

Kingdom Come

3) Destined to Reign

- ✓ **The climax of human history is the Millennial Reign of Christ**
- ✓ **The Millennium is a transition period, a foretaste of the perfection of eternity**
- ✓ **When Jesus returns we will not go straight into the eternal realm because we are destined to reign**
- ✓ **Our stewardship over the earth will be fully restored. We will finally have dominion over all the earth**
- ✓ **Who will be in the kingdom? Who will be reigning and who will they be reigning over?**

Jesus will be King of kings

But, who are these kings?

David will be King over Israel

And there will be kings over the nations

Israel

✓ **Jesus offered the kingdom to Israel but they rejected it. 'I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it' (Matt.21:43)**

✓ **But God promised 2 things: 1) In the end times He would regather the Jews to their land; 2) Their spiritual blindness would be lifted, 'And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn....' (Zech.12:10)**

David will reign over a redeemed and restored Israel

'Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days'
(Hosea 3:5)

' "David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore." ' "

(Ezek.37:24-28)

The Nations

- ✓ **There will be a judgment of the nations (the sheep and goat nations)**
- ✓ **These will be judged according to what they did to Christ's brethren (Matt.25:31-46)**
- ✓ ***'Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"...Then He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels"' (Matt.25:34&41)***

**This judgment will take place in the Valley
of Jehoshaphat after the battle of
Armageddon**

***'For behold, in those days and at that time,
When I bring back the captives of Judah and
Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, And
bring them down to the Valley of
Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment
with them there on account of My people,
My heritage Israel, whom they have
scattered among the nations; they have also
divided up My land...Let the nations be
wakened, and come up to the Valley of
Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all
the surrounding nations'***

(Joel 3:1,2,12)

✓ **Satan will be bound for 1000 years and so will not be able to deceive the nations**

✓ *'...and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished'*
(Rev.20:3)

✓ **Jesus will appoint rulers over the nations, but he will be King of kings, 'But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations – "He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels"— as I also have received from My Father'** **(Rev.2:25-28)**

Who will reign with Christ?

There is a difference between gift and reward

There is a difference between entering the kingdom and inheriting the kingdom

Salvation is a gift

'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'

(Rom.6:23)

'...being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus'

(Rom.3:24)

**But reigning with Christ is described as a reward,
a prize and the receiving of a crown**

***'I press toward the goal for the prize of the
upward call of God in Christ Jesus'***

(Phil.3:14)

The NT speaks much about a reward

It is used 29 times in the NT, 15 times by Jesus

□ The gift is eternal life; the reward is reigning with Christ

The gift is given in response to faith; the reward is given in response to faithfulness

□

God sets the gift before the unsaved; He sets the reward before the saved

All Christians will enter the Millennial kingdom. But not all will inherit the kingdom

□

□ We already have an inheritance

It is ours by sonship

'...if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together'

(Rom.8:17) □

But, unlike salvation which cannot be lost, the inheritance may be forfeited

Example #1 False Teaching

'For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are' (1 Cor.3:11-17)



Example # 2 Living in immorality

'It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus'

(1 Cor.5:1-5)



Are the following verses referring to salvation or reward?

And how do we know?

'Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God'

(Gal.5:19-21)



'Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God'

(1 Cor.6:8-11)

'For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience'

(Eph.5:5)



Even Paul knew he could forfeit his inheritance

'Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified'

(1 Cor.9:24-27)

**But when he finished his course he knew
he would be reigning with Christ**

***'I have fought the good fight, I have
finished the race, I have kept the faith.
Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of
righteousness, which the Lord, the
righteous Judge, will give to me on that
Day, and not to me only but also to all who
have loved His appearing'***

(2 Tim.4:7-8)

'Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom'

(Luke 12:32)

- ✓ **We do not need to fear that we will forfeit our inheritance**
- ✓ **Only those who are unrepentant of sinful behaviour and false teaching are in danger of losing their crown**
- ✓ **The opposite is true. God will reward us beyond our wildest expectations**

'...whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward'
(Matt.10:42)

'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord'
(Matt.25:23)

What kind of things will be rewarded?

- ✓ **Living our lives unto God and not to be seen of man, e.g. Matt.6:1-6, 16-18.** *'...with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free'* (Eph.6:7-8)
- ✓ **Laying up treasure in heaven, not on earth** (Matt.6:19-20)
- ✓ **Giving practical help and support to our brothers and sisters in Christ,** *'God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister'* (Heb.6:10)

'And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ'

(Col.3:17-24)

Doesn't the idea of reward promote 'mercenary Christianity'?

***Jesus and the apostles always taught salvation as a free gift. Yet they used identity and destiny to inspire, encourage and give hope and promised that faithfulness would be rewarded**

***Not all reward-based activity has a mercenary motive**

***Remember - everything is by grace**

***Most people love, obey, serve, etc. without any thought of reward. Fruitbearing is organic**

'Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad'

(2 Cor.5:9-10)