"The Day of the Lord —
The Lord Jesus, Israel's Coming King, Part 2"

Review: Israel's Kingdom Hope, Promised and Rekindled

- ***Israel's Kingdom Hope — Promised***

    - As we go forward today, we shall see how the scriptural pointers forward to the Kingdom repeat and further emphasize its purpose and nature. These are so important for us to understand. Again, these are NOT what we see happening today.

      Yes, we are in a kingdom indeed, and it is a kingdom of God. But it is manifestly not the kingdom of God prophesied for God's people, the Jews, and indeed, this entire world.

  Genesis 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.

  Many others point forward to the same truth. See Numbers 24:15-19, 1 Samuel 2:7-10, Psalms 45:6, Hebrews 1:8.

    - The Scepter is an ornamental and kingly staff that signifies power and authority. The same is true of a lawgiver, one even greater by far than Moses, and finally, the regathering of his people is the ultimate sign of Messianic blessing, for it implies resurrection. For this to occur, God's and Israel's enemies must be destroyed. The timing of it all is when deliverance shall come "out of Jacob" through the Seed of the Woman, our Lord Jesus Christ who will be manifested to all!, not only to Balaam.

  Psalms 2:7-8
  7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.
  8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

    - So there is really no question of God's intentions as stated here. A literal and earthly kingdom with God's Son as King has been part of prophecy from the beginning. The Seed of the Woman prophecies ensure that, as part of the eternal plan of redemption, God had promised that through his seed (plural) and then his elect nation.

- Many argue that this has all been fulfilled “spiritually” in his church, but all those that have learned to “Rightly Divide” the word of TRUTH know how God opens the meaning of scripture to us when we distinguish Israel and its promises and hope from us Gentiles, under grace. In effect, the failure to Rightly Divide the Word destroys his truth and attempts to steal Israel’s hope from its rightful owner, leaving them with only the curses and none of the blessings.

- The bottom line: Trying to put grace into the law or law into grace compromises both severely.

- ***Israel’s Kingdom Hope — Rekindled***

  - But then, after much delay and the judgments God brought for many centuries upon his people, when for many that Kingdom hope seemed to be extinguished once and for all, that earthly hope was rekindled through the prophets:

Isaiah 9:6-7 [written about the time of the Assyrian capture of 10 northern tribes …]
6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. *[See also Jeremiah 23:5-6, Zechariah 9:9-10, 14–17, amongst many others.]*

  - It would be quite incredible if all these promises were only intended to have a “spiritual” meaning and not the obvious, and literal, meaning consistent with an earthly prophet/priest/king and land and nation. How else could those for whom these prophecies were given have taken them, but literally?

    In effect, those that fail to Rightly Divide attempt to steal Israel’s hope and blessings, taking it for themselves, and leaving them with only curses.

  - Yes, there will finally be true peace on this earth. But only when God’s enemies and Israel’s shall have been finally destroyed —physically. This means even Gentile nations!

  - So the hope of the Jews for an earthly Kingdom with all that implies was rekindled as Israel and Judah were about to be carried off into captivity again. As we have seen, there is much reaffirmation of those promises of God for the blessing of his people in that long-awaited land of promise.

But those promises ultimately involve the Seed of the Woman. So his coming first and then again to this earth is absolutely required … along with the resurrection of all of the saints who died with a Kingdom hope.

Conclusions / Application:

- Looking ahead, we shall see that the coming Kingdom will not be as many expect today, who are not rightly dividing and are trying to read grace into law and kingdom law into grace. They go to the "Jewish gospels" to see how God will be working and to learn how believers should live. They avoid the Pauline revelation, or if they do not, they distort it to conform, if possible, to the pattern of the gospel teaching.

- When the Kingdom is established according to Revelation and the gospels, all unbelievers will have already been removed and will await their resurrection at the end of the Millennium with their Great White Throne judgment to follow. Only the believers will remain, whether of the elect nation of Israel or of the Gentiles who have believed at the witness of the saved Jews. So at the beginning there are only the redeemed who will now fulfill the terms of the New Covenant. We shall examine these covenant terms in due time, Lord willing, and come to know what the essence of Kingdom life will be like. Its many differences with living as we do today under grace will be most clear. Amen.

