

How Christ Will Rule the World - 13

It is the intention of God that the submission of mankind to His instructions, and their worship of him, should be a matter of joy. In fact He has expressed displeasure in those who have accompanied their adoration and homage with mourning and sadness - “you cover the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping and crying; so He does not regard the offering anymore” - Malachi 2:13.

The reason for this was because the worshippers were persisting in ungodly practices - they were not conforming their lives to the revealed will of God. The various assemblies of worshippers in Christ’s kingdom will be with both outward rejoicing and inward joy - “They shall come and sing in the height of Zion, streaming to the goodness of the Lord - for wheat and new wine and oil, for the young of the flock and the herd; their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, and they shall sorrow no more at all” - Jeremiah 31:12.

That joy will pervade not only the special assemblies, but also in daily life there will be the same joy of living, a praise to the Almighty, a care for the poor, bereaved and lonely - as seen in the lovely example of Boaz the great-grandfather of David - “Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, ‘The Lord be with you!’ - ‘The Lord bless you!’ they called back.” After this Boaz kindly permitted a young foreigner to come into his field and under his protection to gather something to eat while helping to tidy his grainfield - Ruth 2:4-18.

Not only in manner of speech, but in actions, the people will gladly provide ongoing support in the system of worship - “All the firstborn males that come from your herd and your flock you shall sanctify to the Lord your God; you shall do no work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock. You and your household shall eat it before the Lord your God year by year in the place which the Lord chooses” - Deuteronomy 15:19-20.

In addition to the law of God being designed as a means of tutoring His people to prepare them for everlasting life, the law will be recognized as bringing a wonderful regulation of societal harmony and benefit for mankind - As Moses said to Israel,

“I have taught you statutes and judgments...this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' ...And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?” - Deuteronomy 4:5-8.

Even with fruit trees will be the opportunity to praise God and show kindness to the less fortunate - “When you... plant any kind of fruit tree, regard its fruit as forbidden. For three years you are to consider it forbidden; it must not be eaten. In the fourth year all its fruit will be holy, an offering of praise to the Lord” - Leviticus 19:23 - in other words, it will be provided for use on the special days. This will be a practical way of giving recognition to God “who gives food to all flesh” - Psalms 136:2.

At that time when “nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more... they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree” - Micah 4:3-4 - a greater proportion of mankind will be back on the land, better able to witness first hand the loving oversight of God’s providential care for His people. “And we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.”