

Lucan: It's time to begin. Bro. David, will you please offer an opening prayer?

Zahakiel: Let us pray. Father in Heaven, we give you thanks for the blessings you have given to us in the days that have passed. We thank you for the ministry of your angels, and the outworking of your blessed providence toward us. We stand now in your Presence, rejoicing in the rest and unity that you have called us to experience, and ask that our hearts and minds be open to the Word you have prepared for us through your servant tonight. Bless us with an outpouring of your Spirit, as we pause between the days of work, for we ask it in Yahshua's name. Amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen

daphna dee: Amen

Adriel777: Amen

Barb: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Lucan: Happy Sabbath, and a blessed New Moon. Recently Bro. David gave a study that dealt with, among others, the following passage:

"And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Yahshua answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!" (Mark 10:24)

We discussed some of the challenges that beset those who are blessed with riches or other advantages, and the reason they are entrusted with those blessings to begin with. Tonight we will be looking at the other portion of this passage – the "kingdom of God." What is the kingdom of God, also called the kingdom of heaven? We ought to know, as we read the following:

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, [even] the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:12-14)

There are several things worth noting in this passage. The Father has not simply made us partakers of the inheritance of the saints, but that He has made us "meet," or fit, to be partakers of that inheritance. He has done this by having "delivered us from the power of darkness," having forgiven our sins and redeemed us through His blood.

Adriel777: Amen

Lucan: This is not a gospel of imaginary righteousness, or theoretical conversion; the Father has done these things, and as a result, we are "made meet to be partakers." The portion I want to focus on, however, is in verse 13: "and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." This is past tense; it does not say we will be translated, or even are being translated, but that we have been translated into the kingdom. We may read similarly:

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Yahshua Christ." (Philippians 3:20, NKJV)

The nature of the kingdom of God was a matter Yahshua spent the whole of His earthly ministry preaching, and yet many failed to understand, even among His closest disciples. In parables and in plain words, Yahshua sought to impress the minds of His hearers with this simple truth:

"And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20-21)

This ran against all expectations as to what the kingdom of God entailed, as the expectation was of a kingdom after the kingdom of men – a visible rulership, marked by authority through power and force. In the days of Babel, in the days of Samuel, and in every age since, the professed people of God have met those who would set themselves or others as rulers over their brethren, raising up a kingdom to exert power and dominion.

"Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping [him], and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom... And when the ten heard [it], they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. But Yahshua called them [unto him], and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:20-21, 24-28) (LMK)

Zahakiel: Finished.

Naraiel: Finished

Adriel777: F

Pastor Chick: F

Elyna: F.

Barb: F

daphna dee: F

Lucan: This is the character of the kingdom of God as opposed to the kingdoms of the world. Where the kingdoms of the world are built on control, the kingdom of God is built on self-denying service. Where the kingdoms of the world are built around glorifying one man or woman, or a Conference or office of men or women, the kingdom of God is built on this principle:

"[Let] nothing [be done] through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself." (Philippians 2:3, NKJV)

Adriel777: Amen

Lucan: "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom [is] an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." (Daniel 7:27)

It is true that there is a revelation of this kingdom in glory, when Yahshua will come to receive that which He has bought with His own life and cast out those who occupy it in rebellion against His self-denying Spirit. Yahweh does not acknowledge squatter's rights. The earth and the fullness thereof are His by creation and redemption, and sin will not be permitted to dwell in it much longer. We may read of the beginning of Yahshua's ministry:

"Now after that John was put in prison, Yahshua came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:14, 15)

The time was fulfilled – Yahshua had come according to the prophecies at the appointed time, just as He will come the second time. The kingdom of God was at hand when He walked the earth.

We may read of the end of Yahshua's ministry: "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out." (John 12:31)

And again: "Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." (John 14:30)

Who was the "prince of this world?" We may see who claimed that authority:

"And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Yahshua answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Luke 4:5-8)

Satan's claim was that the power and glory of the kingdoms of the world were his to give and take. His offer was to surrender to Yahshua through agreement what He had come to purchase by bloodshed and suffering; that he would relinquish his claim to the kingdom of earth in exchange for the worship of the Son of God.

