

## Your Kingdom Come! - 5

Jesus declared, “Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.” - Luke 18:17. This is a serious and important statement, which all must consider and heed. It clearly excludes any who do not humbly and joyfully believe in the good news concerning the kingdom of God. There will be no entry for those who, rather than seeking first the kingdom of God, have put their own pursuit of wealth and prosperity first.

Mankind today, as never before, has been announcing plans to conquer all disease, modify earth’s climate, and colonize other planets. But to accept the Scripture teaching concerning the coming Kingdom of God requires that natural human pride be replaced by humility. Those who are able to receive the kingdom of God with the meekness and gratitude of a little child will hear the words of welcome addressed to them, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” - Matthew 25:34.

We are informed in Acts 1:3, that Jesus spent the final few weeks with his disciples, “speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God” - Acts 1:3. We need to ask why he chose to use those last precious days in that way. Clearly, Jesus considered the things of the kingdom of so much importance, that he devoted his last days on earth to reviewing them with his disciples. So well did they learn, that the only question they had for Jesus was “when?” in Acts 1:6.

These matters are no less important in our day, because it is possible to lose sight of the facts which we have reviewed. For example, some have read 2 Peter 3:10 where he says that “... the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” They take from this that it will be impossible to have the kingdom of God on earth because it will be destroyed.

To understand Peter to be saying that the physical earth will be destroyed is to make him contradict what he has written in the same context, verse 13 “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” Peter is quoting Isaiah who in 1:2 says “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth!” Verse 10 shows he is using figurative language for the rulers and the people of his nation. Peter is quoting -

Isaiah 65:17 “I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy. 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; the voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, nor the voice of crying.”

The prophet goes on to show that people in the “new earth” will be still sinning and dying, so clearly he is talking about this earth - 20 “No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.” This earth we now live on is also where the next words apply -21 “They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.”

This agrees with other Scripture - “Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever” - Psalm 125:1. “The Lord God... Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever” - Psalm 104:5. “Blessed” said Jesus “are the meek, for THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH” - Matthew 5:5.