

Mount Zion – the Kingdom of God

Part 1 – Introduction: Zion in the Age of the New Covenant – the Kingdom of the Heavens (JS)

- I. The gospel according to Matthew – the gospel of the kingdom (Mt. 1:1; 2:2; 4:23 [9:35]; 16:16-19; [Ps. 118:26]; 24:14; 27:11; Jn. 18:33-37; Lk. 19:38; Jn. 12:12-18)
 - A. The coming of the Messiah is the fulfillment of Zech. 9:9 <21:2,4-9>; Is. 7:14; 9:6-7 <Mt. 1:21-23> – the Savior-King
 1. His first coming is to redeem His people – to make them a kingdom of priests (Rev. 1:5-6)
 2. His second coming is to rule over the nations and to restore God’s whole creation (Zech. 14:9)
 - B. The emphasis is the King
 1. He is called “the Son of David” (Mt. 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15; 22:42; Ps. 132:11; 89:3-4; 19-29)
 - a. The wise men from the East addressed Him as “the King of the Jews” (Mt. 2:1-2; Mic. 5:2; Jn. 7:42)
 - b. The inscription on the cross by Pontius Pilate “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”
 - c. All authority (power) in heaven and on earth is given to the Lord Jesus (Mt. 28:18)
 2. God has set His Son as King on His holy hill of Zion (Ps. 2:6-12; 45:6-7; 48:1-2; 89:20-27, 36-37; 110:1-2; Is. 9:6-7; Dan. 7:13-14; Rev. 14:1)
 3. Jesus Christ is not only the Savior but also the only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Tim. 6:14-15)
 4. God Himself is the great King (Mal. 1:14b; Ps. 47:2; 95:3; Jer. 10:10)

- C. The kingdom today does not come with observation (Luke 17:20-21)
 - 1. The kingdom today is heavenly and spiritual in nature
 - 2. The believers are not only in the kingdom, but the kingdom is also inside <ἐντός> the believers (Mt. 13:18-24)
- II. Zion – the church built by the Lord is His kingdom on earth (Mt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:23 <11:14-17>; Gal. 3:27-29)
 - A. The church built by the Lord is His kingdom on earth
 - B. Built upon the rock – Christ the Foundation (1 Cor. 3:11), the Cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:6), and the Topstone (Zech. 4:7)
 - C. With the believers as living stones (1 Pet. 2:5)
 - D. The gates of Hades cannot prevail (Ho. 6:2; 13:14; Heb. 2:14)
- III. The goal of salvation – saved to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 1 Pet. 2:9)
- IV. Out of Zion shall go forth the law (Is. 2:3; Mic. 4:2; Ex. 20-24; Is. 42:1; 51:4; Deut. 6:1)
 - A. God’s kingdom is righteousness (Heb. 1:8-9a; Ps. 45:7; 11:5; 33:5; 119:128)
 - 1. The scepter of His kingdom is a scepter of righteousness
 - 2. The King loves righteousness and hates lawlessness
 - B. The law (the constitution) of the kingdom of the heavens (see Part 2)
- V. The gospel of the kingdom must be preached to all the world (Mt. 24:14), and then the end will come
- VI. Acts
 - A. The Lord Jesus 40 days after His resurrection, spoke the things pertaining to the kingdom of God (1:3) – the disciples were thinking about the earthly kingdom, but the Lord was talking about the heavenly kingdom.
 - B. Paul’s ministry at the latter part of his life: (Acts 17:2-3; 28:23-31) – preaching concerning the kingdom of God and

the Lord Jesus from the scriptures, from Moses and the books of the prophets (see also Luke 24:26-27; 44-45; 1 Pet. 1:11)

Part 2: The Constitution (Law) of Zion, the Heavenly Kingdom – “Out of Zion Shall Go Forth the Law” (JS)

(Is. 2:3; Mic. 4:2; Ex. 20-24; Is. 42:1; 51:4; Deut. 6:1-12)