Of the lessons to be learned here, we can see that the ends do not justify the means; that Yahshua would not consent to attain a righteous goal through unrighteous means. He would not consent, as Abraham and Adam once did, to receive the promises and purposes of God through a means other than what had been laid out for Him by infinite love. The prince of this world was cast out, and we read the results:

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." (Revelation 12:10-11)

We see, then, that at the death of Christ the kingdom transferred; now had come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ. The kingdom is come, having been at hand over 2000 years ago. While we look forward with joy to the revelation and physical establishment of that kingdom, we must ever keep in mind the words of Yahshua:

"For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

How is the kingdom of God established within us? We may see the fruits, as those who have consented to be "citizens of heaven," having been "translated into the kingdom," are those who overcome Satan "by the blood of the lamb, and the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death." Yet there is more than this; these are the "large works," and the kingdom of Heaven, as we will see shortly, is itself a seemingly small thing at the start. What we want to come away from this study with is a right understanding of the kingdom of God, lest we be tempted to take our eyes from the spiritual to the literal, and so that we may reach out to those who are in that error.

Those who erred in looking for an earthly kingdom the first time Yahshua came made a small error in comparison to those who err by viewing going to heaven, whether expected at death or at Christ's return, as the establishment of His kingdom. The kingdom of God is within you; it is come, it is at hand.

"Yahshua 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." (John 18:36)

What does it mean that the kingdom is not of this world? Satan's kingdom is of this world; the principles of oppression, rebellion, and self-exaltation define the spirit of the world.

We may read:

"Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (1 John 2:15-17)

Here we see more of what it means to be a citizen of the kingdom of God rather than the kingdoms of the world. The kingdom of God is not of this world, and thus, His servants do not fight in this world for the things of the world. The desires of the flesh, the desires of the things we see, and the pride of life have no place in the kingdom of God, or those who are citizens of it. These things are of the prince of this world, yet those of the kingdom of God bear the testimony of Yahshua, that "the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." From vengeance and protection to daily needs, the kingdom of God is beyond and above them all:

"And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:29-32)

We may note here the source of the fear that leads the rich to trust in their riches, and to have such difficulty with the kingdom of God. We may also note the contrast between "the nations of the world" and "the kingdom of God." We may not, of right, be a citizen of both; we will be aliens to heaven and citizens of the world, or aliens to the world and citizens of heaven.

Yet "now is the judgment of this world," said Yahshua; the world and its principles have been judged and found wanting in character and in power. All the power of the world could not force Yahshua to sin. All the education of the world could not emulate His perfect character.

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16)

Here is the basic truth of our citizenship; here is the test given to differentiate between those who are of the kingdom of God and those who are of the kingdoms of the world. Here is the line between those who receive the seal of God and those who receive the mark of the beast, beasts being kingdoms of the world. "To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey." Thus is come "salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ", as we read elsewhere:

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he that in these things serveth Christ [is] acceptable to God, and approved of men." (Romans 14:17-18)

"[This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)

The kingdom of God is the kingdom of His Spirit, "For the kingdom of God [is] not in word, but in power." (1 Corinthians 4:20)

And again, "Yahshua answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Yahshua answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and [of] the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:3-6)

The flesh is the flesh; the kingdoms of the flesh rule over those in the flesh. The Spirit is spirit; the kingdom of God rules over those in the Spirit.

Where is our citizenship?

"[This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh... Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5: 16, 19-21)

Why will they not inherit the kingdom of God? Because they have not revealed the kingdom of God, and have no part in it. We may look at this list and consider it well enough for most professed Christians - few bow to idols or practice witchcraft. Yet idolatry is any practice, idea, person, or thing - even an understanding of Christ Himself - that is held higher than the revealed truth of Yahweh. Witchcraft, as we know, is "as the sin of rebellion." He that hateth his brother is a murderer, and "hate" may be demonstrated in both active and inactive ways. "Strife" need not be a verbal fight, but a cherished variance between brethren that is not diligently worked out.

There is ample opportunity for reflection and examination if we look, not to the narrowest, but the broadest application of principle. That is the character of those who love the light, and whose citizenship is not in the kingdom of darkness.

What of the Spirit and kingdom of God? "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22-25)

We may read again: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Yahshua, and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

We see here the results of those who are of the kingdom of God and those who are not. How is it that we are translated from one to another?

