

# **The Kingdom of God in OT Prophecy**

## **Isaiah – Malachi**

### **Chapter 16 – The Establishment of the Prophetic Kingdom**

**McClain's sequence of events from OT Prophets related to the Day of the Lord:**

**#1 The voice of a prophetic messenger will be heard on earth (Isa. 40:1-11 and Mal. 3:1-4 and 4:4-6)**

**#2 War, Chaos and Death will sweep the world (Jer. 25:30-33, Isa. 24:3-6); man's efforts at peace will utterly fail.**

**#3 A Blasphemous Political Ruler will Rise to World Power** – time and again tyrants and dictators grow up out of the soil of chaos and widespread military conflict. One such tyrant will come riding in to save the day on a white horse (Rev. 6:1-2). His person and career are described in Daniel. He is the "little horn" coming up in the midst of "ten horns" on the "fourth beast". He is Satan's man and actually part of God's judgment on the earth – he will act only under the permission of the heavenly court that sets in Judgment of the earth (Dan. 7:9-12).

**#4 There will be great geological and cosmic disturbances – Joel 2:30-31.**

During this time of chaos and catastrophe, there is still hope for those who turn to the Lord (Joel 2:32)

**#5 God's Wrath comes during the darkness phase of the Day of the Lord**

- **Wrath upon the Great Northern Power** - Ezek. 38-39 (McClain sees these chapters predicting events during the Tribulation when Russia will lead a coalition of satellite nations against Palestine for the purpose of plundering Israel, who may turn to the great Roman prince for protection and help)
- **Wrath will fall upon Israel** – Jer. 30:7 "Alas! For that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of Jacob's distress ..."; v.11 "But I will chasten you justly and will by no means leave you unpunished"; Jewish men will become scarce – Isa. 3:25-4:1; this time will include the last 3 ½ years after the Antichrist breaks the treaty with Israel, wages war against Jewish believers and "wear down the saints of the Highest One" (Daniel 7:21,25)
- **Wrath on All Gentile Nations** – Isa. 26:21 and 13:6-13; Zeph. 1:14-18; this wrath will be aimed particularly against two primary sins: human pride and false religion (Isa. 2:12, 20). False religions likely unite in their hatred of the one true God and biblical Christianity. God laughs (Psalm 2:4) and

rises up in judgment (Zeph. 3:8). Climax comes when Antichrist's hordes representing the whole world march against Jerusalem as God gathers them for His day of judgment "in the valley of decision" (**Zech. 14:2** and **Joel 3:1-2**). The forces of evil are given some success against Jerusalem and the Jewish people. They are on the brink of annihilation.

**#6 The Glorious Arrival of the Mediatorial King** – Isa. 25:9 "and it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

At Israel's and the world's darkest hour, when total defeat for Jerusalem seems certain, "then shall the Lord go forth" (Zech. 14:3-4). Just as Zech. 9:9 ("Behold your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey") was literally fulfilled at first coming, so Zech. 14 at His second coming ("In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives..."). "The importance of this grand event cannot be overemphasized. For the arrival of the divine King from heaven to take over the kingdoms of the world will mark the most crucial turning point in human history since Calvary." The "Sun of righteousness" will have risen upon the world, and it will never set again (Mal. 4:2; cf. Isa. 60:20).

**#7 Destruction of the Hostile Armies** – Zech. 12:8-9; the King is also Savior! He delivers His people by destroying His enemies. "In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem ... and in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem."

**#8 The Doom of the Blasphemous Little Horn** – Dan. 11:45 – "he will come to his end, and no one will help him." The "doom of their wicked leader will be reserved for the personal hand of the Mediatorial King Himself" (Dan. 8:25 – "he will be broken without human agency"). "He is the final king in the world system which began in the Babylon of history and which will end in a future and greater Babylon."

The next events are required to get things set up and running in the MK.

**#9 There will be a Resurrection** – Isa. 26:19 "Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy ..." and Daniel 12:1-3 "... many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life ...". This resurrection is: physical, of Israelites and selective (many, not all). This must be the same as the first resurrection in Rev. 20 and be made up of OT saints and Tribulation saints who came to Christ after the Rapture but die before the second coming of Christ.

