

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expositional Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

19- The King Begins to Proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom

Church July 3, 2022

Matthew 4:23-25

23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

24 The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

25 Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen*

Now let's look closely again at verse 23:

Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

Now, by any measurement- Jesus' earthly Ministry came on the land of Palestine in the 1st Century like an explosion. It was Loud; Powerful; Breathtaking; Public; and Holy. You simply could NOT turn away from it. What Jesus did and what Jesus taught reached out and grabbed the people from all walks of Life.

And Jesus' Ministry also attracted the attention of satan and the fallen angels- who were *forcibly* cast out of Heaven before Adam and Eve sinned. Now all through the entire 39 Books of the Old Testament- you have very *little* mentioned about the devil or the demons. And this is one of the reasons why the overwhelming number of conservative

Jews today simply don't believe that the devil exists.¹

Yet when Jesus began His Ministry- there was an amazing amount of demonic activity. And the world had never seen or known this before. For example, in the first eleven verses of Chapter 4- we see a very *personal* assault by the devil himself against Jesus- tempting Him to *disregard* the Plan of God and exercise His Deity- *outside* of God's Will. Satan would rather that Jesus be worshipped and adored by all of Humanity- as long as He doesn't fulfill God's Plan for Him to die and rise again.

And what we will see, as we continue our "Journey" through **Matthew**- is that Jesus had total and complete Authority over the demons- and they all knew it. We will actually see complete conversations that Jesus had with these fallen angels; and we will see that Jesus had the Power to cast them out with just His spoken Word.

But what is surprising is that Jesus did NOT begin His Ministry in Jerusalem- which is what you would normally think. Surely the incarnate God would conduct His Ministry in the most important city in the entire region. After all, the Temple was in Jerusalem- along with the High Priest; and the "*Sanhedrin Court*" met together in that city. Jerusalem was the beloved capitol city of all Israel- the ancient "*City of David*"- whose Hebrew name, *Yerushalayim*, means: *the "Habitation"; or the "City"; or the "Dwelling of Peace."*

And yet, when Creator of the Universe takes on Flesh and becomes Man- He completely *ignored* Jerusalem until it was time for Him to die. And that speaks volumes about both the Character of Jesus and the Will of God concerning the corrupted and false religion of the Jews (Judaism); and how determined God was to bring an End to the "*Jewish Age*." Instead, God the Almighty chose to begin His earthly Ministry in the small undeveloped backward region of "*Galilee*".

Now the region of Galilee is in the northern part of Israel and, on its eastern side, borders the "*Sea of Galilee*" (as the Jews called it) or "*Lake Tiberius*" (as the Romans called it). In both **Numbers 34:11** and **Joshua 13:27** it is called the "*Sea of Chinnereth*". Today it is called, "*Lake Kinneret*". All the Old and New Testament writers called this body of water a "*Sea*"- except Dr. Luke, who called it a "*Lake*". And in **Luke 5:1**- the good doctor also used the Greek *transliteration* of Chinnereth which was "*Gennesaret*".

The region's Hebrew name (גליל *Galil*) means: "*district*" or "*circle*"², which probably came from the literal shape of the Sea of Galilee itself. But what is

¹ In Hebrew, the term, "*satan*" is usually translated as "*opponent*" or "*adversary*," and he is often understood to represent the sinful Impulse (in Hebrew, *yetzer hara*) or, more generally, the Forces that prevents human beings from submitting to Divine Will.

² Room, Adrian (2006). *Placenames of the World: Origins and Meanings of the Names for 6,600 Countries, Cities, Territories, Natural Features, and Historic Sites* (2nd, revised ed.). McFarland. p. 138

interesting, is that in **Isaiah 9:1** we see the last phrase in that verse as: “**Galilee of the Gentiles.**” The Hebrew form used in **Isaiah 9:1** is in what is called the “construct state” of the noun. And that makes the Hebrew read: “*G’lil ha-Goyim*” which *literally* means: “*Galilee of the Nations*”- where the term, “*Nations*” refers to the large number of Gentiles, who settled in Galilee at the time that **Isaiah** was written (early 8th Century BC), either by their own volition or as a result of being deported there.

