

The Coming Kingdom of God

by Louise Durham

To me, one of the most important teachings in the Bible is the one concerning the Kingdom of God that will be established upon the earth. God is reserving this globe for His Kingdom. We read in Psalm 115:16, "The heavens, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth hath He given to the children of men." It is good to know that God promised to man this earth.

Jesus told the good news of the coming Kingdom of God, and that the Kingdom will rule over all nations, and the supreme ruler will be Christ himself. Just remember Christ will not rule all by himself. The Bible shows that the saints will rule with him.

Let's think about the conditions that exist in the coming Kingdom and see what the Bible says the saints will be doing in Christ's Kingdom.

Christ ascended to heaven after his resurrection (Acts 1:11, Rev. 12:5) with the promise that He would return (Acts 1:11, John 14:3). Christ will remain in heaven until the "times of restitution" (Acts 3:20-21), at which time He will come with power and great glory (Matt. 24:30, Rev. 19:11-16). Christ will be forced to begin his rule on earth by putting end to a war (Rev. 11:18, 17:12-14, 19:15).

This glorified Christ is coming to restore the rule of the government that ceased to be administered on earth when man rebelled. However, when Christ returns, many rulers of nations will refuse to yield to Christ's authority and will actually try to fight Him. Christ will therefore be forced to subdue the nations with great power.

In the coming Kingdom of God, government will be from the top down, with Christ reigning supreme (Rev. 19:16). From His headquarters in Jerusalem (Jer. 3:17), Christ's rule will spread over the entire earth (Isa.6:3).

The members of God's church (those who obeyed God and proved their loyalty to Him during their mortal lives) will assist Christ by reigning with Him in the Millennium (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21, 5:10; 20:4; Dan. 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27; Luke 19:16-19). The restored earth (Acts 3:20-21) will be given to man as an everlasting possession. Peter tells us that we "according to His promise, look for new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" (II Peter 3:5-13).

This promise will be given to the faithful following to the end of this age. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, and I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven" (Rev. 21:2a).

Now God's desire from the beginning that man should dwell upon the earth will be complete!