**#10 Some Living Israelites in the land will Repent and be Saved** – Zech. 12:10 – 13:2  
“I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced ...”

**#11 Dispersed Israelites will be Re-gathered in their Land**– (Jer. 29:14, 31:10, 32:37, 42)

- God does it thru apparently willing Gentile help and support (Isa. 14:2)
- International in scope (Isa. 43:5-6 (N,S,E,W; “bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth” and Ezek. 39:28)
- Includes great spiritual revival and renewal among the people (Ezek. 34:10-16)
- Permanent re-gathering & reunification w/ God’s sanctuary in their midst and God dwelling among them (**Ezek. 37:27-28**; Amos 9:15)

**#12 Judgment of Living Israelites** – **Ezek. 20:33-38**; after rebellious Jews are purged, “a cleansed remnant who will humbly and joyfully submit to the King ... shall enter the land as the people of God”. This is the division of the sheep from the goats of Matt.25.

**#13 Judgment of Living (surviving) Gentile Nations** – Joel 3:1-3 and Isa. 2:4 “He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples”; like the judgment of Israelites, the time and place is mentioned. The indictment will be concerning their treatment of Israel plus crimes against each other. It will also involve persons as well as gov’ts. This will be “an absolute and final separation between the righteous and the unrighteous, between those who rebel and those who submit to the King ... In this respect the MK will begin with a clean slate.”

## Chapter 17 – The Gov't in the Kingdom

**Form?** Monarch. Safe at last to combine all functions of gov't (executive, legislative and judicial) in One Man. Isaiah 33:17 “the King”; v.22 “For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; He will save us”.

Consider: “The chief problem in the operation of gov't has always been to keep these necessary functions in a state of proper balance, at the same time to provide some center of unification. This problem has never been wholly solved. Human gov't, therefore, always swings between two opposite poles of regimentation and fragmentation (centralized vs decentralized): the former leading to a sacrifice of liberty in the interest of strength; the latter to a sacrifice of strength in the interest of liberty. And the head of the state tends to become either a dictator or a mere symbol.”

**Nature?** Perfect righteousness and justice and truth and holiness – gov't founded upon moral principles and enforced by supernatural power, yet mercy and tenderness in dealing with the ignorant and erring (**Isa. 16:5** and 40:9-11 and Psalm 2:9, 12).

### Organization?

- a. **The King** as the undisputed, undeniable Head (Isa. 32:1; Zech. 14:9)
- b. **Glorified Saints** (Daniel 7:18), the saved of God and glorified, with David among them (**Ezek. 37:24-25**); also Zerubbabel among them (Hag. 2:23)
- c. **The Living Nation of Israel** – in world supremacy among all the living; the seed of Abraham in their proper place, never forgotten by God (Isa. 49:15,16; see also Isa. 60 whose central theme is the restoration and world supremacy of the nation of Israel); Israel will finally be that channel of blessing to the whole world and the whole world will rejoice!
- d. **Living Gentile Nations and their Rulers**; cultural values of various nations that may be used to contribute to good of all will not be abolished; the world won't be a mass of one dull, faceless mediocrity of the “one world” of Marxism; rather “many nations will be found in the coming kingdom” (Amos 9:12, **Micah 4:2**). The God of all peoples will even save some of Israel's former enemies of Egypt and Assyria (Isa. 19:23-25)

**Extent?** Universal, (Isa. 2:2 “all the nations” and Zech. 14:9 “king over all the earth” and **Psa. 72:8-11**), affecting every detail of human life, including business, art, sport, recreation, literature, social life, home, education; everything everywhere consecrated to the Lord, down to the bells used to decorate horses and cookware in the kitchen (Zech. 14:20).

