

Meeting III – Kingdom Age

“...The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” (Revelation 11:15)

1. The Realization of the Kingdom

After the church age in the New Testament, it is the age of the realized millennial kingdom, at that time, the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. (Revelation 11:15)

After the kingdom age is the age of eternity, God and the Lamb and all the saved ones will reign forever and ever! God’s eternal purpose will be completely, gloriously and supremely fulfilled in the New Heaven and New Earth. Whether in the kingdom age or in eternity, God’s kingdom is still a kingdom of royal priesthood (Revelation 20:6; 22:3, 5).

2. The reward and punishment of the Kingdom

During the millennial kingdom, not every saved person can enter; the millennial kingdom is the age when God gives out His reward and punishment. All those who are saved and overcame, they will receive the reward to enter into the kingdom; all those who are saved, but failed they will receive punishment and cannot enter the millennial kingdom. When the Lord comes again, all the believers will stand at the judgment seat of Christ to give account, whether good or bad (Matthew 25:14-15, 19; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

- A. Reward – all the overcoming believers in the New Testament’s age of grace will receive the reward in millennial Kingdom.
 - i. Marriage Feast of the Lamb – a rich feast, enjoy the fruits of life, joy and peace (Matthew 25:10; Luke 13:29; Revelation 19:6-9)
 - ii. Incorruptible Crown – imperishable (1 Corinthians 9:24), righteous (2 Timothy 4:8), glorious (1 Peter 5:4), crown of life (Revelation 2:10)
 - iii. Enthroned with glory – sit with Christ on the throne (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30; Revelation 3:21), to be kings with Christ and rule over the earth. (Revelation 5:10; 20:4-6)
- B. Punishment – all the saints who did not serve the Lord faithfully and their life did not mature, cannot enter the kingdom. Not only can they not enjoy all the blessing in the kingdom, they will also be punished.
- C. Not acknowledged – cannot participate in the kingdom and will be rebuked and disciplined (Matthew 25:10-12)
 - i. Regret – weeping and gnashing of teeth in the outer darkness (Matthew 24:48-51; 25:30; Luke 13:28)
 - ii. Beaten – beaten with many stripes (Luke 12:45-47)

3. Responsibilities of the church

The realization of the kingdom is vitally related to the church, the church is responsible to hasten the coming of the kingdom, so that Christ may rule and reign on the earth. May the saints in every locality be raised to fulfill the priestly function, to practically cooperate with God’s purpose and ushers in the kingdom of God.

- A. Preach the gospel of the kingdom – Kingdom of heaven (original text: Kingdom) will be preached to the end of earth, and the end time will come (Matthew 24:14). If our gospel preaching is only to gain more people, it still doesn’t reach to God’s highest purpose. The gospel of the kingdom is the gospel of the Lord’s sovereignty, it is not only the gospel of grace, much more it is spreading the good news of God’s authority and glory. (Isaiah 52:7).
- B. Praying for the Kingdom – may God’s kingdom come (Matthew 6:10), seek first God’s kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33)
- C. Hastening the Lord’s return – expecting the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13), looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:12). Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20)

“Brethren, don’t lag behind. Only one gospel we have today – the gospel of the Kingdom of Christ... God’s focus in end times is the exile of Satan and the triumph of His Son... Whatever great work we have achieved, we are not fulfilling God’s eternal will if we do not focus on God’s focus. Don’t ever think that the end times will come as a matter of fact. God is waiting, seeking, gaining people who share His heart and co-work with Him, to bring an end to this age and lead in the Kingdom of God... Who are willing to be God’s co-workers to bring in the end of this age? Who are willing to do this great work?” – Watchman Nee

Scripture Reading

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV) - Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Revelation 20:6 (NKJV) - Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Revelation 22:3,5 (NKJV) - 3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Matthew 25:14–15,19 (NKJV) - 14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

1 Corinthians 3:11–15 (NKJV) - 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV) - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Matthew 25:10 (NKJV) - And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

Luke 13:29 (NKJV) - They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.

Revelation 19:6–9 (NKJV) - 6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

1 Corinthians 9:24 (NKJV) - Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

2 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV) - Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

1 Peter 5:4 (NKJV) - and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Revelation 2:10 (NKJV) - Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Matthew 19:28 (NKJV) - So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Luke 22:30 (NKJV) - that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Revelation 3:21 (NKJV) - To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Revelation 5:10 (NKJV) - And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

Revelation 20:4–6 (NKJV) - 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Matthew 25:10–12 (NKJV) - 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Matthew 24:48–51 (NKJV) - 48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:30 (NKJV) - And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Luke 13:28 (NKJV) - There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.

Luke 12:45–47 (NKJV) - 45 But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47 And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

Matthew 24:14 (NKJV) - And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Isaiah 52:7 (NKJV) - How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

Matthew 6:10 (NKJV) - Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV) - Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

2 Peter 3:12 (NKJV) - looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

Revelation 22:20 (NKJV) - He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!