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13)

It is the will of God, not the will of the flesh or of man that causes us to be born again. It is the power of God, not the power of the flesh or the power of man, that gives us the

victory and makes us new. It is the Spirit of God, not the spirit of the flesh or the spirit of man that "causes us to triumph always in Christ." (2 Corinthians 2:14)

This is the heritage of those translated into the kingdom of God, being made citizens of heaven and the soon to be revealed kingdom of heaven. Even now, we are called to reveal that kingdom within ourselves, as "a city on a hill" that cannot be hid. Even now, we are called to demonstrate to the world through love what force can never reveal, whether on the cross or in the courts.

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened." (Matthew 13:31-33)

The kingdom "cometh not with observation;" spiritual things, small and insignificant seeming to the flesh, will yield greater observable results than the imagination can invent. He who is faithful in little will be faithful with much. A little bit of leaven that causes the entire loaf to rise, a tiny seed that grows beyond all others. "The oak tree is in the acorn," as the promises of God contain within them the power to realize them.

Ariel777: Amen

Lucan: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 13:47-50)

"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; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." (Matthew 13:41-43)

As with any kingdom, citizenship is recorded. Just as the judgment of the world took place 2000 years ago yet will be executed in the near future, so the judgment of the kingdom of God is ongoing, and will be executed in the very near future. Not all who claim the rights to the kingdom are its citizens; many, even the majority, will be surprised to learn that their ambitions of a heavenly kingdom are disappointed, as they have not "sought first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" which are within you, bringing forth the fruits of repentance.

In the closing hours of earth's history, there is a blotting is taking place:

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19)

This is the blotting of sins, and we may read of it elsewhere:

"I, [even] I, [am] he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." (Isaiah 43:25)

"I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee." (Isaiah 44:22)

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions... Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities." (Psalms 51:1, 9)

Of those whose sins have not been surrendered, but who have claimed citizenship under false pretenses, we read of another blotting:

"Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And Yahweh said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." (Exodus 32:32-33)

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." (Revelation 3:5)

Either names or sins are blotted out, and these two things – names and sins – are the only things Scripture speaks of as having been "blotted." To have a name blotted is the greatest loss any person can suffer; to have sins blotted is the greatest gift any person can receive.

Adriel777: Amen

Lucan: This is the "gospel of the kingdom of God" that Yahshua went about preaching, and that has been committed to us in the last hours of the harvest. During this High Sabbath of rest and judgment, let us rejoice that the kingdom of God is at hand, having been translated into that kingdom to await its revelation in glory. Let us share the gospel of that kingdom, putting off all remnants of the flesh, all characteristics and personality traits that are of the kingdom of the world rather than the kingdom to which we belong.

Let us demonstrate through love and self-sacrifice the superiority of the kingdom to which we belong over the world that has been judged, and soon will be judged. Finally, let us bear the testimony through which we overcome our accuser, who has been cast down by One mightier than all:

"And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve [me] unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen." (2 Timothy 4:18)

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: C

Lucan: Go ahead

Zahakiel: Thank you for the study.

Elyna: Amen

Zahakiel: I appreciated many of the issues that you raised... I thought the idea that for Christians the ends do not justify the means is a very fitting, and timely message. Many who are misled by the snares the Enemy has set may justify doing, or supporting, things that are unrighteous, saying that overall, in the end, they think or hope that we will be better off in the long run. This reflects a lack of faith in Yah to bring about His purposes in His way, for if He wished to bring forth righteousness out of unrighteousness, it would be without the input of corruptible human beings. We may find many in the Scriptures who, thinking they were doing Yah a favor, ignored integrity, character, and righteousness, the principles of the Kingdom of Yah, and the results are there for all to read.

Whole Churches, as CSDAs well know, may fall prey, and you mentioned "the courts" near the end... We may consider the example of Abraham, to whom Yah promised a child... his wife, not believing that Yah could bring this promise to fruition according to the proper covenant of marriage, since they were both already elderly, suggested that they use an unsanctified means for a "good cause." The results of that choice, and the conflict that has raged between two nations from that day to this, are an enduring reminder that the ends do not justify the means with our Father, and of course many other examples - ancient and modern - may be cited. End.

Lucan: Are there any other comments?

Adriel777: C

Lucan: Go ahead

Adriel777: I also appreciated this study. It is good to be reminded that the kingdom is within us here and now. This study goes along with Bro. David's of some months ago "The First Day in Heaven" End.