The ancient Jewish Historian, Josephus wrote that the region of Galilee was actually divided into both “*Upper*” and “*Lower*” Galilee.³ The “*Upper*” Galilee region went all the way up to the border of Lebanon. And this explains why the Apostle Matthew wrote this in **Matthew 4:24a**:

The news about Him [Jesus] spread throughout all Syria...

... because the Nation of Syria also bordered the north- eastern section of “*Upper*” Galilee- which would have been near the modern “*Golan Heights*”⁴ area of Israel.

Now right after their return from Egypt to prevent King Herod from murdering Jesus as a young child, the Bible says in **Matthew 2:21-23**:

21 So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee,

23 and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

So, the Reason Jesus began His Ministry in the regions of Galilee is because His earthly Father, Joseph began a Life in the city of Nazareth because he was “**warned by God in a dream**” of serious Danger on the part of the absolute Ruler of Palestine.

So, Jesus grew up in the city of Nazareth. And He attended a local Synagogue there in Nazareth with His mother and earthly father’s relatives. And because Matthew told us in **Matthew 1:19** that Joseph was a “**righteous man**”- we can then assume that Joseph was obedient to the Command in the “*Torah*” (the five Books of Moses) to teach his children the Law of God. So, Joseph taught the young Jesus all the things about the Law of God- which was his solemn Duty.

³Jürgen Zangenberg; Harold W. Attridge; Dale B. Martin (2007). *Religion, Ethnicity, and Identity in Ancient Galilee: A Region in Transition*. Mohr Siebeck. pp. 84

⁴ Mountainous “high ground” that was taken from Syria during the “Six-Day War” of 1967.

So, it was in this Region- the regions of Galilee, that was comprised of both Jews and Gentiles- where Jesus began to preach or “proclaim” what Matthew called, **“the gospel of the kingdom”**.

Now the word that was translated here as **“proclaim”** comes from a Greek word (*keerusoo*; Strong’s # 2784) that means: *to herald; or to preach*. So, Matthew tells us that when Jesus began His earthly Ministry- it *including* Him publicly *“heralding”* or proclaiming the *“Gospel of the Kingdom.”*

Now many people within the modern church make a big fuss about the supposed difference between the phrase, **“Kingdom of Heaven”** (that Matthew used here) and the **“Kingdom of God”**- (that the other Gospel writers used)- as though the Bible is referring to two different Kingdoms. It isn’t. There is NOTHING in the Bible that gives anybody any reason to make that Assumption. The **“Kingdom of God”** and the **“Kingdom of Heaven”** are the SAME Kingdom.

But what we DO need to understand is what the word, *“Kingdom”* means. This Word simply means: *the Rule of God; or the Rule of Heaven*. So, this is the *“Sphere of Authority or Dominance”* that is “ruled” or “controlled” or “dominated” by God. So, for example, when the **1Chronicles 26:31** talks about the **“Reign of David”**- or **“David’s Reign”**- the English word, **“Reign”** comes from a Hebrew word, (*malkuth* Strong’s # 4438)- which means: *the area over which David exercised his Authority or David’s Kingdom*. So, the *“Reign of David”* was *“David’s Kingdom.”*

So, the word, *“Reign”* or *“Kingdom”* is merely referring to that *geographical* area over which a king was able to exercise Control; Dominance; and Authority.

So, the **“Kingdom of Heaven”** (as Matthew liked to write) or the **“Kingdom of God”** (as the other Gospel Records used) is simply the “area” or “territory” over which Heaven (or God) exercises His Control; Dominance; and Authority. And under the First or the Old Covenant- that area was *supposedly* the Nation of Israel (even though it really wasn’t). But under the infinitely superior New Covenant- the Area over which God reigns supreme- which Matthew calls, the *“Kingdom of Heaven”*- is NOT a geographical Area or a literal Nation- but is the hearts and minds; and the souls of the people Jesus has saved.

