their failures to secure the desired results. Owing to the difficulties connected with the administration of the law, and the inability of the rulers of the world to compel strict obedience even to laws that are righteous, evil continually triumphs, and wickedness abounds.

Mankind needs a Government with absolute power to enforce obedience, and compel submission, which the reign of Christ will do - "He will rule them with a rod of iron" - Revelation 19:15. There will be no evasion or resistance or escape from justice possible - "Every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people" - Acts 3:23.

A mild illustration of the power of Christ's authority in the hands of his faithful disciples, then made immortal and ruling under him, is seen in Acts 5 concerning Ananias and Sapphira. The same power will be available for use on a large scale in enforcing early resistance to the new King in Jerusalem. All nations will be called upon to go up from year to year to the temple in Jerusalem, for worship and to keep the feast of tabernacles. What if any refuse to comply?

How will the King deal with them? Not with violent force nor with grievous words, but in a very simple and effective way. He will withhold the rain from their territory. "it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain."

For those nations that do not depend on rain, like Egypt - "they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles" - Zechariah 14:17. In this way will be clearly shown that, as Jesus told the apostles after his resurrection, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" - Matthew 28:18.

After the elimination of the worst elements of rebellion against Christ's authority, the nations will be able to enjoy the fruits of his wise rule., when "the extortioner is at an end, devastation ceases, the oppressors are consumed out of the land" - Isaiah 16:4.

The government of Christ will be recognized and appreciated by the nations as a whole, who will gladly comply with the command to pay their homage to the King who reigns in Mount Zion.

"...all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; he will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths'" - Isaiah 2:2-3. The nations will cooperate in the exercise of his power. They will cheerfully submit, and streams of humanity will flow in joyful crowds to the centre of the kingdom of Christ, rejoicing in the blessings that result from his rule. "In mercy the throne will be established; and One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness" - Isaiah 16: 5.