**Duration?** Everlasting (**Dan. 7:14 and Isa. 9:7**) The sun will never set on this Kingdom (Isa. 60:20). It will endure forever (Dan. 2:44). "...at the close of human history, the Mediatorial Kingdom of our Lord will be merged into the Universal Kingdom and thus perpetuated forever (I Cor. 15:24-28)."

## **Chapter 18 - The Blessings of the Prophetic Kingdom**

What will it be like to live in the MK? Sweeping and radical changes to every area of life, with every need of humanity anticipated and provided for by the Lord. Working thru Israel, God will fill the whole world w/ fruit and blessing, with everything saved and blessed.

The OT Prophets give us the clearest and largest amount of revelation related to the Kingdom anywhere in the Bible!

From Isaiah to Malachi, we find SIX Features of the Blessings of the Kingdom:

1. **Spiritual in nature** – Joel 2:28 God will “pour out My Spirit upon all mankind”; spiritual salvation will come by the grace of God working regeneration and producing the fruit of true faith in Christ and repentance from sin, with righteous lives that accompany true salvation, all centered in the Lord Jesus Christ. The world will therefore experience unparalleled joy, not tempered by those things that temper our joy now. This “spiritual” kingdom will extend its tangible effects to every area of life.
2. **Ethical in Effect** – Isa. 40:4; Objective moral standards will guide everything, with the written word of God guiding men’s thinking and actions as the Word of God goes forth from Jerusalem and her King (Isa. 2:3). The world will finally experience moral education systems, political systems, justice, etc. The majority will love truth, justice and righteousness. Justice will be swift, perfect and personal. In the kingdom, God will demonstrate visibly the link between a person’s moral character and their well-being.
3. **Social Effects**
  - a. World-wide peace ushered in, never to depart.
  - b. Complete social justice; all men will receive the fair results of their labors (Isa. 65:21-23; Amos 9:11, 14); parasites will not live at the expense of others
  - c. Places of waste or ruin rebuilt and repaired (Isa. 61:4; Amos 9:11,14)
  - d. Every legitimate interest receives it due
    - i. Marriage and home restored to pristine honor and joy (Jer. 33:10-11 with 15)
    - ii. Respect and dignity for the Aged and joyous and safe play for children (Zech. 8:4-5)

#### 4. Political Effects

- a. **A World-wide Authority** who is both competent and just; national security guaranteed for all nations. No more U.N., NATO, peace treaties, etc.
- b. **A World Capital in Jerusalem** – a symbol of centralized divine authority – Isa. 2:3; crossroads of the world, joining the three great continents of Africa, Asia and Europe; the “navel of the earth” (Ezek. 38:12)
  - i. Jerusalem will be enlarged and exalted (Zech. 14:4, 10)
  - ii. Wealth of the nations will flow into Jerusalem for beautification of city and temple and to the honor of her King
- c. **The Jewish “problem” solved**, thereby solving the political problems of the world. “Therefore until Israel is where he ought to be, both religiously and politically, there can be no thorough and permanent solution of the international problems.”
- d. **The barrier of language removed** – **Zeph. 3:9-10**, where “the discord of Babel shall, as it were, give place to the unity of language.” Whereas at Babel there was one language united against God, in the MK there will be one language united and purified.

#### 5. Physical Effects

- a. **Good Climate Change**; Isa. 30:26 – sun is 7x brighter, yet it brings blessing
- b. **Abundant rainfall and streams in the desert** flowing from the Lord’s resting place that brings healing and fruitfulness (Ezek. 47:1-12), even reviving the Dead Sea. “Everything will live where the river goes” v.9. Trees bearing fruit year round for food and “their leaves for healing” v.12.
- c. **Increased fertility and productiveness** (Isa. 32 and 35). No more famine.
- d. **Changes to animals** – Hos. 2:18; beautiful harmony between men and animals and animals with each other (Isa. 11:6-8); restoration of man’s original state in Eden
- e. **End of disease and deformity**; note, the prophets envision human life continuing thru natural processes of procreation, birth and growth, followed by long life (Isa. 65:22) w/o disease or deformity (Jer. 33:11, Zech. 8:5, Isa. 35:5-6, 33:24) by means of Ezek. 47:12 (the river of life), yet still the possibility of death.
- f. Freedom from or diminishing of ordinary hazards of life – Ezek. 34:23-31

