

MSB226

# MORE Seed and Bread

*BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM*

## **THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY**

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# **IT WILL NOT ALWAYS BE LIKE THIS**

by David R. Hettema

We live in a world gone wrong, the everyday conditions throughout the earth are a record of man's violence and destruction. Men who commit murder, ethnic and religious warfare causing innocent people to suffer and die. Every place you look has in common the ever-present sin and iniquity, human oppression and violent death that have been our lot since the Garden of Eden.

Add to this the famine and disease that perpetually ravage nations and people, and the shocking fact that everyday one third of the world's population goes to bed hungry, including people of the most advanced nations who also suffer from this iniquity.

In many things we may be spared because our place is among the more fortunate, but because these evil conditions so relentlessly flow on and on we are at times lulled into the belief that "thus it has been, and thus it will always be."

Not so, for God has spoken concerning the future of man and his world, He has given us a good message concerning when He will make things right, changing conditions to what they should be. When God's divine assumption of sovereignty occurs, Jesus Christ will rule the nations in a righteous and beneficial way.

Right conditions flow out from a righteous government. These words of promise are recorded for man in the book we call the Bible.

A well-written book has a theme and the theme of the Bible is the coming Kingdom of God when the Heavens will govern all men and nations upon this earth. By inspiration the Psalmist writes of what is to be as though it was already a present fact; Say among the nations that the LORD reigns: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously (Ps 96:10). The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. (Ps 103:19).

The message of this book is that Divine intervention is impending. This is God's next move, not a destructive, vengeful Armageddon but a silent overflowing invasion by His Spirit. Not by might, nor power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord of hosts (Zech. 4: 6 I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, (Joel 2:28).

The purpose of God's government is to bring about the salvation of this world, redeem mankind, his creation back to Himself, a fellowship that God desires, but was broken when sin entered this world. This redemption has already been purchased by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. (Titus 2:14).

An awesome change in the status quo of mankind's everyday life will come on the day that God pours out His Spirit upon all flesh, an action that openly manifests and enlightens the minds of all living. It will bring great changes to everything upon the face of the earth, there will be universal awe, respect and reverence to God. Every living individual will be made responsible to Him, their minds, conscience and physical bodies made perfect, prepared to stand in judgment before the righteous judge of all the earth. This event is accomplished very quickly as described in Matthew 12: 18-21 where God, in presenting His beloved Son to mankind, calls Jesus Christ His servant, the honored one who will judge the earth. Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall show judgment to the Nations. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the nations trust. (Matt. 12:18-21).

I charge thee therefore before God, even the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick (living) and the dead at his appearing (Epiphaneia, blazing forth) even his kingdom; (2 Tim 4: 1).

When God acts, great blessings almost indescribable in their benefits and beauty will flow out upon men and to the earth. Every one of these is what the Bible sets forth as "The Salvation of God": Life replacing death, perfect health instead of sickness and dying, righteousness and peace among men instead of iniquity and violence. Add to this the enjoyment of an unfettered earth yielding her abundance for its inhabitants. These are only a beginning of the miraculous changes and gifts for men, every one of them inherent in Jesus Christ, the Son that the loving God sent to save the world.

Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. (Ps 46:8-10).

No one is presently experiencing the great outflow of "God's Salvation" today. An honest approach to God's Word will reveal that these blessings and benefits will flow out from God to men and the earth only after He assumes sovereignty and His rule is established over all the earth. This statement should not be misunderstood as saying that God is not dealing in love and favor to men today, He is. In this dispensation of grace, the unsearchable riches of His grace flow out to all men, especially to the heirs of salvation.

The message of God's impending government and His great salvation is still available to all the world. God's Spirit continually urges men to seek Him, to be submissive to His Word before that great day comes. It will one day break forth upon mankind, but in this present time, God is not raising the dead or flowing out with perfect health and eonian life to the living. He is not destroying the workers of iniquity, nor judging any man's record. Earth still is bound by its curses. The removal of sin and its wages are all a part of "the Salvation of God." At that time Jesus Christ will demonstrate to the nations of the earth that He has fulfilled His commission to rescue, deliver and to make safe this whole world system (cosmos), including mankind.

During His earthly ministry Christ Jesus showed many of the blessings that the kingdom of God would bring to the earth. In every miracle or sign performed He showed what the kingdom would be like by healing the sick, raising the dead, overruling the sea, the earth and even the weather. Every one of these signs are a credential of His Messiahship, proof that He was the promised Christ. Those living at that time in Israel who witnessed and even benefited from His miraculous power had the first opportunity to believe on the Son of God, thus securing the promise of eonian life. Of course these all have died, some in faith like many of the Old Testament men of faith described in Hebrews 11:13; These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them. Today, all of them wait in the state of death as do our deceased loved ones, waiting for their order of resurrection into the kingdom of God.

The words "The Resurrection" are used to describe one important aspect of the Kingdom when God's gift of salvation raises men from the dead. That there are qualifications for the earlier resurrection order is set forth by the Lord when he told about the dead being raised; "they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead" (Luke 20: 35).

## **THE NEED FOR RESURRECTION**

There are many more of mankind among the dead than those that are living, yet we are assured that God in Christ will set every individual, the living and the dead in their own order of life or resurrection when He judges all men at his **Epiphaneia**, even His kingdom.

In spite of the emphatic declaration in the Bible that man is a soul and "the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18: 4,20), the majority of organized religion today sets forth that man possesses a never dying soul and does not really die because he already has the attribute of immortality. This teaching implies that when a believer dies, they immediately begin to enjoy the gifts of Christ's salvation, and the unbeliever who dies is immediately suffering the judgment their never dying soul deserves. Some who teach this error give lip service to resurrection, because it is spoken of in the Bible. But their doctrine has no need for man to be raised from the dead, thus denying Christ

as the way to life. He gave His soul unto death. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isa 53: 12)

God's Word makes plain that death would be man's end except for resurrection made possible by Jesus Christ's victory. He declared, "I am the resurrection and the life" ( John 11:25), a truth that Paul enlarges upon when setting forth the positive facts of Christ's resurrection; For as in Adam all die (are dying), even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order (1 Cor. 15:22-23). The orders of resurrection are designated as three distinct groups in which every descendant of Adam, evil or good will experience the benefits of the new life that Jesus Christ has bought for them. Whether or not the individual will retain that new life or lose it will be settled by the judgment (setting in order) that is a part of the resurrection process.

The believer in Jesus Christ, living or dead has a direct statement from Christ concerning when they will begin to experience this new life. It follows His declaration that He is the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: In thirteen words Jesus Christ states that every individual believer in the state of death will experience resurrection in the first order and be alive to enjoy their inheritance in the Salvation of God. His next statement has to do with those believers who happen to be alive when divine intervention takes place. Whosoever liveth (is presently living) and believeth in me shall never die (not be dying with respect to the eon (the kingdom outflow). Believest thou this? (John 11:25-26).

The coming of the Kingdom of God in this earth is the time when men will begin to experience the life and blessings of God's wonderful Salvation. The inspired Prophet wrote; The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. (Isa 52:10). It will not always be like this, the world will yet experience God's Salvation. Isaiah the Prophet wrote concerning the joy of experiencing this salvation under God's government: He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation. (Isa 25:8-9). May God speed the day.

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