

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

Part IX *Luke 10:19-20*

Introduction: It is myopic to be uninformed of the transcending relevance of the kingdom of God. The Bible is replete with covenantal directives, and a complete schematic of the kingdom is provided for us in the Scriptures. It is patently amazing how much the Bible unveils to us about the kingdom of God. I pray as we review this quintessential valuable information, that we will become more robust in our faith. We can enjoy kingdom living for ourselves as well as tells others about what *they* are missing.

- I. In all previous covenants that God made with man, Jesus is the fulfillment of the Messianic promises in those covenants and by the cross He abolished the temporal elements contained therein.
 - A. Christ is the seed of the Adamic and Abrahamic, as well as the Noahic, covenants. As such, He is the fulfillment of the "seed promises."
 1. For example, the seal of the Abrahamic covenant was circumcision, but the sacramental value of this physical seal was abolished by the cross. It was replaced by circumcision of the heart and spirit; an internal rather than external seal. The temporal element of the Abrahamic covenant was fulfilled and abolished. Romans 2:25-29; Colossians 2:11-12.
 - B. The promises of the covenant undergird the kingdom of God on the earth that we have been called upon to manage until the rapture of the church.
 1. The blessings of salvation. The word "salvation" includes in its meaning "safety, security, preservation, deliverance, and wholeness." It is the greatest "spiritual blessing." Ephesians 1:1-3. Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. John 4:42. Theologically, this "so great salvation" includes the following benefits that are made possible by the new covenant in Christ. Hebrews 2:3.
 - a. Pardon. This means the forgiveness and remission of the penalty of sin. Acts 10:43. The old covenant simply covered for sin, while the new covenant provides cleansing and removal of sin. 1st John 1:5-9.
 - b. Justification. This means that we have been pronounced just and declared righteous and in right standing before God through Christ. By the works of the law, no one could be justified. Romans 3:19-20. The new covenant makes possible justification by faith, by the accomplished work of Christ.
 - c. Regeneration. In this act, we are born again into the family of God and can call God "Father." 1st Peter 1:23. The new covenant makes possible the miracle of the new birth.
 - d. Assurance. This happens when one has the witness of the Spirit that they are secure in Christ. In the old covenant, believers never had the assurance that the new covenant believers have. 1st John 3:19-21; Hebrews 10:38-39.
 - e. Sanctification. This is when one is set apart unto the Lord for His holy service and use. John 17:17-19; 1st Thessalonians 5:23.
 - f. Adoption. This is when we are placed as sons into the family of God. Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:13-14. By this act, we are set in as mature members of the family of God, and Jesus is the firstborn among a vast family of brethren. Romans 8:29. The old covenant believers never experienced this "sonship" as the new covenant believers do.
 - g. Glorification. This means to esteem glorious, honorable, or to magnify. Glorification is the final work of redemption in the perfected saints. Man fell from the glory of God when he sinned under the Edenic covenant. Romans 3:23. The new covenant makes provision for the believer from justification to glorification. Romans 8:17-30. The old covenant believers saw in small measure the glory, majesty, and brightness of God. The new covenant brings the believer into the fullness of the glory of God. John 17:22-24; 2nd Corinthians 3:18.

Conclusion: Christ came to bring salvation, which is also the good news of the kingdom of God. This involves the preaching and teaching ministry of Christ. The preaching and teaching of Jesus was an integral part of the words of the covenant, the Gospel of the kingdom. Matthew 4:23-25. The church is to be an instrument to continue the work that Jesus began to do and teach. Acts 1:1. The Gospel of the kingdom has to be preached to the entire world for a witness to all nations before the end comes. Matthew 24:14, 28:18-20.