## 6. Ecclesiastical or Religious Effects

- a. **A Priest-King in place** – Zech. 6:12-13, Psa. 110:4; a perfect union of Church and State, so to speak. “Today Messiah sits at the right hand of God on the Father’s throne. In the coming Kingdom He will sit as the King and Priest upon His own throne.”
- b. **Israel – the Religious Leader**, converted and cleansed, restored to original purpose of God (Ex. 19:6). God’s Word and God’s purpose for Israel will not fail. A day is coming (Isa. 61:6, 9) when they embrace their role and God brings complete fulfillment of the blessings promised to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3). See also Zeph. 3:20. God will raise up faithful shepherds (Jer. 23:4), with the tribe of Levi in a prominent role (Jer. 33:17-22) and apparently some of the Israelites in a pastor/teacher type role for saved Gentiles and other Jews in the MK. Everyone will know the Lord and be in submission to Him, but there will still be the need for teaching, instruction and exhortation in the ways and will of the Lord.
- c. **Jerusalem – the Religious center**; there are 2 in Scripture, heavenly Jerusalem and earthly Jerusalem. The OT Prophets speak of an earthly city that will be reclaimed from Gentile power, rebuilt, restored to Israel and made the religious center of the world (Isa. 1:21,26, 60:14, 18; 62:3, 7; Zech. 8:3; Isa. 2:3 and Zech. 14:16). It will be a perfect union of religion and gov’t.
- d. **The Future Temple** – Just as God had the re-gathered exiles rebuild the Temple in Haggai’s day (Hag1:4-5), so it will be in the MK (Hag. 2:6-9); Ezekiel 40 – 48 lays out the details of the MK Temple. Of this MK Temple we should note:
  - i. No Temple in Jewish history corresponded to this Temple’s design.
  - ii. The Shekinah-Glory of God returns to this Temple (Ezek. 43:7); there was no Shekinah-Glory of God in the second or third temples.
  - iii. There is no sound reason NOT to see Ezekiel’s Temple as literal, with supernatural changes to the topography to accommodate the Temple and a perpetual miracle to supply the river flowing from the altar.
- e. **The Problem of Animal Sacrifices** – a typical response says it is impossible that God would command this once again, after the work of Christ on our behalf. This then opens the door to spiritualize and

allegorize. Admittedly, a reinstatement by Jews of animal sacrifices in the MK raises one serious issue. Objection: a renewal of “expiatory” sacrifices denies the complete efficacy of the Lord’s death. Response: No animal sacrifice was ever effectual to expiate sin (Heb. 10:4). Instead, animal sacrifices under the OC were a remembrance made of sins year by year (Heb. 10:1-3). This is the same Greek word used by Jesus: “Do this in remembrance of Me.” So, animal sacrifices in the MK seem to take the place of the Lord’s Table in the church age as a way for believers to look back and remember the sacrifice of Christ for sins. Under the OC, sacrifices looked forward. Under the NC in the MK, they will look back.

**f. A World Center of Worship**

- i. Some opponents used to voice the problem of distance
- ii. Others say, there is not enough space in Jerusalem and Israel for all nations to come and worship. Solution? The prophets predict a vast enlargement of both city and temple. Plus, borders of Israel at last established along the lines of the original land grant (Gen. 15:18). Also, they never say that “all” will come at the same time. They could come at different, appointed times OR there could be chosen representatives from each nation who come, like delegates to a convention or conference.

Next Study – April 23<sup>rd</sup>, in two weeks.

The announcement & identity of the kingdom in the gospels



May 14 - The rejection of the King and His kingdom in the gospels

May 21 Christ's Ministry/Reaction in preparation for the interregnum

May 28 the kingdom in the book of Acts, Epistles, and Revelation

June 4 – three views: Amil, Progressive Dispensationalism, Modified Dispensationalism,  
Classic Dispensationalism