

The New Covenant Kingdom

Each culture has defining features that are unique to it. It is made up of specific components like land defined by borders, a language, with leaders and a legal system to implement the laws that are specific to it. They generally have memorial celebrations to pass on to subsequent generations the things that make them unique. They define, renew and insure their identity. Change these and that people will cease to exist.

An important feature of many nations is a foundational document called a constitution. Constitution is a big word for ingredients. It defines what the citizens are made up of. These people are called constituents. They contain the ingredients in themselves as defined by their constitution that make them unique. Take away these ingredients and you change the people. You have a new constituency and a different people. People who are made up of different laws and values.

Christ came preaching "The Kingdom of God is at hand". He was the revolutionary creating a new constituency of a new constitution called The New Covenant. The book of Hebrews says "this was first spoken by the Lord and confirmed by those who heard it." Such are we who are this new constituency being ingredients of The New Covenant founded on better promises than the old covenant. And the proof that it is something new and distinguishable different? Christ said "All the law and the prophets were till John. Now the Kingdom is preached and all are entering". With these words He drew the proverbial line in the sand between His Kingdom and the kingdom of Israel and Jerusalem on earth. He was the demarcation line between the old Jewish kingdom and the new Covenant Kingdom of God in Christ. The phrase "The Kingdom of God is at hand" was never retracted. And a covenant is not in force till the death of the testator, and Christ went to the cross for this cause. The New is emphatically in force. (Hebrews 9+)

"All (of the old) law and the prophets were till John"? Christ introduces a new constitution for a new constituency of those born with ingredience of the Word and of the Spirit. "He came to His own and His own did not accept Him, but to as many as receive Him, to them He gave power to become His Children, even to those who believe in His name. It is called "The New Covenant" different from the old. A new people with a new make up, distinguishably different from the old. The old was written on tablets of stone and the New on tablets of the heart. We are not of the circumcision of the flesh but the heart. The differences have no parallels. The old depicts the New only with contrasts. This is "rightly dividing the word of truth".

Scripture says that Christ is the new mediator of a new covenant founded on better promises" than the old. In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. (Hebrews 8.13-)

At the proclamation that "The Kingdom of God is at hand" the deterioration of the old commenced. And if the changes to the Jerusalem of old were to be minor, He would have just had painted the buildings and maybe added on a wing or two, but because the changes were so drastic and

diametrically opposite, everything had to be redone. That is why scripture says "old things have passed away, all things become new."

This expiration of that kingdom was so completely fulfilled, expired and put out of business so much so in fact that all debts were paid and the books were balanced and closed. And because that kingdom and all the Jews so emphatically rejected the New King of a New Kingdom, the New Law and the New Law giver and the New Mediator of The New Covenant, but of them? "there were none righteous, no not one". So on them was laid all the guilt for all the wrong doing, murders and deaths of all the prophets from Able till then. Even as the people said "He is not my king, crucify Him". And so they did. And so for this they were judged, condemned and annihilated. In this way they rejected the chief cornerstone. They were not recipients of the gift of God but His wrath. The books are settled, the wages of sin were paid. God owes them nothing He hasn't already given them. They are no more. They are fulfilled. Meaning, expired.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! 35 See! Your house is left to you desolate; Meaning condemned, kaput, closed for business.

The buildings and the streets were so turned over and so unrecognizable that there was no distinguishing features left. The people were ravaged, killed and scattered because they rejected The King. Josephus and other historians from that era speak of the hellish horror they experienced while they ate each others flesh.

The Jews were gone, that kingdom was demolished. It was condemned, put out of business and replaced. You see the law was added only till faith comes and in the fullness of time God sent forth His Son born of a women to redeem those from the law. There is therefore no need for that law and the culture associated with it. It served its purpose of "making sin exceedingly sinful".

When you take away the law and the prophets, and Christ speaking of raising the temple in 3 days referring to His body and not their temple. He expiring that too. We see that whole culture unraveled and replaced. Sown corruptible raised incorruptible. All the components were mutually dependent upon each other. You take away the law and the rest falls apart. You see that was the culture held spellbound to sin. With all the laws, feasts and sacrifices they were held in guilt and condemnation. That is why there is no condemnation to those who walk by the spirit of the New Covenant. What the law couldn't do, God did by sending His Son in the likeness of man, He condemned sin in the flesh". He Romans 8. This is the good news. The old was the proclamation of death. With the cross death was paved over. That is why believers are "baptized into His death to walk in newness of life". Unless upu are baptized in vain.

When Christ was speaking a parable of Jerusalem at the fig tree, upon seeing no fruit He said "let no fruit grow on you no more forever", showing the eternal finality of the Jews judgment. He could

not have said that if it was not true. They were condemned fulfilled, expired and tore down "till not one stone was left upon another. Woe to those who rebuild that abomination, and they do "whose coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." That is to take all the law and the prophets and that whole culture that has expired, being fulfilled, filled to the full. To reject the New King in His New Covenant Kingdom, then revert to the old and rebuild it is the epitome of rejecting Christ, despising His blood by rebuilding the things He replaced. The lying signs and wonders are the implementation of fulfilled scripture for a coming kingdom when Christ rejected such a notion saying of His Kingdom that "it cometh not with carnal observation (Luke 17.22). But so these persist and will receive the same condemnation. Woe! See that you do not refuse Him who speaks from heaven!

The purpose to replace the old was so important that Christ gave His life for that cause. Woe to those who despise His blood in hopes of rebuilding the old. But for those who accept the New? We bear not our own judgment but "On Him was laid the iniquity of us all and by His stripes we are healed". For those who deny Him receive their own death and condemnation, but for us He difuses ours.

When Christ said "The Kingdom is preached and all are entering", He was not referring to that physical place but the land of faith. He said "The time that is coming is now when you no longer worship in Jerusalem but in Spirit and truth" hereby defining the New boundaries. We who are constituted of spirit and Truth are his constituency. And because of this we can say that "now we are fellow citizens members in the Saints of the household of God laid upon the foundation of the apostles with Christ our cornerstone" and "you are living stones built together a habitation of God in the Spirit.

But many are still looking for the physical kingdom. They constitute the apostates of our day of a "not yet kingdom for a not yet king", but Christ is the same yesterday today and forever, and need not to appear for you to believe because you are measured by your faith.

So it was everything defining the Jews of old, be at the laws the feast the prophets the buildings in the feasts that were unraveled. They are so emphatically fulfilled and destroyed, every debt and every payment cleared and made good so that it never needs to be revisited or rebuilt. Even as it says in Hebrews of the New Covenant in force, "He made the first covenant obsolete". Even as scripture says that the law was added till Faith Comes, and in the fullness of time God sent forth his son born from a woman to redeem those who are under the law. That whole culture is history.

The Kingdom of God is emphatically at hand.