

MSB258

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

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REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS

by Jim Witt

The central message of the Bible is the Kingdom of God or the sovereignty of God. It complicates the matter intensely to assume the Bible is only relative to the present and thus the Word of God becomes nothing more than a compendium for behaviorism or how to live our lives. While it is good to believe we can get help by looking in the Word for inspiration and peace of mind, we should not limit our exposure for this selfish purpose. This single purpose keeps many from much precious truth about our hope (expectation) in Christ for eternal life. This eternal life we are going to enjoy in the future is only found in the Bible and is certainly not open to men's imagination or wishful thinking.

In the Gospel of John, the apostle tells us in Chapter 20:31, **But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name.** Thus we conclude that salvation comes by believing.

Let us now look at the reasons for our hope in Christ for the future: **Say among the nations that the Lord reigneth** (is governing), **the world shall be established that it shall not be moved. He shall judge the people righteously** (Psa. 96:10). I wish we could say this were true now---that His kingdom were already here. The obvious fact is that this world is still ruled by men and our God is silent. All of God's kingdom purposes for the world are in abeyance and have been suspended. God's work on earth in the days of His flesh and the Acts period was cut short in righteousness because a short work will the Lord make on the earth (Romans 9:28).

In that time the work in extending, developing and building the Kingdom of God was only assigned or commissioned to the outcalled ones under the leadership of the Apostles. These were the most powerful men whoever lived on earth in relationship to God. They were representatives of God, something no man can claim today. They could bind a matter on earth and have heaven concur on it. These men were mediators between God and man. They were given special power and authority over unclean spirits (demons). They could heal the sick, restore sight to the blind, restore hearing to the deaf, heal the lame and raise the dead. The "twelve" are destined to sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel" This means that they are to be given twelve seats of authority in the theocracy to be established in Israel when God rules the earth.

Since there is only one mediator between God and man at the present time, the man Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5), no man on earth can claim to represent God in working miracles or acting in God's behalf. We are all sinners saved by grace. Those who believe now are by-products of what God is doing in this present Dispensation of Grace and are trophies of His grace. Because we have been chosen in Him before the foundation of the world or more specifically the founding of His order over the earth, we will be called upon to serve Him in a very special capacity! In Ephesians 1:4, the Apostle Paul tells us, **According as He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.** This is a marvelous passage of Scripture of how God perceives us as believers in this present Dispensation of His Grace. Every untraceable act of God is an expression of His love and favor.

In Colossians, the believer is exhorted to do certain things. Paul begins by saying, **If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above not on things on the earth. For ye are dead and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory** (Col. 3:1-4). The phrase *right hand* means Christ is seated in His rightful place of position (seated in His rights). *Things on the earth* are not necessarily real estate, stocks, and bonds, automobiles, motorhomes or yachts. While we should not set our affection on these things, I believe it has a much deeper meaning such as a secular existential dealing with life or simply man's philosophy as opposed to God's truth. Verse 3 could mean we are dead *to* sin, not dead *in* sin, as it is translated in Ephesians 2:1, or more specifically our identification with

Christ in His death. Romans 6:8 says, **Now if we be dead with Christ we believe that we shall also live with Him.** Verse 11 says, **Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.** Since our lot as present-day believers in Jesus Christ is cast in this present time of God's silence, we should attempt to live our lives in the hope or expectation of what God has revealed about the future. In Titus 2:13 Paul tells us that we should be "looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God *even* our Savior Jesus Christ." This appearing means the shining or blazing forth of the glory of Jesus Christ. Isaiah 40:5 says, **And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together:** (all will understand or perceive at the same time) **for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.** This is not the second coming of Christ where He takes vengeance on all those who know not God and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power" (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

The glory of His power should not be confused with the glory of the Lord being revealed. The glory of the Lord being revealed is God acting in love and graciousness. The other is God dealing in wrath or capital punishment as the judge of all the earth. The first is grace, the other is government. These two are mutually exclusive concepts. In fact they indicate the polarity of God's character. He is the God of every grace and also the judge of all the earth but not at the same time. We are admonished to distinguish the things that differ and we will not be confused if we recognize this when comparing these two passages.

In Acts 3:19-21 Peter, speaking by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, tells us, **Repent (submit) therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus Christ, who before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive (retain) until the times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world (eon) began.** What were some of these things that were spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets? Psalms 9:7-8 says, **But the Lord shall endure forever, He hath prepared His throne for judgment and He shall judge the world in righteousness, He shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.** The word *judgment* means He will set the order or determine the arrangement. It can be adverse judgment but it should be recognized that *punishment* is not inherent in this

word. Psalm 19:9-10 says, His judgments...are true and righteous altogether, more to be desired than gold, yea even much fine gold, sweeter than honey and the honeycomb.

Psalm 10:17-18 says, **Lord thou hast heard the desire of the humble; Thou wilt prepare their heart, thou will cause thine ear to hear, to judge the fatherless and the oppressed that the man of the earth may no more oppress.** If there was ever a time during which men are oppressed, it is now and in the 50 to 100 years just past. If all oppression would cease, and it will, the world and its inhabitants would be a whole lot better off.

In Romans 4:17, we have a good explanation of how God speaks...**I have made thee (Abraham) a father of many nations, before Him whom He believed, even God, who quickeneth (giveth life to) the dead and calleth those things which are not as though they were.** Our God is not bound by time, so He can speak of those things to come as if they already existed. Psalm 47:7-8 says, **For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the nations: God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness.**

In Psalm 22:27-28 we have a remarkable statement of what God is going to do in placing information in men's minds concerning His plans for His righteous rule: **All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn unto the Lord; and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the Kingdom (government) is the Lord's; and He is the governor among the nations.** The worship of God is absolutely mandatory. There will not be a choice as it is today. The world in which we live is one of free choice in matters of worship. Many all over the world do not worship the God of the Bible.

Psalm 66:4-7 says: **All the earth shall worship thee and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Come and see the works of God; He is terrible (awesome) in His doing toward the children of men. . . . He ruleth by His power forever.** (This means the outflowing influence of His having assumed sovereignty over all the earth) **"His eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves."** In our present day the rebellious are most certainly exalting themselves and are making their voices heard in the streets. In the United States, we call this civil unrest and free speech.

Psalm 67:4 says: **O let the nations be glad and sing for joy for thou shalt judge the people righteously and govern the nations upon the earth.** All these quotations from the Psalms begin to give us a clear picture of God's plan to rule the world. It should not be a question in the believer's mind whether He is going to do this but when is He going to do this. It is pleasing to God if we take Him at His word in these matters and respond and believe His truth. Then we will grow in grace and in the knowledge of God (see 2 Peter 3:18).

Many more passages in the Psalms could be called up but these are sufficient to show that we can expect great things from the God of our Salvation. He is the author and finisher of our faith and we should look to Him for all the great blessings and benefits He has purchased for us. A partial list of the benefits is in Psalm 103.

Acts 17:31 confirms all the passages quoted: **because He hath appointed a day in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that *man* whom He hath ordained; *whereof* He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him (Jesus Christ) from the dead.**

Acts 4:12 says, **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.**

END

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