Now we need to understand that the *“Kingdom of Heaven”* *began* with the saving of individual souls. But as time went on- God’s Kingdom will *continue* to grow and grow until it literally *transforms* the very Fabric and Culture and Government of the Nations of the whole earth- as the *majority* of the people of those Nations are converted through the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom!

So, Matthew tells his Jewish readers and us- that from the very beginning, Jesus was teaching and preaching the “Good News” (Gospel) of the *“Kingdom of Heaven”* or the *“Kingdom of God”*- which *includes* individual Salvation, of course, but which *also* includes the Nations of the entire World becoming “glad” in their

Obedience to God. Please look with me at what the Choir Director wrote in **Psalm 67**:

**1 God be gracious to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us —
Selah.**

**2 That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all
nations.**

3 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.

**4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with
uprightness And guide the nations on the earth. Selah.**

5 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.

6 The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us.

7 God blesses us, That all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

This Psalm looks ahead to a Time when the Nations of the entire world- the “Gentile Nations” are “**Glad and sing for Joy**” (verse 4). But *why* are the Gentile Nations singing for Joy and why have they become Glad? Verse 2 says:

That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.

... so, when the Way of God and the Salvation of God is known among the Nations- this is what will make them “Glad”; and cause them to sing for Joy. Well, when will the Nations of the whole world know the Way and Salvation of God? When the Gospel is preached and the people within that Nation are born again and made Righteous. And what will be the result of the Salvation of God spreading to all the Nations of the world? Verse 4 says,

**... You [God] will judge the peoples with uprightness And guide the nations on
the earth.**

So, in the New Covenant- inaugurated by Jesus’ earthly Ministry- God’s Salvation will reach way beyond Israel; and it will spread to all the Gentile Nations. And when that happens- the Nations of the world will be converted (through the preaching of the Gospel); or in other words, they will be glad and sing for Joy.

And because they are now born again- the peoples of the Nations of the world will begin to live their lives in accord with God’s Word and NOT according to the dictates of their own hearts nor according to the Customs of their pagan Fathers.

And what will the result of that be? God's Law; God's Rule; or God's Kingdom will *expand* and will *absorb* those Nations under its "*Banner*" (which the **Song of Solomon 2:4** says is the "**Love of God**"). And when that happens- God's Word and God's Spirit will guide and judge the peoples of the whole world!

And as one Gentile Nation after the other bows its knee before King Jesus and becomes absorbed into the greater Kingdom of God- then what David prophesied in **Psalms 110:1** will come to pass:

The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

Now I want you to look quickly with me to another Old Testament Passage found in **Genesis 49:10**, that says,

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Now the correct Context here is that from verse 1 of **Genesis 49**- Jacob, acting in the stead of a Priest- a Type of Jesus- BEFORE the Law was given- is speaking a "*Divine Blessing*" over his children. But when he comes to verse 10- he is actually giving a Prophecy concerning Jesus and His Kingdom.

Now keep in mind that Jesus came from the Tribe of *Judah* and NOT from the Tribe of *Levi*. Yet it was from *Levi* that ALL the Levitical Priests came. This tells us that Jesus' Priesthood was NOT from the normal, natural, blood-lineage from where ALL of the Old Covenant Levitical Priests came.

The Bible tells us *clearly* and *repeatedly* that Jesus was a Priest after the "*Order of Melchizedek*"- NOT the Order of Levi. And **Hebrews 7** tells us that this means that, while Levi's Priests were *many* (because they died); this Priest after the Order of Melchizedek (Jesus) was one. And whereas the Levitical Priests HAD to offer animal Sacrifices *continually* (proving that their Covenant was inferior)- Jesus offered Himself- ONCE FOR ALL. And whereas NONE of the animal Sacrifices had the ability to forgive a single Sin- Jesus forgave the Sins of the whole world- ALL BY HIMSELF! Now please turn with me to read **Hebrews 7: 14-25**:

14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.

15 And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek,

16 who has become such not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.

