

# PASTOR RAY'S BIBLE SCHOOL 301

## Kingdom Nation

### Session Twelve

#### “Kingdom Found”

##### I. Review Of The Course

###### A. The Big Picture: A Prophetic View Of Redemption

1. Our 301 Course has presented the panorama of salvation of a particular people, foreknown and predestinated by God to live with Him for eternity.

2. This “group” of the redeemed is God’s “Kingdom Nation”, a fulfillment of the Divine purpose stated in the Old and New Testaments:

a. In the Old Testament, just before He gave them His Law, God said this to *Israel*:

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and *a holy nation*.

Ex 19:5-6 KJV

b. In the New Testament, the Apostle Peter quotes this well-know passage, now relating it to apply to *the Church*:

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: 10 \* *Which in time past were not a people*, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10 KJV

**\*Notice that Peter calls the church a “people who were not a people”. This is a major contrast to national Israel, a highly identifiable “people” group. Peter defines the “Kingdom Nation” of God as those having no historical identity as a nation or ethnic group! The Gospel saves ALL who will believe, (Jew and Gentile), and cannot be limited in any way “according to the flesh”!**

3. If we have a prophetic view of scripture, we can see that it's a mistake to see Israel or the Church as the ultimate (telic) purpose of God. While the redemptive work of God centered around national Israel in the Old Testament, and the Church in the New Testament, we now can see that the true central subject of God's work has always been the Kingdom of God.

a. Israel in the OT and the Church in the NT are to be seen as "expressions" of the Kingdom of God.

b. True believers in Israel and true believers in the Church are ALL the spiritual "sons" of Abraham, (Romans 4:11).

c. In Romans 11, Paul provides a comprehensive explanation of how the (general) unbelief of the Jews caused them to be "cut off" and the believing Gentiles to be "grafted in". A careful reading of that passage shows that the key issue was not the "branches", (whether "natural" branches of Israel or the "wild" branches of the Gentiles)...the issue was CONNECTION TO THE 'ROOT'! What could be clearer? How can we preach membership in Israel or the membership in the Church as the test of salvation?

4. In our last session, "Kingdom Lost", we saw how the Kingdom was "taken away" from Israel to be given to a "nation producing the fruits thereof." In this session we'll see how the **coming of Christ was the "defining moment" for recapturing the true view of God's central purpose, the Kingdom of God and the establishment of His "Kingdom Nation"...a "Kingdom Found"!**

## II. Kingdom Found

### A. The Correctional Ministry Of Jesus

1. What we've learned in this course ought to send us all back to re-read the entire New Testament, (especially the Gospel of Matthew and the Book of Acts), with the prophetic view of the Kingdom in mind.

2. We can clearly see that the religious leaders of Israel had LOST the true view of the Kingdom God had called them to become in Exodus 19.

3. Re-reading the New Testament with this perspective quickly reveals how the earthly ministry of Jesus was, broadly speaking, a "correctional" polemic against their errant views on the subject of the Kingdom.

4. Israel "lost" the Kingdom because of BAD THEOLOGY and FALSE BELIEFS...Such a revelation ought to send professing Christians deeply into the Word of God to make sure we don't make the same mistakes.

5. Being born again doesn't necessarily guarantee you will "see" the Kingdom and have a revelation of its centrality in scripture, but unless you are "born again" you CANNOT see it!

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" 11 And He answered and said to them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted." 12 "For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. 13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand." 14

"And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; 15 For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes Lest they should see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I should heal them.'

16 "But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. 17 "For truly I say to you, that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it; and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Matt 13:10-17 NASB

## B. Polemical Examples

1. They had come to see the Kingdom as a *political* and secular institution.

a. A careful reading of the Gospels clearly reveals how the Jewish leaders saw Israel in primarily secular terms. When He demonstrated His ability to miraculously feed the hungry multitudes, they sought to "elect" Him "President"!!!

When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

John 6:15 KJV

b. The trial and crucifixion of Jesus was not based upon His claims to be a Savior or a religious Priest...it was His claim as a King!

As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar."

John 19:12 NASB

14 Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" 15 They therefore cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 So he then delivered Him to them to be crucified.