- I. The intrinsic character of the sons of the kingdom (Mt. 5:3-12)
 - A. The life of Jesus we received through regeneration
 - B. For the testimony of Jesus in the world today (Mt. 5:13-16)
- II. The righteousness of the sons of the kingdom which exceeds that of the Scribes & Pharisees (Heb. 1:8-9; Matt. 5:17-20)
 - A. Self-control over anger and hatred (Matt. 5:21-26; 1 Jn. 2:9-11; 2:15; 4:20)
 - B. Overcoming the lust of the flesh – adultery and divorce (vv. 27-32)
 - C. Regarding our speaking (Lev. 19:12; Ex. 20:7; Matt. 5:33-37; Col. 4:6; James 5:12; 2 Cor. 1:17-18)
 - D. Reaction toward the enemies
 1. Not retaliating (Matt. 5:38-42; Prov. 20:22; 24:29; Rom. 12:17,19; 1 Thess. 5:15; 1 Pet. 2:23; 3:9)
 2. Love your enemies (Matt. 5:43-47; Luke 6:27-28, 34-35; 23:34; Acts 7:60; Prov. 25:21-22)
 - E. Be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect (Matt. 5:48; Luke 6:36, 40; 2 Cor. 7:1; Col. 1:28; 4:12; James 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:15-16)
- III. The righteous deeds of the sons of the kingdom – in giving alms, praying and fasting (Matt. 6:1-18)
 - A. Not to be seen by man (not being hypocritical)
 1. Openly (theatrical) to be seen and admired by man
 2. To receive the glory of man
 - B. The righteous way

1. In secret – only to be seen by the heavenly Father, who sees in secret
 2. To receive the reward from the heavenly Father
- IV. Special instructions concerning praying (Matt. 6:7-15; Jm. 4:3)
- A. Not to use vain repetitions as the heathens do
 - B. Avoid using many words
 - C. One with the Father’s will
- V. Dealing with earthly treasures (Matt. 6:19-24)
- A. Not laying up treasures on earth, but in heaven – a matter of our heart (Luke 12:21; 18:22-30; 1 Tim. 6:8-10; Heb. 13:5) – seeking the things above, where Christ is (Col. 3:1-2; Ps. 119:36-37)
 - B. Not serving two masters – God and mammon (Matt. 4:10; Luke 16:13; 1 John 2:15-16; James 4:4)
 - C. Not being anxious for our living (Matt. 6:25-34)
 - D. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (v. 6:33)
- VI. Dealing with others (Matt. 7:1-12; Luke 6:37-38)
- A. Without censorial judgment (1 Cor. 4:3-5)
 - B. Allowing the Lord to examine our hearts first (Ps. 139:23-24)
 - C. Following the “golden rule” (Matt. 7:12)
 - D. Having a discerning spirit (Matt. 7:6)
- VII. The narrow way into the kingdom (Matt. 7:12-14; Luke 13:24)
- A. The way of righteousness and the path of justice (Prov. 8:20)
 - B. The highway of holiness (Is. 35:8)
 - C. The way of the cross – way of affliction and suffering (Matt. 16:24-25; Gal. 5:24-26; Acts 14:22; Heb. 12:2-11)
 - D. Following the Lamb (Rev. 14:4; Heb. 2:10b; 1 Pet. 2:21-23)
 - E. Ask, seek, and knock (Matt. 7:7-11)
- VIII. The royal law and the law of liberty (Mt. 22:36-40; Jam. 2:8, 12) – the sum of the law (Mt. 5:17; 22:37-40)

- IX. In the New Covenant age, the law is inscribed in our hearts (Jer. 31:33-34; Heb. 8:10; 10:16)
- X. Final warnings (Matt. 7:15-29)

Zion – The King and His Kingdom (SH) (Hebrews)

- I. Christ has sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb. 1:3)
- II. Christ holds the scepter of His Kingdom (Heb. 1:8)
- III. Christ makes His enemies His footstool (Heb. 1:13)
- IV. Christ destroyed the devil who had the power of death (Heb. 2:14-15)
- V. Christ is a Priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 6:20)
- VI. King of righteousness and peace (Heb. 7:1-3)
- VII. Mount Zion is the city of the living God (Heb. 12:22-24)

Zion – The Unshakable Kingdom of God (SS) (Heb. 12:27-29)

- I. The ascended Christ receiving an everlasting kingdom that will not pass away (Dan. 7:13-14; Ps. 125:1; 145:13)
 - A. The saints will also receive this everlasting kingdom (Dan. 7:18, 22b, 27; Rev. 1:6, 5:10)
 - 1. The gates of hades cannot prevail against the built church (Matt. 16:18)
 - 2. The church is given the keys of the kingdom (Matt. 16:19)
 - 3. Our warfare is against principalities, powers and the rulers of the darkness of this age (Eph. 6:12)

