

Eternity is in Our Heart

5) Thy Kingdom Come

'... this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place'

(Mt.24:34)

'And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some'

(2 Tim.2:17-18)

***'But evil men and impostors will grow
worse and worse, deceiving and
being deceived'
(2 Tim.3:13)***

Barnabas

`God made in six days the works of His hands, and He finished them the seventh day, and He rested the seventh day and sanctified it. Consider, my children, what that signifies: He finished them in six days. The meaning of it is this: that in 6,000 years the Lord will bring all things to an end. For with Him one day is a thousand years, as He himself testifies. Therefore, children, in six days - that is, in 6,000 years - shall all things be accomplished...

`... And what is that he says, "And He rested the seventh day"? He means this, that when His Son shall come and abolish the season of the wicked one, and judge the ungodly, and shall change the sun, moon and stars, then he shall gloriously rest in that seventh day... behold, he will then truly sanctify it with blessed rest, when we (having received the righteous promise, when iniquity shall be no more, all things being renewed by the Lord) shall be able to sanctify it, being ourselves first made holy.'

Papias (a disciple of the Apostle John)

'There will be a certain millennium after the resurrection of the dead, when Christ will reign bodily (personally) upon this very earth.'

Justin Martyr

(born 10 years before the death of John)

'I, and as many as are orthodox Christians, do acknowledge that there shall be a resurrection of the body, and a residence of 1000 years in Jerusalem rebuilt, adorned, and enlarged, as the prophets Ezekiel, Isaiah, and others do unanimously attest. ... Moreover, a certain man among us, whose name was John, one of the apostles of Christ, in a revelation made to him, did prophesy that the faithful believers in Christ shall live a thousand years in the New Jerusalem, and after that shall be the general resurrection and judgment.'

Irenaeus

(A disciple of Polycarp, and pupil of John)

‘In whatever number of days the world was created, in the same number of thousands of years it will come to its consummation. God, on the sixth day, finished the works that He made; and God rested on the seventh day from all His works. This is a history of the past and a prophecy of the future, for “the day of the Lord is as a thousand years.”’

Tertullian

'We also confess that *a* kingdom is promised us on earth, after the resurrection; for it will be for a thousand years in a city of divine workmanship, viz., Jerusalem brought down from heaven, which city Ezekiel knew, and the Apostle John saw. This is the city provided of God to receive the saints in the resurrection, wherein to refresh themselves with all spiritual good things, in recompense of those which in the world we have despised and lost.'

The Millennial Reign of Christ was universal doctrine for first 200 years after Apostolic times.

Not until the time of Origen, in the mid-3rd century, was any other view held by leaders upon this subject.

It was believed by the church leaders and opposed by none.

*'And the LORD shall be King over
all the earth'*

(Zech.14:9)

***'...His dominion shall be from
sea to sea, and from the River
to the ends of the earth'
(Zech.9:10)***

***'Yes, all kings shall fall down
before Him; all nations shall
serve Him'
(Psa.72:11)***

***'...until the Ancient of Days came,
and a judgment was made in favor of
the saints of the Most High, and the
time came for the saints to possess
the kingdom'***

(Dan.7:22)

'Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father'

(Phil.2:9-11)

***'Who shall not fear You, O Lord,
and glorify Your name?
For You alone are holy.
For all nations shall come and
worship before You,
For Your judgments have been
manifested'***

(Rev.15:4)

***'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, and
have made us kings and priests to our
God; and we shall reign on the earth"'***

(Rev.5:9-10)

'And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south'

(Zech.14:4)

'Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken'
(Isa.40:4-5)

'For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God...'

'...For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body'

(Rom.8:18-23)

'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 seas'

(Isa.11:6-9)

We are to pray for it:

***'Your kingdom come. Your will
be done on earth as it is in
heaven'***

(Matt.6:10)

We are to preach it:

'But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more...

' ... Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God'

(Acts 20:24-27)

***'Ought not the Christ to have
suffered these things and to enter
into His glory?'***
(Luke 24:26)

*'...searching what, or what manner
of time, the Spirit of Christ who
was in them was indicating when
He testified beforehand the
sufferings of Christ and the glories
that would follow'*

(1 Pet.1:11)

We are to seek it:

***'Seek first the Kingdom of God and
His righteousness'
(Matt.6:33)***