Zahakiel: (Second :))

Adriel777: (Oh, right 😊)

Pastor Chick: Q

Lucan: Go ahead

Pastor Chick: If the kingdom of God is within, do we need reminding? END

Barb: Q

Elyna: Q

Lucan: Go ahead, Sis. Barb.

Barb: A similar question is - when the heart is beating within the body, do we need to be reminded that it is there? End.

Lucan: Go ahead, Sis. Guerline.

Elyna: Did Yahshua need to be reminded of who he was? Only in the sense of learning who we are, as He was that we are reminded. Yet the Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are children of Yah. End.

Lucan: I am recalling Scriptures where "putting the brethren in remembrance" of various things is advised. My thought is that there is value in re-examining the standard on occasion. I recall Mrs. White wrote in a place, somewhat oddly I thought, that the only thing we have to fear is forgetting how Yahweh has lead us in the past. I can't say that there is any need of reminding, as the heart and the Spirit are Yah's doing. I can see the value in an occasional heart check, to ensure the beat is as it ought to be. Much like a monthly examination for any new light, or picked up practices from the world.

Pastor Chick: C

Lucan: Go ahead

Pastor Chick: Nothing at all wrong with the study -- in fact very inspiring! Now, there is a huge difference in checking the heart's rhythm and verifying the existence of the heart.
END

Elyna: Q

Lucan: Go ahead

Elyna: Would Pastor's question fall under the same theme as the reminder of the 4th commandment which says to "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" for example?
End

Pastor Chick: A

Lucan: Go ahead

Pastor Chick: For the unregenerated, it means, don't forget the Sabbath, but for the born again, it is a promise that we will remember the Sabbath to keep it holy as we ARE holy. END

Lucan: I think the Sabbath comparison may be a helpful one. You recall that the Jews in Yahshua's time were so focused on the Sabbath commandment that they missed the spirit of it, and lost out on the kingdom that would have made them Sabbath keepers in truth. Now, say one of them who was very schooled in the law and followed it diligently while unregenerated came to Christ... They still keep the commandment...But, do they keep it the way they used to? Fearing forgetting, checking off lists to keep it holy? We have an example in Paul, who certainly did no such thing. There may be a temptation to consider ourselves as we once were, unregenerate. But, the Scripture tells us that "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:7)

Adriel777: Amen

Lucan: We are not the old man, struggling to grasp righteousness or remember our standing before Yahweh as some thing that is outside of us to be grasped...

Elyna: C

Lucan: But, the "law is written in our hearts," which are there beating whether we are reminded or not. 😊 Go ahead.

Elyna: So therefore, when Yah reminds his regenerated children to keep in the bound of faith and love, one must not ask themselves: why is He reminding me, for it is his way of perfecting his perfect character in me. Thank you for this study and reflection that has brought me encouragement and a renewed zeal to go out door to door after a season of 'rest'. I want to offer to those that I meet the FOD book. I have been thinking of that for a while now after I started reading it in the family circle. There are gems to be uncovered by the heartfelt seeker of truth. I hope for them to be of receptive heart and minds. End.

Lucan: I recall in the Guys congregation, certain individuals were challenged by this. The presentation of a sin, or a "reminder" when pointing out some error, would cause some to

question far too deeply and in the wrong ways. I can recall being asked something along the lines of, "are you saying I'm not converted?" when no such thing had been posed. Satan will attempt to turn Yah's chastisement into a rejection. Temptations will come to question conversion when any fault is found. Yah does not deal with us in such a way. He tells us who we are so that we can see it and understand, not what we don't have, but what we DO have given to us freely. Self is not the focus. Self is dead, buried in whichever waters each of us were baptized in. We are no longer capable of committing sin, or failing to meet a right standard once we see and know it. When we are shown some mark on our faces, it is our privilege to ask and have it wiped clean...We need never question whether we have a face. 😊

Zahakiel: 😊

Elyna: Amen

Pastor Chick: Amen

Adriel777: Amen 😊

Barb: Amen

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Lucan: Are there any other comments? If not, I'll ask Pastor to offer a closing prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in Heaven thank you for translating us into the Kingdom of Your dear Son. May our Sabbath blessings and reflections be sanctifying as we rest in Your eternal care. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

daphna dee: Amen

Barb: Amen

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Adriel777: Amen

Elyna: Amen

Lucan: Amen