John 19:14-16 NASB

19 And Pilate wrote an inscription also, and put it on the cross. And it was written, "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS." 20 Therefore this inscription many of the Jews read, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and in Greek. 21 And

so the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews'; but that He said, 'I am King of the Jews.' " 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."  
John 19:19-22 NASB

36 Jesus answered (Pilate), "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."  
John 18:36 NLT

2. They saw themselves as superior to outsiders (Gentiles), by reason of natural generation.

31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. 32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."  
33 "But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free'?" 34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. 35 A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free. 37 Yes, I realize that you are descendants of Abraham. And yet some of you are trying to kill me because there's no room in your hearts for my message. 38 I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. But you are following the advice of your father." 39 "Our father is Abraham!" they declared. "No," Jesus replied, "for if you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow his example. 40 Instead, you are trying to kill me because I told you the truth, which I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing.  
John 8:31-41 New Living Translation

47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.  
48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?  
49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!  
50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.  
Matt 12:47-50 KJV

3. They looked for the coming of the "Lion of Judah" instead of the "Lamb of God".

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.  
John 1:10-13 KJV

John 1:26-28  
26 John answered them saying, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. 27 "It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."  
NASB

(Later, even one as great as John the Baptist fell into doubt, offended because Jesus was acting so different than John expected Him to act!!)

2 Now when John in prison heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples, 3 and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" 4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 "And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me."

Matthew 11:2-6 NASB

4. They saw the Kingdom of God and national Israel as one and the same and thought the coming of the Kingdom was something they could see with the natural eye. This was a misconception even among the disciples after the resurrection...

1 The first account I composed, (Luke referring to his writing of the Gospel of Luke), Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when He was taken up, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. 3 To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. 4 And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. " 6 And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. "

Acts 1:1-9 NASB

20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Luke 17:20-21 KJV

One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will the Kingdom of God come?" Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. 21 You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you."

Luke 17:20-21 NLT

5. They saw the Kingdom of God as endless commandment keeping and made the list of do's and don'ts the main issue. Paul addresses this in his epistle to the Romans, where he gives the clearest definition of the Kingdom of God to be found in scripture...

"For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the HolyGhost."

Romans 14:17

6. This definition jibes with the demonstration of Kingdom authority in the deliverance ministry of Jesus. His entire ministry was a definition of the superiority of the Kingdom of God over any other Kingdom and we can readily see that His authority over sickness, demons and death was an expression of the Kingdom of God by the Holy Spirit...

But some of them said, He casts out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils. And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falls. If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges. But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

Luke 11:15-22

KJV

*We could multiply examples of the polemical aspects of Jesus' ministry, but the point is made. The propensity to misinterpret Christ and His Kingdom is an ever present danger to the people of God. Can we learn from their mistakes or are we doomed to repeat them?*

### III. Thy Kingdom Come

#### A. The Church And The Kingdom

1. The central theme of scripture is the Kingdom of God, the ages-old conflict over the issue of "Who Is In Charge?"

2. Man's sin did not deter God's purpose of ruling the earth through delegated authority: His reconstruction of that purpose was primarily accomplished through Israel in the Old Testament and the Church in the New Testament...in both cases, the "Kingdom Nation" of God was to be an expression on earth of God's righteous rule and reign in Creation.

3. These things must hold the central and primary place in our perspective:

- The Kingdom Nation is God's consistent purpose in all of scripture

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice...**you shall be to me a kingdom of priests...a holy nation.**

Exodus 19:5-6

But ye are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood, an holy nation...**

1 Peter 2:9

- Our first priority in life must be the seeking of the Kingdom

**"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."**

Matthew 6:33

- The first thing we must ask for in every prayer is...

**"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven".**

Matthew 6:10

- The Kingdom of God is the righteous rule and reign of King Jesus, a government that must increase without ceasing. We can participate in it or not, but NO ONE CAN STOP IT, BECAUSE THE 'ZEAL OF THE LORD' WILL ACCOMPLISH IT!

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.

Isa 9:6-7 KJV

4. As we consider the prophetic view of God's Kingdom Nation, how can we help but cling to an eschatology of victory? Surely we can see God's people WILL WIN...in time and space...that the Kingdom will increase until "His enemies are made His footstool", and then the Lord will come to take full possession of the Creation that His and His alone!

19 Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. 20 Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. 21 For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.

Acts 3:19-22 NLT