  The many young ones that were under an age of accountability will be present; however, in only a few years the earth will be full of those with active sin natures. Life in the coming Kingdom will therefore not be at all what so many have been thinking. So be it. Scripture is our source of truth and always shall be.

- We continue our study today on the Day of the Lord and Israel's Coming King, Part 2. Our emphasis, as always, is and must be on "what does the word of God actually reveal, not what would we like it to say, but what does it actually say? And may the Holy Spirit give us understanding. Amen.

Our Outline Today:

- ***Israel's Kingdom Hope — Prepared***
- ***Israel's Kingdom Hope — Offered***

Next Time:

- ***Israel's Kingdom Hope Shall in God's Good Timing, Be Received***
- ***Resurrection Glory Awaits the Saints with a Kingdom Hope***

Then:

- ***Life In the Kingdom Will Be Different From What Many Have Been Taught***

I. <u>Israel's Kingdom Hope — Prepared:</u>

- Nothing could be clearer, but for Israel's kingdom hope to be fulfilled, their king must be present here in this sin-dominant world. For millennia, the promised King-Messiah, the Seed of the Woman, was the hope of believers. But the appointed time for his coming had not yet arrived. But then the Seed of the Woman, Israel's long-awaited Messiah and King, our Lord Jesus Christ came!

  But, instead of receiving their long-awaited Messiah and Lord King, as seems so strange to us today, they crucified him!

Matthew 1:18-19
18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.
19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just [man], and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

Matthew 1:20-23
20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.
21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.
22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,
23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

- The Matthew account presents our Lord Jesus and his incarnation here as Savior and even as the Son of God. But that is not all that had been expected for so long. There was also a critically important additional reality, full deliverance from their often-dominant enemies, Gentile nations:

[READ] Luke 1:70-80
70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:
71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;
72 To perform the mercy [promised] to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;
73 The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,

74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,
75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.
76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,
78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,
79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and [in] the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.
80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

- We must take note that in all of these reaffirmations of God's promises to his chosen nation and people, there is a focus on earthly things. There is also a focus on the spiritual in some of them, as we have seen, in Mt. 1:21 and then also in the parallel text in Luke 1:77. But the blessings of home and family and peace with their life-long enemies defeated once and for all are very clearly revealed. The fulfillment of those kingdom promises given to the fathers is rectified here in the New Testament, even as Christ has come now finally to this earth.

- We shall now see that this is still the case after the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Those promises made and reaffirmed so often were not even then fulfilled. Their prerequisite, a risen and glorified savior, the Seed of the Woman, and his death for sin and sins, had become a reality. What could now stand in the way of the fulfilment of the prophetic plan for Israel's redemption? What remained? Many were so sure that the time had come for Israel's deliverance? But apparently not., for the nation had not yet been redeemed, and as an elect nation it is still not ready for its Kingdom inheritance to be granted. Christ himself, their risen Lord, explains:

Acts 1:1-5
1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:
3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:
4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.
5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

[READ] Acts 1:6-9
6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?
7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.
8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

- And so we learn here, as the twelve apostles also did, that the time was still not yet right for Israel's deliverance in this earthly realm. Why not? We shall see:

II. Israel's Kingdom Hope — Offered:

- In the next chapter in the Acts, chapter 2, the apostle Peter announces Christ's resurrection with the power of the Holy Spirit and undeniable proofs of the Lord's presence:

[READ] Acts 2:22-24
22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:
23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:
24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

- Our purpose here in this study is not to give a detailed teaching on this chapter of the early book of Acts. But as I hope you do remember from our earlier teachings, what has occurred here is that Peter has stood up and begun preaching boldly by the empowering of the Holy Spirit of God that Christ is risen and so much has now therefore changed in the work of God among sinners. And for the Jews here assembled in Jerusalem, for the most part Jews from many nations here on a pilgrimage to celebrate these sacred days in the Jewish calendar, this day was the appointed day for them to receive by faith their risen and ascended Messiah, our Lord Jesus. Prophecies were being fulfilled in great numbers and signs were abundantly provided. Many proofs of Christ's resurrection and ascension had been given. But the Jewish people were culpable and had conspired to put him to death, from their leaders at the top to the lowliest of them, it seems.