- II. Built and made by God (Heb. 11:10, 16)
 - A. Christ being the foundation, chief cornerstone and capstone (1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:6; Zech. 4:7)
 - B. The apostles as examples (Rev. 1:9; 2 Cor. 4:7-18; Rom. 8:31-38; Phil. 4:13)
 - C. The saints likewise being rooted, steadfast, immovable in Christ through their experiences (Col. 2:6-7; 1 Cor. 15:58; Matt. 7:24-27; Ps. 127:1-2)
- III. Everything of this creation (old creation) will be shaken
 - A. The world and the lust of it will pass away (1 John 2:15-17)
 - B. The world that existed during Noah's time perished being flooded with water (2 Pet. 3:5)
 - C. Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:12-28)
 - D. Babylon (Rev. 18:21)
 - E. The heavens and the earth which are now are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men (2 Pet. 3:7)
- IV. Our reaction knowing this beforehand
 - A. Let us have (hold fast) grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear (Heb. 12:28)
 - B. Come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9)
 - C. Be holy in all our conduct (1 Pet. 1:15; 2 Pet. 3:11)
 - D. Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age (Titus 2:12)
 - E. He who does the will of God abides forever (1 John 2:17)
 - F. Take heed how each one of us builds (1 Cor. 3:9-15)

Zion – The Inhabitants of Zion (MH)

- I. The dwelling place of God – the city of truth and the holy mountain (Zech. 8:2-3; 7-8; Ps. 132:11-14)
- II. Obey His voice and keep His covenant (Ex. 19:4-8)

- III. Separated from the ungodly (Ps. 1:1-2; 15:1-5; 24:3-5)
- IV. Be holy because He is holy (Is. 4:3-6; 35:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:14-16)
- V. Offer up spiritual sacrifices (Ps. 132:16; 1 Pet. 2:5-6)
- VI. Experiencing the glory and promises of God (Is. 35:3-10; Ps. 48:11-14; Is. 12:6)

Zion – The Holy Mountain of God, the Church as its Manifestation (MW)

- I. The destination of the Israelites after leaving Egypt (Ex. 15:17)
- II. Full of beauty, holiness, life, glory of God
 - A. Beautiful in Elevation, perfection of beauty (Ps. 50:2)
 - 1. Beauty of the Lord (Ps. 27:4)
 - B. Dew of Hermon descends on Mount Zion (Ps. 133:3)
 - 1. Oneness is an essential characteristic
 - 2. Love, the bond of perfection, as evidence of life (Col. 3:14; 1 John 3:14; 4:7)
 - C. Priestly blessing (Ps. 132:13-16)
 - 1. Out of Zion comes salvation (Ps. 53:6)
 - 2. Holiness (Ez. 44:5-9)
 - 3. Healing and Life (Ez. 47:1-12)
 - 4. Joy of the whole earth (Ps. 48:2)
 - 5. City of Truth (Zech. 8:3)
 - 6. "Out of Zion" (Ps. 50:2; 53:6; 110:2; 128:5; Is. 2:3; Rom. 11:26)
- III. God's dwelling and throne are in Zion
 - A. City of the Great King (Ps. 48:2)
 - B. He is the King of Glory (Ps. 24:10)
 - C. Place of His throne and His dwelling (Ez. 43:7)
 - D. God has desired and chosen it as His dwelling and resting place forever (Ps. 132:13)

- IV. Zion is heavenly, not earthly
 - A. Heavenly Zion (real) vs earthly Zion (shadow)
 - B. Heavenly Jerusalem (Heb. 12:22)
- V. The Church is an image of Zion in this age (Heb. 12:22-23; Matt. 16:18-19)
 - A. Authority of Christ, leading by the Holy Spirit, dependence on God vs dependence and/or leading of man
 - B. An assembly of God's people in oneness of the Spirit vs. outward uniformity
 - C. Undivided (Matt. 12:25)
 - D. Pillar and ground of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15)
 - E. Holiness, life, the presence of God, His salvation is evidenced vs. death, staleness, no growth
 - F. Mount Zion is not in name but in reality
 - G. Vision of Zion cannot be neglected. The "place" matters. Cannot have the priesthood without Zion and cannot have Zion without the priesthood

Zion – A Kingdom of Priests (GC)

(Ex. 19:6; Rev.1:5-6; 5:10-11; 1 Pet. 2:9)

