

Wednesday, OCTOBER 29th, 2008

The FOUNDATION of our FAITH

(PART XX)

DIVISION #2

THE PERSONAL WORD OF GOD

JESUS CHRIST And The KINGDOM-OF-GOD Concept - (PART 2)

OPENING TEXT: Isaiah 9:7

I. EVIDENCES OF THE POSTPONEMENT:

1. JESUS CHRIST and the THRONE of DAVID

A. Biblical Declarations

1) The Prophet ISAIAH - (ISAIAH 9:7)

2) The Angel Gabriel - (Luke 1:31-33)

3) The Apostle Peter - (Acts 2:30)

NOTE I: These Biblical declarations indicate that Christ's Kingdom (that is, the future "Theocratic Kingdom") will be present and functioning when He sits on DAVID'S throne.

We have two distinct choices related to this matter:

EITHER (1) Christ sat on "DAVID'S throne" immediately after His Resurrection when He is said to have sat "on the right hand of God the Father" (MARK 16:19; Hebrews 12:2);

OR... (2) Christ WILL take His seat on "DAVID'S throne" in conjunction with His Second Coming to the earth after the Great Tribulation. (Matthew 24:29-31)

NOTE II: To determine which of these positions is correct, we must examine 3 BIBLICAL ITEMS:

ITEM #1. - Description of the Throne in Heaven:

3 FACTS:

(1) It is consistently described as belonging to God the Father - NOT DAVID! (Lamentations 5:19; Hebrews 8:1)

vs -
The Teachings of
Advocates of
Covenant Theology
and Progressive
Dispensationalism
which equates DAVID'S
Throne with God's
Throne in Heaven.

- (2) It is located in the heavenly realm- not on earth! (Psalm 11: 4; 103: 19)
- (3) It is NEVER even one time called the "THRONE of DAVID" in the scriptures!

ITEM #2. - DISTINCTIVENESS of the Throne of DAVID :

- (1) Several DESCENDANTS have sat on it (Ps. 110:1; Heb 8:1; 12:2)
- (2) It was not established BEFORE David's lifetime (II SAM. 7:16, 17) (Ps. 93:1, 2)
- (3) It would therefore be UNNECESSARY for God to proclaim that He was establishing David's throne "forever" if the 2 thrones were one in the same. (Lam. 5:19, II SAM 7:16)
compare
- (4) It was on earth - NOT in heaven.
- (5) It is consistently referred to as belonging to David whereas the throne in heaven is consistently said to Belong to God the FATHER.

ITEM #3. - DISTINCTIVENESS of CHRIST'S Throne:

NOTE: Scripture consistently indicates that when the future Theocratic Kingdom is established, the throne from which Jesus will rule will be separate and distinct from the THRONE in heaven.

FACT #1. - Jesus Himself draws this clear distinction in Revelation 3:21. (several DECADES AFTER His ascension)

FACT #2. - God the Father's own words in Psalm 45: 6 and Hebrews 1: 8 indicate that He recognizes a throne that belongs to Christ - separate and distinct from HIS.

CONCLUSIONS:

- *1. DAVID's throne is NOT equatable with God's throne in heaven;
- *2. Therefore, after His resurrection, Christ did NOT take His seat on DAVID's throne RATHER He sat down at the right hand of the Father;
- *3. He continues to sit at the Father's Right Hand therefore He has not yet taken His place on DAVID's throne;
- *4. Since the future Theocratic Kingdom will be established when Christ takes His seat on DAVID'S throne and, since He has not yet done so, then NO PART of the Theocratic Kingdom has been established yet.

("EVIDENCES OF THE POSTPONEMENT" <continued...>)

- 2. JESUS CHRIST and the seated scroll
Jesus' relationship to the seated scroll of Revelation 5 indicates that;
 - (1) Christ did not establish the Theocratic Kingdom of God after He ascended to heaven and sat at the right hand of God the FATHER and His throne AND,
 - (2) Christ will not establish that Kingdom until His Second Coming to earth.

- 3. CHRONOLOGY of MATTHEW 24 and 25
 - (1) In Matthew 24: 29 - 31, Jesus taught that AFTER the Great Tribulation, He will come as the Son of Man in the clouds of heaven with power and glory and with His Angels.
 - (2) In Matthew 25: 31, - referring to the same time frame as Matthew 24 - , Jesus declared that at THAT time the Son of Man will, "sit upon the Throne of His glory" (which Matt.

25:31 clearly identifies with DAVID'S throne; will reign as King; and will send Righteous people into the Theocratic Kingdom.
 i.e. (Saved)

NOTE: These truths from Matthew all support the teaching that the Theocratic Kingdom will NOT be established until Christ's Second Coming. (And until AFTER THE GREAT TRIBULATION)

4. ORDER of EVENTS at CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

- (1) The Parable of the TARES (Matthew 13:38,39)
- (2) The Parable of the Dragnet (Matthew 13:49)
- (3) The comparison with the days of NOAH (Matthew 24:37-41)

NOTE: All living UNSAVED people will be removed from earth in judgment Before the future Theocratic Kingdom will be established. The fact that all UNSAVED people have NOT yet been removed in judgment prompts the conclusion that the Theocratic Kingdom has not yet begun!

5. PARABLE of LUKE 19: 12 - 27

NOTE: In this parable, the "nobleman" represented Jesus Christ and taught that the Theocratic Kingdom would not immediately be established but would rather be postponed until Christ's Second Coming.

6. DANIEL 7's PROPHECY (vv 9-27)

NOTE: Through this prophecy we can deduce that the Theocratic Kingdom of God has not yet been established because (1) Jesus has not yet come in the clouds of heaven at the end of the Great TRIBULATION AND (2) the Antichrist has not yet reigned and been Judged. (Rev. 19:11-21)

7. ISRAEL'S REPENTANCE

NOTE: The Prophet Zechariah foretold several KEY EVENTS that MUST take place before the Theocratic Kingdom could be established.

8. RESTORATION of NATURE

9. CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER of REVELATIONS (The Book of)

- * SATAN must BE removed 1ST
- * CHRIST is to Return 1ST

ZECCHARIAH'S PROPHECY:
① The ARMIES of ALL NATIONS will come AGAINST Jerusalem (12:2-3, 9, 10)
② ISRAEL will SEE CHRIST and will Repent (12:10-14)
③ Christ will destroy ISRAEL'S ENEMIES (14:3, 12-15)