17 For it is attested of Him, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

18 For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness

19 (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

20 And inasmuch as it was not without an oath

21 (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him, "THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND, 'YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER'");

22 so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

23 The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing,

24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.

25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Now pay close attention to the words and phrases that the writer of **Hebrews** uses here:

- **“the power of an indestructible life”** (verse 16)
- **“FOREVER”** (verse 17)
- **“FOREVER”** (verse 21)
- **“because He [Jesus] continues forever”** (verse 24)
- **“[Jesus] holds His priesthood permanently** (verse 24)

... this is the writer of **Hebrews** teaching about the Priesthood of Jesus. And both the writer of **Hebrews** himself and his congregation understood that **WHOEVER** the Messiah will be- He **MUST** fulfill **Genesis 49:10**. So, all that he wrote here in **Hebrews 7** shows us what Jacob was talking about in **Genesis 49:10** when he said,

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes ...

This Prophecy is **NOT** talking about the Tribe of Judah. It is talking about Jesus, Who came *from* the Tribe of Judah. And we also can see that Jesus **IS** also

“Shiloh!” In other words, what Jacob was prophesying here is that the “Kingdom” or the “Rule” or the “Reign” or the “Government” of Jesus Christ WILL NEVER DEPART! It will NEVER diminish; it will NEVER retreat; and it will NEVER get smaller. The Kingdom of God- like the mustard seed of **Matthew 13**- will start out small and seemingly insignificant. But it will continually grow and grow and grow until it *dominates* the whole earth! And that is what the Prophet meant when he prophesied in **Isaiah 9:7**:

There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

...remember, this does NOT say there will be no end to the Government of God. This says there will be no end to the INCREASE of the Government; or the Rule; or the Kingdom of God! So, the Kingdom of God- like the leaven in **Matthew 13**. It starts out small and seemingly insignificant. But then it begins to grow and grow and grow- until it literally *dominates* the whole earth! And Isaiah says there will be no end to the INCREASE of it!

Now “Shiloh” was the *first* Sanctuary where the Jews gathered *before* God gave Israel her Kings and *before* Solomon’s Temple was built. But more importantly, Shiloh is an Old Testament Type of Jesus Christ. So, the Prophecy from Jacob here in **Genesis 49** says that the “Scepter”- which represents the Rule; or the Government; or the Kingdom of God- shall NOT depart from Judah- meaning that King Jesus will have ALL Authority in both Heaven and Earth- which is *exactly* what He said in **Matthew 28:18** in the “Great Commission”. But now look again at the end of **Genesis 49:10**:

... And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples

To Who? To Jesus- the King, Who is ruling in complete Authority over His Kingdom! And what will be given to Jesus? Jacob said,

... the obedience of the peoples

Now anytime you hear a Jew speak about the “*Nations*” or the “*Peoples*”- you need to immediately think, “*Gentiles*”. In the Bible, the words, “*Peoples*” or “*Nations*” are ALWAYS used to talk about the *non-Jewish* world; or the world *outside* of Israel. God gave the Jews one Nation- Israel. He did NOT give them the entire world. So, *everything* about the Jews is wrapped up in Israel and in

Jerusalem. But God gave Jesus the whole earth! And He will rule and reign over ALL of the world- NOT merely Israel!

So, Jacob is saying here that when Shiloh comes- or when Jesus comes- God will give Him the OBEDIENCE OF THE PEOPLES (Nations)!

Now is this Truth carried over into the new Covenant as well?
Yes. Please look quickly with me at **Romans 1:1-6:**

1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,
2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,
3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,
4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,
5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,
6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

Now this is Paul's "*Salutation*" of his inspired "*Letter*" or "*Memoir*" or "*Epistle*". And the Apostle wrote this Letter toward the close of his *third* "*Missionary Journey*" (most likely in A.D. 56), as he prepared to leave for Palestine- with an offering for the poor believers in the Jerusalem Church (**Romans 15:25**). Now look at who Paul wrote this Epistle to from verse 7:

to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now beginning in verse 2- Paul tells us *why* he is writing this inspired Letter. He said he was,

... a bond-servant [slave] of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

... so, Paul says that he was three things:

1. A Bond-slave of Jesus
2. Called as an Apostle
3. Set apart for the Gospel

... but then in verse 2- Paul gives us more information about the “Gospel of God” that he was “set apart” for. He said he was...