- I. The whole Bible shows us that the kingship and the priesthood are joined together
 - A. After the fall of man, there is a need of the priesthood to restore man's destiny to rule over the whole earth
 - B. The priesthood is needed to save man from his fallen condition and qualify him to be king
- II. Examples in the Old Testament
 - A. Moses and Aaron – king and priest
 - 1. Moses represents the kingship
 - 2. Aaron the priesthood

- B. The 2 olive trees on each side of the lampstand –
 - 1. Zerubbabel represents the kingship
 - 2. Joshua represents the priesthood
 - C. The crown was placed on Joshua the high priest in Zech. 6:11 – referring to the Lord as the priestly king and kingly priest
 - D. Prophecy concerning the Lord as the Branch who will rule and be a priest on His throne (Zech. 6:12-13)
 - E. Through the priesthood, we see the beauties of holiness in Zion (Ps. 110:3)
 - F. In Zion, He will clothe His priests with salvation and His enemies with shame (Ps. 132:16, 18)
 - G. The city of the appointed feast (Is. 33:20; Heb. 12:23)
 - H. The city where we bring our offerings and burnt sacrifices (Ps. 20:3)
- III. Today, the Lord Jesus is both the King and the great High Priest
- A. But first as a lowly priestly servant to bring us salvation (Zech. 9:9)
 - B. Learned obedience as a priest through the things He suffered (Heb. 5:8)
 - C. Perfected to be a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek (5:9-10)
 - D. Now crowned with glory and honor (Heb. 2:9)
- IV. Today, as His many brethren, like Him, we are also being perfected in the priesthood to qualify us to reign with Him in the coming millennial Kingdom which is the heavenly Mt. Zion (Heb. 2:10-11)
- V. The requirements of the priesthood (Mal. 2:2, 4-12)

Zion – God’s Heavenly Army to Take Back the Earth (JY)

(Ps. 110)

- I. God’s plan from the beginning for man to rule the earth (Gen. 1:26, 28; Ps. 2; Heb. 2:5)
 - A. Satan took over the earth (1 John 5:19; Matt. 4:9; Eph. 2:2; 2 Thess. 2:5-12; 1 John 2:15-17)
 - B. Battle to take back the earth (Matt. 11:12; 16:18; 5:10-12)
- II. Christ, the captain of our salvation, to take back the earth (Heb. 2:10; Ps. 110; Ps. 2:8; Dan. 7:14; Zech. 14:9)
 - A. Great High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek – King of peace and righteousness (Ps. 110:4)
 - B. Knows Satan's strategy and already destroyed him (John 8:44; Matt. 4:4-11; Rev. 19:11-16)
 - C. Ruler over the kings of the earth as the King of kings, Lord of lords, (Rev. 1:5; 17:14; 19:16)
- III. His heavenly army (Ps. 110:3; Rev. 19:14)
 - A. Volunteers to be soldiers (2 Tim. 2:3-4)
 - B. Equipped and training us with His weapons to fight
 - 1. Keys of the kingdom - His authority (Matt. 16:19)
 - 2. Putting on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:11-20)
 - C. Faithful to follow our Captain into battle (Num. 13:30)
 - 1. Following the Lord into battle (Rev. 17:14)
 - 2. Strong and of good courage (Deut. 31:6-7; Josh. 1:6-7)
 - 3. His mighty men (2 Sam. 21:15-22)
 - D. Qualified as kings and priests (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10)
- IV. God's complete victory over His enemy (Ps. 110:5-7; Rev. 19:19-20; 20:10, 14)

Zion – The Place Where the Lord Has the Victory Over this World (EK)

- I. Transferred into a different kingdom (Col. 1:13-14;
1 Pet. 2:9-12)
- II. Our condition: experiencing difficulties before His return
(1 John 5:19; Ps. 69:1-33; 102:1-11; 1 Pet. 5:8-11)
- III. Salvation and mercy are for Zion (Ps. 102:12-22; 69:33-36)
 - A. Not only for us individually, but for Zion (Ps. 102:13; 69:33,
35-36)
 - B. Able to overcome the world (Ps. 102:15, 20)
- IV. Our purpose in Zion
 - A. To be a His people serving Him (Ps. 102:18, 22)
 - B. To be to His praise (Ps. 102:21; 36:34)
- V. Our response: building first His kingdom
 - A. Seeking first His kingdom (Matthew 6:33)
 - B. Not the passing things of this world (1 John 2:17)
 - C. Where His blessings are (Ps 128:1-6)