

Meeting II – New Testament Age

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation...” (1 Peter 2:9)

1. The Kingdom of Heavens

The Lord's birth brings in the Kingdom of Heavens (Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15). The incarnation of the son of God is not only to redeem man, it was also for establishing the kingdom of God. The son of God came to the earth from heaven and entered into man's history, which is the first significance for God's kingdom. The purpose of redemption is for the kingdom: He was born as a King (Matthew 2:2; John 18:37) and He died because He was a King (Matthew 27:37).

There are two aspects to the gospel: individual and corporate. Individually, we believe and receive eternal life; corporately, we repent and enter into the kingdom of heaven. On the one hand, people are saved from the power of darkness (Satan); on the other hand, saved people are transferred to the kingdom of the Son of His love (Colossians 1:13). The kingdom of heaven is founded on repentance, the kingdom of heavens is composed of all the born again believers (Matthew 3:2; John 3:3,5), the Father is willing to give us the kingdom (Luke 12:32)

2. Kingdom and the church

The Lord makes two declarations in the gospel of Matthew chapter 16, verses 18 to 19, first, “Upon this rock I will build my Church”; second, “I will give you the key of the kingdom of heaven” for binding and releasing. God's purpose is not only that we become the church, but He desires the church will be the Kingdom of God. God wants to execute His authority through the church that the principalities and powers in heaven may know God's various wisdom (Ephesians 3:10).

The church's responsibility is to bring in God's kingdom, to fulfill His plan that the Israelites couldn't achieve in the Old Testament time.

3. Royal Priesthood

The believers in the New Testament are God's chosen people, they are royal priests (royal priesthood), both kingly and priestly. These believers are a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9), this is God's original purpose. All the born-again believers are priests, not just one or two believers, but everyone, it is a sanctified priesthood a group of royal priests (1 Peter 2:5). However many people are saved, there will be an equal number of priests; the whole nation is full of priests.

Those who are redeemed by the precious blood of our Lord not only depart from sins, but they become a nation, they will be priests for the Father God on the earth. These priests will rule and reign on the earth (Revelation 1:5-6; 5:9-10). The Lord Himself also has become the high priest according to the power of an endless life, and according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:16-17). The Lord will lead the New Testament believers to usher in the unshakeable kingdom (Hebrews 12:28).

4. Holy Nation

The kingdom of God is the reality of the church life, every believer is a priest serving God, and live out the Kingdom living on earth today (Romans 14:17). These believers possess the nature of heavenly nation, (Matthew 5-7), they are wise virgins (Matthew 25:1-13), good and faithful servants (Matthew 25:14-30). Individually, everyone is diligently being equipped, and fulfilling each function to inherit all the riches of God's kingdom and bring in the realization of God's kingdom. (Luke 22:28-30; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-5; 2 Peter 1:5-11)

“The problem with the Reformed church today is that they only emphasize on the Sunday message and most of the saints are not serving the Lord. Such a church cannot be called a church. If a local church has a congregation of 2,000 members with only 500 serving, the remaining 1,500 saints being laid back, the burden on the leading brothers will be very heavy.

While the Israelites failed in the past, the church today cannot fail again. In the end time, God is going to restore the royal priesthood among the children of God. To serve in the church is to serve in the body of Christ. Every member does his part, to support and to build up the body. – Watchman Nee”

Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:17 (NKJV) - From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Mark 1:15 (NKJV) - and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Matthew 2:2 (NKJV) - saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

John 18:37 (NKJV) - Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Matthew 27:37 (NKJV) - And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS

Colossians 1:13 (NKJV) - He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Matthew 3:2 (NKJV) - and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

John 3:3,5 (NKJV) - ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Luke 12:32 (NKJV) - "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Matthew 16:18–19 (NKJV) - ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Ephesians 3:10 (NKJV) - to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV) - you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:5–6 (NKJV) - ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:9–10 (NKJV) - ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

Hebrews 7:16–17 (NKJV) - ¹⁶ who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. ¹⁷ For He testifies: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 12:28 (NKJV) - Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Romans 14:17 (NKJV) - for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Luke 22:28–30 (NKJV) - ²⁸ “But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. ²⁹ And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (NKJV) - ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV) - ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:3–5 (NKJV) - ³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

2 Peter 1:5–11 (NKJV) - ⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.