



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

November 2, 2014

“The Nature Of The Kingdom”

Bryan Garlock

We're in the middle of a series exposing the rapture theory, aka Premillennialism. Last week we showed the kingdom to be established (if you haven't read the previous articles, please do so before reading the following). This is a direct assault on the teachings that Christ will return and set up a kingdom for Himself. Now, if it can be shown that Christ is sitting on the throne of David in heaven, then the nature of the kingdom will be irrefutable.

“Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel...and said to him, “...appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.” While this saying displeased Samuel (v5), God said, “[o]bey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them” (1 Sam. 8.4-7).

The nature of the kingdom has been misunderstood from the days of Samuel. The people of God no longer wanted Him as their King, but rather an earthly king of their own. I say God as their King because He has always had a kingdom (cf. Psalm 29.10; 103.19; Isaiah 37.16).

The perversion of the nature of the coming kingdom was a byproduct of the Jews' wants and wishes. Fast-forwarding to the ministry of Christ, we see how the Jews expected Christ to be their earthly king (cf. John 6.15). It should be noted that Jesus never denied being a king (cf. John 18.36-37). He was born a king (Mat. 2.2) and He is King of kings (Rev. 17.14), but His kingdom was to be spiritual.

Jesus proclaimed, [t]he kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you” (Luke 17.20-21). Jesus destroyed any notion of a physical kingdom when He said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world” (John 18.36). The Kingdom of Christ is spiritual in nature.

Premillennialists today want the same thing the Jews wanted: an earthly kingdom with a literal king (Jesus Christ) sitting on a literal throne (David's throne). While this may sound silly to some, this is what this doctrine revolves around.

It is true that Christ was promised David's throne. In a prophetic promise, Nathan foretold, “[w]hen your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers [speaking of David], I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever...” (2 Sam. 7.12-13, 16, emphasis added).

We can be sure this promise speaks of Christ in several ways. One such way is that the offspring of David would build a house for God's name (a point we will develop in another article). *Continued on back...*

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Announcements

- Sister Sharon lost her home to a fire. Please contact her to find out what she needs and pray for her family
- Remember John Blair
- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Men's Bible study Nov. 9th, 3:30 PM
- Teen's Bible study / Kid's drill today
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.
- Bible study this Tuesday 7 PM; Brown's house; ask Bryan Garlock for details
- Coming soon: Young family / couples' Bible study
- Remember the spiritual sick among us

Further, this throne was promised directly to Christ by Isaiah the prophet (9.6-7) and at His birth (Luke 1.32-33). Interestingly, Peter's first gospel sermon speaks of an oath God made with David concerning one of His descendants sitting on his throne. Peter spoke, concerning David the prophet, "he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ" (Acts 2.29-31). Without a doubt Christ is heir to the throne of David!

The location of this throne is a different matter. Premillennialists say it will be at ground zero, that is, Jerusalem. In contrast, Scripture states that the kingdom was to be established and Christ was to sit on David's throne in *heaven*. If it can be so proved, then there is no need for a future, literal throne in Jerusalem!

Please read Jeremiah 22.24-30. In this passage, Jeremiah foretells of the captivity Coniah would suffer for practicing evil in the sight of the Lord (cf. 2 Kings 24.8-9). The prophet Jeremiah spoke concerning him, "[t]hus says the Lord: "Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not succeed in his days, **for none of his offspring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David and ruling again in Judah** (30, emphasis added). Jeremiah clearly teaches that no offspring shall prosper from the throne of David in Jerusalem (Judah).

The funny thing is, Christ was an offspring of Coniah (see Matt. 1.1-17). If Coniah's offspring would not rule again in Judah, how is it that Christ will rule from David's throne in Jerusalem? The simple answer, but devastating blow is this, He can't!

How then will Christ fulfill the prophetic promise to sit on David's throne and rule His kingdom? If the throne is not literal and if the throne is not in Jerusalem, that's how!

Zechariah prophesied that Christ would be a King and a priest (6.12-13). Christ was the "branch" the prophet spoke of (cf. Jeremiah 23.5). If it were contended that Christ could not be both King and Priest, it must be replied that Christ was to be Priest after the order of Melchizedek (cf. Psalm 110.4). This is significant in that Melchizedek was *both* priest and king (Gen. 14.18).

Since Christ is both a Priest and King, where His Priesthood is, there His Kingship is too. First, Jesus is a High Priest (Heb. 4.14). Second, as High Priest, He, "is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in **heaven**" (Heb. 8.1, emphasis added). Third, the Hebrew writer states, "Now if he were on **earth**, he would not be a **priest** at all..." (Heb. 8.4, emphasis added). Fourth, since He is a Priest, He must offer a sacrifice for sin. This He did offering up Himself (Heb. 7.26-27; cf. 8.4). If He isn't a Priest, then He didn't off a sacrifice for sin and our faith is in vain. Who can believe that?

For those who argue these passages to speak of God's throne and not David's, therefore implying Jesus is to step down from God's throne to step up on David's, let it be understood that the thrones are used interchangeable in Scripture (cf. 1 Chron. 29.23; 1 Kings 2.24; 8.20).

If Christ is not sitting on David's throne now, the implications are Christ must rise in power. Think about this, Christ has been given all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28.18). Further, Paul penned that God, "worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things..." (Eph. 1.20-22). How much higher in the ranks can God make His Son? Premillennialism demands that Christ be "lowered" in power and authority. Now He reigns in heaven and on earth; in the "millennium" (that is, when He returns) He will supposedly reign on earth only.

Reader, it is so crystal clear. The throne is **not** literal. The location is heaven. The timeframe is now. This proves that the Kingdom is spiritual in nature. Won't you become a citizen of Christ's kingdom by placing your faith in Christ today! BG