

# The Kingdom

"1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days [That] the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. 3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. 5 O house of Jacob, come and let us walk In the light of the LORD." (Isaiah 2:1-5 NKJV)

This is a difficult passage to comment on without first explaining a great deal about eschatological themes. Therefore, I would like to focus on a principle in the passage. That to which I refer is its holy nature.

God's kingdom is all about God's rule. We think sometimes that we can live under God's rule without obeying the rules. However, at some point it is clear that disobedience will be judged and eventually eliminated.

His kingdom is characterized by His presence and His life-changing power. Clearly, the Kingdom of God has come upon us in some fashion now, as is mentioned in Mark's Gospel. "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.'" (Mark 1:14-15 NKJV)

Jesus preached that the new birth was the way into the kingdom. Notice how He puts it to Nicodemus. "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'" (John 3:3-5 NKJV)

Entering God's kingdom reveals the holy law to the mind and soul [out of Zion shall go forth the law]. It sees God lifted up in power and majesty [on top of the mountains], and it changes the behavior of its subjects [they shall beat their swords into plowshares].

The question I want you all to ask yourself is this. Are you living in God's kingdom today? Are you subject to the King? Make sure you have truly entered the kingdom.