

The Kingdom of God
Lesson 15: The Establishment of the Prophetic Kingdom

I. Pre-establishment Penal Events

- a. **Wrath** will fall on a great northern power.
1. The arrival of the great day of the Lord will bring the darkness of judgment, therefore, these events are considered to be **penal** in nature. The wrath of God will fall progressively on all different segments of sinful humanity.
 2. Ezekiel gives a vivid depiction of this northern power and its general features and places these events in the “**end**”. This makes it eschatological and comes before the final regathering and conversion of Israel. Ezek 38:16 *And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes. KJV*
 3. He gives this invading land the name “Gog in the land of Magog” in the uttermost parts of the north. Given the map of the world as it exists today the only place that answers to that description is what we would call **Russia**. Map Ez 38:6, 15
 4. This northern power will lead a coalition of satellite countries against Palestine for the purpose of **plundering** the people who will at that time be living there in great numbers and in relative prosperity. Ezek 38:2-3 *Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, 3 And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: KJV*
 5. This invasion will be frustrated by the hand of **Jehovah** Himself who will act in several ways to bring about their colossal defeat. Ezek 38:22-23 *And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. 23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord. KJV*
 6. This prophecy is considered by some expositors to be distinct from Rev 20:7-10 because the attack in Ezekiel **prepares** for the establishment of the Kingdom whereas in Revelation the destruction of Gog and Magog ushers in the eternal state Rev 20:7-8 *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. KJV*
- b. **Wrath** will fall on the nation of Israel. Jer 30:11 *For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished. KJV*
1. Due to their elect position the nation of Israel has always borne a **moral** responsibility before God. True to the warning of God the proverbial suffering over the centuries has caused them to become a byword among the nations. Deut 28:37 *And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the Lord shall lead thee. KJV*
 2. However, as great as these trials and tribulations have been for Israel, there is something ahead that will be far worse than anything they have suffered **to date**. Jer 30:7 *Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. KJV*
 3. During this period of judgment the creature comforts and prosperity that they have come to cherish and depend upon will be **stripped** away. Isa 3:18-23 *In that day the Lord will snatch away their finery: the bangles and headbands and crescent necklaces, 19 the earrings and bracelets and veils, 20 the headdresses and ankle chains and sashes, the perfume bottles and charms, 21 the signet rings and nose rings, 22 the fine robes and the capes and cloaks, the purses 23 and mirrors, and the linen garments and tiaras and shawls. NIV*
 4. The hypocrites in Israel who hope that the Day of the Lord will bring **blessings** to them will also be dealt with by the judging hand of God. Amos 5:18-20 *Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light. 19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. 20 Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light — pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness? NIV*
 5. The pinnacle of the last days suffering of Israel will be reached at the hand of the “**little horn**” who will inaugurate a season of persecution so violent and destructive that it has no parallel either in the past or in the future. Dan 7:24-25 *after them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. 25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time. NIV*
- c. Wrath will fall on all **Gentile** Nations. Isa 26:21 *For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. KJV*
1. When that day arrives **no** nation on earth will escape its force. Isa 13:11 *And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. KJV*
 2. With this judgment God will deal with **two** characteristic world sins: “human pride and false religion”. Isa 2:17-18 *The arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day, 18 and the idols will totally disappear. NIV*
 3. In that day the utter impotence of all man-made religions and satanic substitutes will be exposed for the **worthless** frauds that they represent. Isa 2:20-22 *In that day men will throw away to the rodents and bats their idols of silver and idols of gold, which they made to worship. 21 They will flee to caverns in the rocks and to the overhanging crags from dread of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to shake the earth. 22 Stop trusting in man, who has but a breath in his nostrils. Of what account is he? NIV*
 4. In spite of all the judgment of God raining down on mankind, those who are so afflicted do not repent but rather **rage** against God in a futile gesture of their arrogance. Ps 83:2-5 *For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. 3 They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. 4 They have said, Come,*

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and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. 5 For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: KJV

II. Transitional Events

- a. The glorious **arrival** of the Mediatorial King Isa 25:9 *And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation. KJV*
 1. In the hour of deepest darkness for Israel and Jerusalem, when it seems that total defeat is certain the Lord goes forth to fight against Israel's **attackers**. Zech 14:3 *Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. KJV*
 2. While many have asserted that this coming of the Lord should be thought of as a **spiritual** one, the wording used by Zechariah to describe it suggests that it should be literal. Zech 14:4 *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives,*
 3. This literal coming is on a par with the arrival of the **historical** Jesus who came into Jerusalem literally as foretold and underscores the rationale for the expectation of a literal fulfillment of His second return. Zech 9:9 *Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. NIV*
 4. To the people of God on earth the glorious coming of the King will bring unspeakable comfort and joy as recounted **repeatedly** among the prophecies of His second advent. Isa 25:9; 40:9-10; 63:1; Ps 118:24, 26; *In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." NIV*
 5. The importance of this event can not be overstated. The arrival of the divine King from heaven to take over the kingdoms of this world will mark the most critical event in human history **since** Calvary.
 6. From this point forward nothing will ever be the same again. The deep darkness of man's day will transform into the light of God's day. Now the King who descends from heaven is the **everlasting light**. Is 60:19-20 *The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. 20 Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. KJV*
- b. The **destruction** of the hostile armies Zech 12:9 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. KJV*
 1. While many believe that God is **finished** with the historic nation of Israel, and the literal Jerusalem, the evidence to the contrary is clear from the plain, literal reading of the prophets. Zech 2:8 *For thus saith the Lord of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye. KJV*
 2. It should be noted that the King's **first act** will be the defense of the city of Jerusalem. Zech 12:9 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. KJV*
 3. God will send Michael the archangel into action on **behalf** of the besieged Israelites. Dan 12:1 *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: KJV*
 4. **Supernatural** activity will defeat the attackers of Israel on the literal battlefield. Zech 14:13 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them; KJV*
 5. So staggering will be the loss of life under the divine indignation that in the days of the coming Kingdom men will look back on this occasion and remember the great **slaughter**. Isa 30:25 *And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. KJV*
- c. The doom of the blasphemous "**little horn**" Dan 11:45 *yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him. KJV*
 1. His destruction will be accomplished by the immediate and invisible power of Deity **apart** from all human means. Dan 8:25 *Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power. NIV*
 2. The **disposal** of his remains will be ignominious as attested by both Daniel and Isaiah. Isa 14:18-20 *All the kings of the nations lie in state, each in his own tomb. 19 But you are cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch; you are covered with the slain, with those pierced by the sword, those who descend to the stones of the pit. Like a corpse trampled underfoot, 20 you will not join them in burial, for you have destroyed your land and killed your people. NIV*
 3. Even his arrival in **Hell** is noted by Scripture. Is Isa 14:9-11 *The grave below is all astir to meet you at your coming; it rouses the spirits of the departed to greet you — all those who were leaders in the world; it makes them rise from their thrones — all those who were kings over the nations. 10 They will all respond, they will say to you, "You also have become weak, as we are; you have become like us." 11 All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you. NIV*

III. Application

- a. If these cataclysmic events are yet future, even the immediate future of our lifetime, they are not a call to arms but to faith. We are encouraged to trust in God's righteousness, not in human might or cleverness for protection.
- b. Faced with having to endure these events and circumstance, compare and contrast true faith with false religion.
- c. Now is the time to examine your own personal faith (before these things start happening) to assess your own genuineness before God. It is "easy to trust God with your eternity" but what about the rest of your life?