

## A New Government

David ruled over Israel from Jerusalem. Jesus will do the same. The apostles, ruling over the twelve tribes of Israel, will in turn have rulers under them, to whom Jesus said, *"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom"* (in the Promised Land) - **Luke 12:32**. And Peter wrote, *"When the chief Shepherd appears* (in other words, after Jesus has returned), *you will receive the unfading crown of glory"* - **1 Peter 5:4**.

God blamed the previous rulers of Israel for leading them astray. *"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD... 'You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them...I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds* (the immortal faithful who will inherit the kingdom of David) *over them who will care for them...I will raise up for David a righteous Branch* (Jesus), *and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land"* - **Jeremiah 23:1-5**.

He shows how this will be achieved - *"I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding"* - **Jeremiah 3:15**. All the population of Israel will be thoroughly educated in God's way, to the exclusion of the system in today's world which studiously ignores God. When Israel first entered the Promised Land, they made a good start. *"The people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel...Joshua...died...And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel...And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers...They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger"* - **Judges 2:7-12**. God punished Israel by allowing their enemies to invade their land. *"Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge... But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them"* - the people were no longer under his watchful eye - **Judges 2:18-19**. Why were the people faithful during the life of their judge? The moral authority of the judge made the difference. The people said to Joshua, a man well-known for his integrity, *"whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death"* - **Joshua 1:18**. During Christ's reign over Israel during the thousand years, the moral authority of the rulers will always be in view, since the rulers will be immortal - **Revelation 20:4**. Added to this, rebellion against Christ's government will not be tolerated - **Luke 19:27**. These are the conditions under which the prosperity of Israel will continue unabated throughout the thousand years.

Meanwhile, what about all the other nations of the earth? Next time, God willing, we will look at what the Scriptures say about this.