... set apart for the gospel of God, which He [God] promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures [the Old Testament],

So, Paul is teaching here that the Old Testament Prophets foretold that the Gospel was coming. Then in verses 3-5 Paul tells us what the Gospel of God is all about. He said the Gospel of God was...

... concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship...

... then Paul tells us what the Main Purpose or the Main Goal of the Gospel is:

... to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,

Notice the words, “**Obedience**” and “**Gentiles**”. So, the Main Purpose of the Gospel is to bring about the “**Obedience of Faith among ALL the Gentiles**”- so that the Name or Reputation of God will be exalted. Now read again what Jacob said in **Genesis 49:10**:

... And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples

... where the word, “**peoples**” has to do with the “Nations” of the entire world- *outside* of Israel- or the Gentiles!

So, the Apostle Paul is saying that the Main Goal of God that He *first* articulated in Jacob- BEFORE THE LAW WAS GIVEN- is STILL the Main Goal of God in the New Covenant! And what is it?

... to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,

Now keep in mind that the Jews had believed for hundreds and hundreds of years that when Messiah came- the Nations of the world- the Gentiles- would be *subjugated* by him; and he would reign supreme. So, the Jews ALWAYS had believed that the Final; and the Best; and the Highest; and the Decisive Goal of the

Messiah was that the Gentiles would worship him. Why? Because in their Theology, the Jews were ALREADY worshipping God (even though they weren't). So, in the Jewish mind- they were okay. And all that remained was for the Messiah to come and *militarily* and *politically* conquer the Gentile Nations of the world (including the occupying Romans) and then reign over them.

So, what confused them about Jesus- is that, even though He was performing breathtaking Miracles and Healings and Signs and Wonders- He didn't preach what they already believed. Jesus changed the Theology of the Old Covenant- *by fulfilling it*- and saying that the Main; and the Final; and the Best; and the Highest; and the Decisive Goal of the Messiah was that the Nations of the world- INCLUDING Israel- would obey the Messiah- BY FAITH! NOT militarily. NOT politically. NOT by humanly engineered Works- but by BELIEVING- by Faith!

Jesus, the Messiah would capture the hearts and minds of the peoples of the earth (that God chose to save)- through the sovereign Miracle of the New Birth- and then wicked sinners (Jews *and* Gentiles) would then love God and love the Things of the Spirit of God (**1Corinthians 2:14**).

And out from that Gift of godly Love- the Redeemed would then engage in what Paul called, the "*Obedience of Faith*". And they would then love- not only God and each other- but they would have the Power and the Desire to even love their enemies!

So, "*Yes!*" the New Covenant is about *individual* Salvation. And that is glorious! But we cannot miss the Reality that God is after MORE than us simply missing Hell. God is after ALL of God's elect throughout the WHOLE EARTH being saved; and converted; and then becoming Obedient to King Jesus! And THAT is the "GOSPEL of the KINGDOM!"

Now please look at what Paul infallibly wrote at the End of this inspired Letter from **Romans 16:25-27**:

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,

26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;

27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

This is Paul's "*Benediction*" or "*Closing Blessing*". And Paul begins this Closing Blessing by making a profound Declaration:

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ

Now the word, “**established**” comes from a Greek word (*steerizoo*; Strong’s # 4741) that means: *to make stable; to place firmly; or to strengthen; or to make firm.*⁵ And then Paul said we are “**established**” through two things:

1. The Gospel of God
2. The Preaching of Jesus

Then Paul told us *how* we have become established through those two things:

according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God...

... so, three things:

1. **According to the revelation of the mystery (that was kept secret)**
2. **By the Scriptures of the prophets (the Old Testament)**
3. **According to the commandment of God**

But to what End? What is the *final*; and the *most important*; and the *decisive* Goal of God for the entire Plan of Salvation? He said that the Gospel of God and the Preaching of Jesus...

