

## Your Kingdom Come! - 11

After the final judgement at the end of the thousand years, all mankind on earth will be immortal - "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" - Revelation 21:4.

And concerning Christ's reign, Isaiah 9:6 announces, "... the government will be upon His shoulder. ..7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be NO END, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom."

The angel Gabriel announced the coming birth of Jesus to Mary - "He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be NO END" - Luke 1:33. In view of these clear statements, the apostle Paul reveals a remarkable event that is to occur at the end of the thousand years -

"Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign TILL He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death....28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all" - 1 Corinthians 15:24.

Of Christ's kingdom there will be "no end" - in the sense that the previous empires whose power impinged on the Promised Land of Israel were all brought to an end. The Babylonian empire was overthrown by the combined power of Media and Persia - that empire was ended by conquest by Alexander the Great. The empire of the Greeks was supplanted by that of Rome, and its divided modern form will be brought to an end by Christ at his return -

Daniel 2:44 - "In the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall NEVER BE DESTROYED; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and IT SHALL STAND FOREVER."

These prophecies show that the Kingdom which the God of heaven will set up will never be conquered or supplanted - even though there will be a vigorous attempt to do so - Revelation 20:7-10. What will end, as Paul shows, is Christ's function as intermediary between God who is holy and sinful, mortal mankind - "There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus" - 1 Timothy 2:5.

This will make perfect sense when it is seen that Christ's relinquishing of direct rule to God comes after his work is completed - that of destroying mankind's last enemy, which is death. At that point there will be no more mortals, therefore no more animal-based bodies, and no more serving "with the flesh the law of sin" - Romans 7:25 - that sin preventing direct communication between mortal man and the Creator - who told sinful Israel - "Your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you" - Isaiah 59:2.

The passing of direct rule to the Creator is in full harmony with 1 Corinthians 11:3 "that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." A mediator will no longer be needed. God will establish direct communication with His perfected children; and every inhabitant of earth will joyfully give glory to God.