

Lesson 23
The Preparation For the Interregnum
Part I

I. Introduction

- a. An _____ is a period of discontinuity, an interruption or an interval of time between the close of a sovereign's reign and the accession of his or her normal or legitimate successor.
- b. The interregnum of Messiah, i.e. the fact that there would be two _____ advents of Christ is something that was hidden in OT history and was only clearly revealed during the New Testament period.
- c. Since the beginning, theologians have debated and speculated about the _____ and whether this would be at the end of the age; introducing eternity, or if He would return at some intermediate point to reign for some period.
- d. To understand Messiah's interregnum, we must explore the ways in which Christ prepared his disciples for His death and departure and examine how His messages to His disciples revealed the plan for a "_____".
- e. Christ set the stage for this understanding in a variety of ways which we will explore over the next few weeks. Today, we will examine just three: His use of Parables; and His announcement of the Church and the _____ of His death and resurrection.

II. Parables Introduce the Fact of an Interregnum

- a. Using particular parables, (four in Matt. 13; one in Mark 4) Jesus addressed the matter of the "Kingdom" but did so in a way which concealed to the _____ but revealed elemental truths about the Kingdom to His disciples. *Matt 13:10-11 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. KJV*
- b. While Jesus spoke to the general public in a way that they would not understand, to His disciples in private, He _____ the truths of the Kingdom. *Mark 4:34 But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples. KJV*
- c. The purpose of speaking to the multitudes about the mysteries of the Kingdom in parables was to conceal rather than to reveal the Kingdom to them. This was in _____ of Isaiah's prophecy. *Matt 13:13-15 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. KJV*
- d. This is referred to by theologians as a _____ punishment inflicted by God on disobedient and hardened-hearted hearers of the nation of Israel.
- e. The teaching of the mysteries of the Kingdom had a _____ purpose: To those who believed and accepted the simple facts of the Kingdom; they received enlightenment. To the doubters, they received the fruit of their doubt. *Matt 13:12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. KJV*
- f. However, even the saved had to have these parables _____ for them in order to receive any beneficial purpose. *Matt 13:51 Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. KJV*
- g. Among the most important aspects revealed by our Lord in these parables, was the interregnum which followed the arrival of the King and shall _____ until His second coming. *Matt 13:36-43 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. 37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. KJV*
- h. From this parable we see that this age will be brought to a close when the Son of Man comes to establish His Kingdom on earth by means of a _____, in which the lawless will be taken away.
- i. Thus, _____ the interregnum caused by Israel's rejection of her King, the Kingdom will finally and fully come, in harmony with Old Testament prophecy.

III. The Interim Plan: The Church

- a. Between the first advent of Christ and His second; which will be to establish the Kingdom on earth; our Lord reveals His plan to do a new thing: _____. *Matt 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. KJV*
- b. Jesus' pronouncement regarding the building of the Church flows out of the report His disciples gave Him as to the attitude of Israel toward Him as the _____ of OT prophesies. *Matt 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? KJV*
- c. Christ speaks of the Church in terms of a transition to the _____, when He says "I WILL build..." So, while ours may be referred to as the "Church Age" the full manifestation of the Church remains in the future; we are a work in progress. *Matt 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; KJV*
- d. Therefore, in the _____, the Kingdom of our Lord and the reign of His saints can only be said to be in the future "on earth". *Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. KJV Matt 13:41-43 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast*

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- e. The local church has limited present day authority, i.e. to dispense _____ over its own members. But, the guarantees of perpetuity and of final victory that pertain to the Universal Church do not apply to the local church. *Matt 18:17-18 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. 18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. KJV*
- f. The authority given to the Church is to be exercised in the “Kingdom of heaven”, and therefore such authority belongs to _____ when this Kingdom shall have been established on earth. *Matt 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. KJV*
- g. It is _____ to identify the Kingdom with the present day Church. The Kingdom belongs to a perfected future and the Church is essentially in process now.
- h. Those who confuse the two and then attempt to _____ regal authority during the present age; that is, they attempt to exercise an authority that belongs in a future Kingdom, have created historic disasters for the last 2000 years.
- i. It is clear from the lessons learned from church history that a _____ for the servants of the Lord is that before they can reign with Christ over the nations in the coming Kingdom, they must be perfected. *Rom:17-23 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. KJV*

IV. The Necessity of His death and Resurrection

- a. Our Lord knew that His reign on earth was not to be established until some _____ but most who heard Him did not comprehend His statements to that effect. *John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. KJV*
- b. The problem that Christ had to overcome with His disciples was their expectation that He should ascend to His rightful throne in Jerusalem during His _____ ministry with them. *Mark 10:35-37 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. 36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? 37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. KJV*
- c. Following the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit by the Jews, and the announcement of an interregnum and the building of the Church, we come to a new stage in the teaching of Christ: _____ and be raised again. *Matt 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. KJV*
 - 1. Mark talks about the fact that this new teaching was given “_____” i.e., plainly and without ambiguity. *Mark 8:31-32 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. KJV*
 - 2. Later passages indicate that this open teaching about the necessity of His passion was continued right up to the _____. *Mark 10:33-34 Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: 34 And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again. KJV*
 - 3. During this period, Jesus taught that He is the Good _____ who lays His life down for His sheep. *John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. KJV*
 - 4. In the form of a parable He told His disciples that like a _____ of wheat He must fall into the ground and die. *John 12:23-24 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. KJV*
- d. Although Christ’s teaching about the necessity of His death and resurrection seems perfectly clear _____ today, it is a fact that His disciples did not clearly grasp its reality at the time of its presentation. *Luke 9:44 Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men. KJV*

V. Application

- a. In what ways do you function as a member of the local body of believers?
- b. To what extent does your functioning within the local body of believers align with your role as a member of the Universal Church?
- c. To what extent are you aware of your God-given role as a member of the Universal Church?
- d. To what extent are you fulfilling that God-given role as a member of the Universal Church?