... has been made known to all the nations, leading to [the] obedience of faith

And, once again, we see ALL the Nations- being Obedient to God. So, the Apostle begins and ends the greatest Letter ever written with the manner in which the Prophecy of **Genesis 49:10** is going to be fulfilled. So, in reality- **Romans** is all about how to bring about the “*Obedience of the Nations*”. Because there is a world of difference between “*Obedience*” and the “*Obedience of Faith*.” The first one is carried out by us performing various “Good Deeds”; while the last one is carried out by us *believing*.

But the net Result is the SAME. Not merely individual Salvation- but the Salvation of the Nations of the whole world! And this is what King David meant when he wrote this in **Psalms 110:1**:

⁵ from *Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database*. Copyright © 2000, 2003, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.

The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

So, Yahweh says to Jesus- the Messiah, *"Sit down in My Place of all Authority and Power"* and rule and reign over Your Church- UNTIL- I make your enemies a footstool for Your Feet! Jesus, sit down and remain in Your Position as Sovereign Lord- UNTIL the Gospel of the Kingdom and the preaching of Jesus goes to every creature. And when they are born again- the people of Your Church will baptize them; and teach them; and hold them accountable. And as they then live out their Christian lives- the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of God and of His Christ. And when that happens, the loud Voices in heaven will say,

... "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." (The Revelation 11:15b)

And this means that you and I are living in the days of the **"Until"** part of **Psalm 110:1**- because it is God's Will that this Prophecy be fulfilled through His Church. In fact, this is what will bring Jesus back to this earth. We need to know, dear friends, that Jesus is NOT coming back to this earth because of Sin. He is NOT coming back to rescue the Church from the devil either. And the world getting more and more Evil will NEVER bring Jesus back. Human Depravity and Worldliness and Compromise will NEVER bring Jesus back.

Jesus is coming back because of OBEDIENCE! And another way of saying this- is that Jesus is coming back because of **"RIGHTEOUSNESS"** – which is brought about through the Obedience of Faith!

Jesus is coming back because the Great Commission will be SUCCESSFUL; and the Gospel of the Kingdom will circle the globe and the Nations of the World will be glad and rejoice! But Jesus will remain seated at the **"Right Hand"** of the Father and NOT come back- UNTIL that happens!

So, the *"Gospel of the Kingdom"* that Matthews says that Jesus began to preach in the regions of Galilee- *initiates* what I call, a *"Divine Process"* on the earth that is going to take a long, long, long, time. So, as more and more people hear the Gospel and are saved- this is the *fulfillment* of the *"Parable of the Mustard Seed"* (**Matthew 13**). The tiny mustard seed, *that is seemingly insignificant*, is planted; and it begins to *slowly* grow and grow and grow and grow- until it grows into a giant tree- where the birds of the air can build their nests!

So, this is a *"Divine Process"* that involves millions and millions of sinful rebels, over hundreds and even thousands of years- who are chosen by God to hear

this Gospel of the Kingdom. And as they hear- God will grant them a new heart; and a new spirit; and new eyes and ears- so they can believe. And as they believe- they will repent. And God will “see to it” that they are Obedient.

And as they then go back out into the lost world- this time as real Christians- they will live their lives as genuine believers. And this is the *fulfillment* of the “*Parable of the Leaven*” (**Matthew 13**). So, as the leaven is put into the flour- it slowly rises- changing the composition of the flour through the Process of fermentation- until the flour can become bread. And so too, this “Divine Process” slowly grows and continues to grow and grow and get ever larger and larger- changing everything and everyone it touches- until what the Prophet said in **Habakkuk 2:14** will come to pass:

the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea.