Peter boldly preaches that message, one of good news concerning Christ but one that has now become bad news for them, as Peter had now begun to speak, confirming their guilt, collectively if not individually and personally. But judgment is near, he proclaims:

Acts 2:29-33
29 Men *and* brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.
30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;
31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.
32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.
33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Acts 2:34-37
34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,
35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.
36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.
37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?

- The issue here is that they had crucified their own Messiah! Judgment would be perhaps soon indeed, and none would escape. Peter proclaims, however, that there was a way provided for them to escape the coming judgment:

Acts 2:38-47
38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.
40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

- This was a dramatic day indeed in the long history of the Jewish people and now this nation. For the risen Christ has sent forth the Holy Spirit

providing a preview of the coming kingdom and the full provision of all the terms of the New Covenant.

- Peter had here preached judgment, and now, only a few years later, he will offer the Kingdom to the Jews. The time of Israel's redemption has come. They are in the valley of decision as the prophet Joel had proclaimed:

Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision.

- This is the offer of the Kingdom, if only they would receive it as a nation, even as the elect nation…

[READ] Acts 3:18-24
18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.
19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;
20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:
21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.
22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.
23 And it shall come to pass, [that] every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.
24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

- So more was still required in the mind of the Lord God: The Prophet had come, was crucified, buried, and now resurrected and ascended to God the Father's right hand, awaiting the time to return to this earth to bless his people and judge the world of the faithless, for the faith and obedience of the elect nation was still required: "him shall ye hear". But would they?

- The promised Kingdom was now being offered by the mouth of God's chosen spokesperson, the apostle Peter — and some had believed (mere thousands out of probably millions), but not their leaders, and therefore not the nation. The following chapters in the Acts, show the rejection by the nation's leaders and many others as well. In chapter 4, Peter is in jail even, over his preaching of the risen Lord Jesus. In chapter 5 we have the rebellion of Ananias and Sapphira and the apostles are imprisoned. But they are released and continue preaching boldly.

[READ] Acts 7:51-60
51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye.
52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:
53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept *it*.
54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.
55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,
56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.
57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,
58 And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.
59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.
60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

- Chapter 7 brings us to Stephen's arrest on false charges of blasphemy. Chapter 8 records Stephen's marvelous speech in his defense, after which he is stoned, martyred, at the hands of a man, a pharisee, named Saul.

- And then God institutes a radical consequence that no one could have anticipated, now turning away from his chosen nation, a nation of primarily unbelievers, to the Gentile nations. Furthermore, he calls a new apostle for that work, separate from the Twelve, Saul himself, to be renamed Paul, the very one that had become the greatest ememy of the faith in their risen Messiah and Lord! The greatest enemy of all has now been called into an entirely unprophesied ministry of not law, not even kingdom law, but grace, pure grace, untarnished by human works of every kind. Most miraculous indeed.

- Lord God has now turned to a new and previously unrevealed program to save Gentiles entirely independently of Israel's salvation. For Israel's redemption had not occurred (as witnessed by Stephen's martyrdom), the time of the elect nation's creation had not been realized. And now Saul had been raised up as apostle of the Gentiles, and a new gospel, salvation by grace apart from Law, was being preached boldly in the name of the risen Christ Jesus.

Praise God for what was to follow, of which we have all in our day been the beneficiaries. Praise God for his abundant grace.

<u>This Study: Israel's Kingdom Hope Beginning to be Fulfilled</u>

- ***… Prepared: The incarnation tells the whole story of the beginning …***
- ***… Offered: Peter is chosen to make the offer … Acts 3 — some only believe but then many, the majority, refuse the offer. And Stephen is martyred…***

<u>Conclusions / Application:</u>

- So what remains of God's prophetic program for his people, the Jews? Much indeed. As we have seen, after the seven-year Tribulation period has accomplished its twofold purpose, Israel will be saved as a nation. Gentiles nations will be judged, and anyone aligned with satan will be destroyed. But that program is now in abeyance until God's appointed time. Israel and its plan were set aside for a time.

  And today grace reigns independently of Israel and the preaching of their coming King and his Kingdom on earth. Amen. The one gospel and its message regarding new life in Christ has fully replaced the prophetic message for both Jews and Gentiles alike.