

## The Kingdom of God on Earth - 4

“The Kingdom of God” is an expression which originated in the Bible. We find it used in contrast to “the kingdom of men,” which occurs in Daniel 4:17 - “...the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will...”

The “kingdom of men” consists of the sum total of human governments. It is an appropriate designation for them all. They are all the expression of one principle, which is the rule of man by man. Whether it be dictatorship, oligarchy or free Parliament, there is no difference in this regard - the source of power is the will of man.

Regardless of what particular governments might claim, from God’s point of view as expressed in His inspired revelation, the will of man is the basis of every government in the world. In all places there will be controversy among men over which party or person should govern. But all are convinced that it should be based on what human thinking deems to be good principles of governance.

Sometimes lip service and even lip-worship is paid to religious belief, but there is no such government conducted by strictly divine principles. The reality is that there is no acknowledgement of God and what He has revealed in the inspired Scriptures. Those in power assert the right to make their own decisions, to control the national wealth as they see fit, and to establish those laws which they deem necessary.

Here is the universal mind-set in the kingdom of men. It is the organised enforcement of human authority, which is conducted without regard to the authority of God. Such is permitted by God while those who He has called await the Divine government to rule over this planet. Paul addresses all who belong to Christ, “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”

Mankind must have the restraint of government, otherwise chaos would result - human governments are acting as God’s “avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil” - Romans 13:1-7. In the meanwhile those who are “waiting for the kingdom of God” - Luke 23:51 - have the assurance that God is in control of His own creation - “...the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will...” - Daniel 4:17.

Also, those who are “waiting for the kingdom of God” - Mark 15:43 - pray “your kingdom come” - Matthew 6:10. It has not yet come. Such prayer will be answered when the announcement comes, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” - Revelation 11:15.

The governing of the nations will be taken away from mortal mankind, who have left the world in a sorry state. When Jesus returns, the current powers will resist his authority and that of his newly resurrected brethren - “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” - v.18.

The prophecy of Daniel provides a revealing picture of what the long-term plan of God has been with the governing of the nations. Although written six centuries before Christ, there has been remarkable fulfilment of his prophecy.