Now please look again at **Matthew 4:23**

Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

Matthew wanted his Jewish readers to know that Jesus did NOT begin His Ministry out in the streets. He went first- into the very heart and soul of 1st Century pharisaical Judaism- the Synagogues. And to show them that their entire system of Theology that the Pharisees taught in those Synagogues that were scattered all through Israel at that time- had NOTHING to do with any Old Testament Scripture- Matthew is very quick to call the Synagogues- “THEIR” Synagogues- because they were NOT places where Worship of the one, true, and living God could take place. They were nothing more than secular buildings that did what Jesus condemned the Pharisees for in **Matthew 23:15**:

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

... which is *why* the incarnate God Himself- Jesus, the Christ *categorically* condemned them.

The Vitriol; the Anger; and the Fierceness with which Jesus condemned EVERY SINGLE ISSUE that the Pharisees held dear to their hearts- is literally

frightening. There is not anything like this anywhere in the Bible- except when God's Fury and Wrath was poured out on unbelieving Israel.

Our Lord- the "Prince of Peace" and "Love personified"- categorically *condemned* the Pharisees and Scribes (along with the Sadducees and Zealots) and their Teachings to a devil's Hell. And He rebuked them- *to their face*- for NOT knowing; and NOT understanding; and NOT believing; and NOT teaching; and NOT obeying the Old Testament Scriptures.

Now the Apostle Paul told us in **2Corinthians 2:11** that Christians are NOT...

... ignorant of his [satan's] schemes.

... and part of not being ignorant of satan's Schemes- is that we understand the difference in the way that Jesus condemns people as opposed to the way that satan condemns people.

Jesus NEVER condemns those who are saved (**Romans 8:1**). All of God's Wrath' ALL of His Condemnation; and ALL of God's Damnation that was against us because of our Sins (and Adam's) has been FOREVER removed from us because Jesus absorbed ALL of God's Fury (that was against us)- on the Cross.

So, neither God the Father; nor God the Son; nor God the Holy Spirit condemns us. But God the Spirit does CONVICT us. He brings Conviction to our minds- so that we will turn from what Evil is there- so we may STAY saved. So, God's Purpose in Conviction is to bring us to Repentance- so we may grow stronger and *remain* saved.

But satan DOES condemn us. Satan whispers Condemnation to us all the time. So, satan attacks us at our WEAKEST link (our Assurance) and at our WEAKEST time. And that is because, in addition to being a Liar and the Father of all Lies- satan is also a coward. He attacks people along the lines of what they struggle with the MOST- and when they are, spiritually speaking, at their WEAKEST time. And satan's Goal in brining Condemnation to us- is so we will lose all Hope and become so discouraged that we give up.

But when God condemns people- like the Pharisees and Scribes in **Matthew 23**- He does so at their STRONGEST Link; and at their STRONGEST Moment. For example, what the Pharisees believed and taught about the Sabbath; and the Temple in Jerusalem; and their supposed Knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures- these three Issues represented the STRONGEST areas of their false Doctrine. This is what they believed the MOST; and what they taught the MOST;

and what they were the MOST proud of. And yet, they were categorically wrong about ALL of it!

And, back in the 1st Century- the Pharisees, Scribes, Sadducees, and Zealots were at the very *zenith* of their Ministries. They were at their *highest* and *best* and STRONGEST position; and they had the MOST influence over the people.

So, Jesus attacked these unsaved Jews according to their supposed STRONGEST positions; at a time where they had the MOST popularity and influence among the people.

And right here- in **Matthew 4:23**- the former tax collector is telling his Jewish readers and us- that Jesus is beginning His Ministry by preaching the “*Gospel of the Kingdom*” that will result in the Nations of the world being Glad and singing for Joy!

So, as we go further into Matthew’s Gospel Record- he will show us- *infallibly*- that THE Jewish religious Leaders- the people who *should* have recognized Jesus as the Messiah better than anyone else- will, instead, go into their long slide into total Apostasy; and total Idolatry; and total Blasphemy that will End with their utter annihilation- as the Age of the Old Covenant comes to a Close and the Age of the New Covenant dawns on the earth!

So, hold on to your hats- brothers and sisters- we are in for quite a ride!

Amen. Let’s pray.

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The Covenant of Peace Church PO Box 2906 Gulfport, Mississippi 39505 www.covenantofpeace.net

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.