

The New Testament Church
Last Things #2 – Thy Kingdom Come – Revelation 11:11-19
Pastor Paul Jehle – September 26, 2021

I The Doctrine of Last Things – Eschatology

- A. *The Last Days began with Jesus' ascension*
 - 1. We cannot discern passages without the context of Christ's judgment in 70 AD
 - 2. *Last Things* involve the preparation of the Church in maturity – not a rescue mission
- B. Two extremes to avoid throughout history:
 - 1. An obsession with the Return of Christ and its "signs" – *avoiding responsibility on earth*
 - 2. An avoidance of the accountability of Christ's Return – *no eternal accountability*
- C. Our Church position – focus on occupying until He comes, not taking a position on how He will return in bodily form; be prepared if He comes today or occupy until He returns

II We must be confident *that the Kingdom is progressively coming on earth as it is in heaven*

- A. Our focus must be on the First Coming of Christ and its influence in the world
 - 1. It is at the cross where Satan was defeated and darkness would have to rule by omission
 - 2. Otherwise, our focus is on darkness, evil and the enemy...
- B. The Kingdom of God advances... - *the inheritance of the nations is Christ's reward* (Ps. 2)
 - 1. By birth pangs – in other words – huge increase during time of cultural crisis / difficulty
 - 2. Kingdom seed spreads in spite of divisions, schisms, persecution
- C. Do you know that the Kingdom is advancing?
 - 1. Facts about the Kingdom's advance worldwide at this time in history (examples)
 - 2. The only places where Christianity is diminishing is western Europe and North America
 - 3. How far will God let the present situation go? *As far as it takes to wake up the Church!*
- D. God and Tyrants – God delays taking out tyrants in order to train people on how to resist
 - 1. Tyrants by nature assume the place of God – *some possessed by Lucifer (anti-christs)?*
 - 2. God deals with tyrants – sometimes directly; at other times through people...
- E. So, the darkness is a reaction against the light, it does not set the agenda for light wins in the end!
 - 1. In Adam's day – sin was removed from the Garden – Seth replaced Abel
 - 2. In Noah's Day – the righteous were left at the end of the flood
 - 3. The Mountain of Daniel – the kingdom of God was left at the end
 - 4. Malachi – the restoration of the family and kingdom is left at the end
 - 5. Matthew 13 – parable of wheat and tares – wicked removed first
 - 6. Matthew 24 – 70 AD context... - first the Jew (1st century), then Gentile (double fulfillment)
 - 7. In all these cases and more, evil and the wicked are removed, the obedient remain (escape)

III Revelation 11:11-19

- A. Displacing the Kingdoms of this world
 - 1. Daniel 7:21-22 – though the saints appear defeated by evil, judgment comes in their favor
 - a. It will appear that evil is winning worldwide, but the Ancient of Days turns the tide!
 - b. Why? *Because the Kingdom of God is always left to the saints at the end!*
 - c. The dangers of dispensational theology (church an after thought; needs to be removed)
 - d. The Kingdom progressively increases world-wide – "gospel preached to all people"
 - 2. Daniel 9 – the Kingdom of God progressively displaces (replaces the world's government)
- B. Revelation 11:15, 17-18 – *then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices I heaven, saying 'the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!...' We give you thanks... that you should reward the servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth... "*