

The Kingdom of Perfect peace

Isa 11:6-9 6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Something terrible happened at the fall. Not only did man fall into a state of sin and fallenness, which of course is the major issue of the fall as it affects man and his relationship with God. But we also know that the fall affected creation itself. We first become aware of it where God says to Adam, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." Gen 3:17-19 What we see here is the fact that a curse fell upon the whole of creation. Prior to the fall animals would have lived in a most peaceful state but in the fallen world as we know it, those which are by nature defenseless have become the prey of the strong. Now by nature the wolf preys upon the lamb, and the leopard upon the young goat, and the viper is venomous, and the bear, and the cow, and the lion, and the ox, cannot live together. The Apostle Paul tells us that "the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now." Rom 8:22

But in this passage we see a change taking place here, "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious." Isa 11:6-10

There are several views as to the meaning of this passage. Some see it as a future glorious golden age upon this earth that will be brought about by the efforts of man. Some see it as a kingdom of perfect obedience to the law of God by all nations; a kingdom that will come about by the efforts of the church. Others see it as a future earthly millennial reign of Christ that He will establish upon this earth. Let us then consider two questions. Will this be an earthly kingdom? And if not, what is typified by this passage?

A. We may safely state that it is not an earthly kingdom that the Christ will establish.

1. It is certainly not some yet future secular earthly golden age to be established in this present world by the efforts of men.
 - a. A depraved mankind cannot bring in a heavenly kingdom
 - b. Those whose thoughts are only evil continually cannot bring in a golden age
 - c. A brief review of secular history is all one needs
2. This does not typify some earthly state of creatures upon this earth since the language is clearly figurative and poetic and not to be considered as literal.
3. It is not the restoration of the earthly kingdom of Israel that the disciples expected Jesus to establish.

Acts 1:6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

4. Nor is it referring to a restoration of a yet future kingdom of Israel upon this earth.
 - a. The church should not expect an earthly millennial reign just before the end of this world system.
 - b. Contrary to some opinions held today; the early church after Pentecost did not expect an earthly kingdom of Christ.
 - c. This can best be illustrated by Eusebius' history of the early New Testament church.

Emperor Domitian concerned about Christ and His kingdom heard that there were some members of the Lord's relatives, according to the flesh, still living; the grandchildren of Jude, who is said to have been the Lord's brother, and fearing the threat of a possible kingdom uprising called them before him and asked concerning Christ and his kingdom, of what sort it was and where and when it was to appear, they answered that it was **not a temporal nor an earthly kingdom, but a heavenly** and angelic one, which would appear **at the end of the world**, when he should come in glory to judge the quick and the dead, and to give unto every one according to his works. (Book 3, Chap. 20, Para. 6 - cir. 300 a.d.)

5. It simply will not be an earthly kingdom at all because Jesus Himself said so. - "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." (John 18:36)
 - a. We learn from this that it is spiritual and divine, it is not secular in nature
 - b. I can only ask, "Could Jesus have said it any plainer?"

B. What then is this coming kingdom and when shall we expect it? - *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

1. At the fall the Edenic nature of creation was lost, and this included a change in man
 - a. In creation itself we see it in the cruelty of beasts; stronger devour with dreadful violence the weaker animals?
 - b. Calvin writes: There would certainly have been no discord among the creatures of God, if they had remained in their first and original condition.
 - c. Paul writes, "*For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*" Rom. 8:24
 - d. Isaiah simply uses this fallen state of creation to exemplify the fallen nature of mankind.
2. We can understand then that this coming kingdom will effect a change in mankind.
3. But that it will not be secular but spiritual in nature
 - a. Jesus has clearly stated that His kingdom is not secular but is spiritual in nature.

Luke 17:20-21 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

- b. Not secular in that you cannot point at it and say there it is.
4. If it is not secular and what kind of Kingdom then will it be?
 - a. It is a spiritual kingdom and as Jesus said, it is a kingdom of God within us
 - b. The kingdom of God present now, it is within us
5. What Isaiah proclaims here is that at our conversion our brute beast nature will be changed
 - a. We have been changed, in Christ we become a "new creation"

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- b. We have been "*delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*" (Col. 1:13,14)
6. Our Lord is indeed a king, yet his dominion was over the heart, subduing evil passions and corrupt desires, and bringing the soul to the love of peace and unity.
 - a. This kingdom of Christ is established in our hearts by the Holy Spirit

Gal 5:22-24 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

CONCLUSION: It is a Kingdom that shall be over all the earth - *for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

It has been brought into existence by our Lord

Rev 5:9 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,

Established by Christ as a worldwide kingdom by His great commission to the church

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Continues wherever Christ is received

Rom 10:18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.

Will be finalized in glory, therefore it is the Kingdom present and the Kingdom yet future

Rev 11:15 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!"

Rejoice Christian, by grace you have been made a part of this glorious kingdom

Col. 1:13,14 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.