

June 9, 2019

## Jesus' Care for His Disciples

### *Matthew 28:8-20*

*Acts 1:3* [Jesus] presented Himself alive to [the disciples] by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God

## Jesus Spoke to Them About the Kingdom of God

### Jesus Sought to Correct His Disciples

*Acts 1:6* Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?

- This notion that Israel would be re-established as God's earthly kingdom, to rule over all the nations was not just wishful thinking.
- This was the promise of God that had followed Israel through out their history beginning with Abraham.

*Gen 17:1-6* When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." 3 Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, 4 "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you..."

**Gen 35:11** God said to [Jacob/Israel], "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body.

**Ex 19:5** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine...

**2 Sam 7:12-13** I will raise up your Offspring [Seed] after you, Who shall come from your body, and I will establish His Kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My Name, and I will establish the Throne of His Kingdom forever...

**Zech 9:9-10** Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth...

- Is it any wonder that the disciples thought that now was the time for Jesus to immediately establish His Kingdom? Jesus' response was not a rejection of their beliefs but an adjustment.

**Acts 1:7** It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

- Jesus explained that His Kingdom would be built by the progressive cooperative work of God in and with His people as they are empowered by His Spirit.

**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

- We are God's "fellow workers" (1 Cor. 3:9). God's people by faith join God in his work so that the Kingdom is being built as the glory of God is manifested in his people.

**1 Cor 3:5-6** ...the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but only God gives the growth...

- A wonderful example of this cooperative work of God and His people in re-building the wall of Jerusalem is described with the words *one another* [38] and *each other* [23] in Nehemiah.
- Therefore, the Kingdom of God will be built by the Lord Jesus as He gives the Holy Spirit to employ and empower each believer to join Him in the collective work of building His Kingdom.
- And the building of this Kingdom will culminate when the Lord Jesus will return from Heaven with His fellow workers to establish the New Heaven and New Earth. Then God's eternal purpose inaugurated in Gen.1:26-28 will be fulfilled.

**Rev 21:3** Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God...

- Let's remember that the building of the Father's House was Jesus' consuming zeal (John 2:17).

**1 Peter 2:5** ...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...

**Eph. 2:10** *For we are His workmanship [God's fellow works], created in Christ Jesus [living stones] for good works [the building of the Kingdom], which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

- God's Kingdom is built on the Foundation of Christ by the power of the Spirit through our good works.
- This is an awesome privilege to be the very building blocks of God's House but it brings with it awesome responsibility.

**1 Cor 3:11-15** *For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.*

**1 Peter 5:8-9** *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith...*

- The Building of God's Kingdom is God's priority.