

III. THE KINGDOM COMES BY SEEING AND BUILDING THE CITY

We have been robbed for years by our theology. Our expectation for the now has been taken away by completely relegating the fulfillment of some prophetic events until after the return of Christ. Instead, we should be recognizing that there is a present dimension in which these things can be fulfilled although the full glory must wait until Jesus comes again.

A. AN ANALYSIS OF SEVERAL THEOLOGICAL POSITIONS HELD BY THE CHURCH

1. End time events - Many of us were brought up on an eschatology that taught us that a great apostasy would occur in the church with the result that Satan's kingdom would increase and totally dominate the earth until the actual coming of the Lord Jesus. Jesus would then rescue a beaten church by a sudden rapture, and destroy Satan and his forces by the brightness of His coming. This has programmed the church to think defeat, to expect to be beaten into a corner by the devil and to wait passively for the return of the Lord Jesus as our only hope.

The idea of a militant mighty church waging an effective war against the devil in a time of heightened spiritual conflict and reaping a massive harvest in this end time period of great trouble was completely foreign to our thinking. Yet it is much more in keeping with the whole tenet of scripture.

2. The Kingdom - Once again the theology of much of the Church until quite recently has been to look for a kingdom that would be established after the return of the Lord Jesus and only then would He begin to establish His government upon the earth. It would only be in the new heaven and the new earth, or possibly the millennium, that His righteousness would be established. Until then we could only expect this present world to lie largely undisturbed in the hands of the evil one.

It is true that the final magnificence of the kingdom will have to wait for that wonderful day when all that defiles will be taken out of the kingdom to leave it shining in its full glory (Matt.13:40-43). Nevertheless the Spirit of God has been showing us that Satan was defeated at Calvary and not at the second coming of

Christ (John 16:7, 8, 11). He is anxious to destroy all the works of the evil one through the church in this present age so that the world may be convinced that Satan's judgment has already taken place with the result that many will be saved.

There are differing opinions as to how complete this final work of the Church will become before Jesus' returns and only God knows how far we can get before He suddenly comes to consummate the age.

3. The City - Once again the theology of the church generally has been to relegate the establishing of the City of God, the New Jerusalem, to a post-return event. The thinking was that the Heavenly City would suddenly come out of heaven as a bride adorned for her husband having had no previous existence or relevance.

What God is now showing us is that on the day of Pentecost, Heavenly Jerusalem came into existence in the heavenlies at the same time as the church was born on earth. It became effective as a powerful influence from those first days of the church. It was the power of this spiritual city which shook the principalities and powers of darkness that previously ruled over physical Jerusalem and wrested from them the government in the heavenly realm. The result was a massive ingathering of souls into the Kingdom of God with multitudes being added to the church every day.

B. ABRAHAM SAW A CITY

We are told in scripture that Abraham saw a city which had foundations whose builder and maker was God, (Heb. 11:8-10; 11:13, 14-16). He saw this city afar off and embraced it although he never ever saw the actual manifestation of it during his lifetime on earth.

Somehow God showed him that this city was vital to the fulfilling of God's promise to him that one day he would inherit the whole earth (Rom. 4:13). Abraham was promised the power to be a great nation and to bless all the families of the earth (Gen. 12:1-3).

Abraham lived in the land of promise as an alien (Heb. 11:9). He had no desire to return to Ur of the Chaldees (v.15) or settle permanently in Canaan for he had seen another country, a heavenly one. He also saw the whole world was now the inheritance for him and his seed (Rom. 4:13).

Somehow God showed him that the way to take the world was to exercise rule in the heavens and to do this, spiritual Cities were necessary. They alone have the strength and fire power to overcome and cast out the demonic princes, the powers of the air. It is these demonic princes that spread their influence upon the earth and rule the present darkness from their heavenly vantage point.

Another thing Abraham saw was that the multitude that God had promised him, as numerous as the stars in the heavens for number, would be gathered in once the rule of darkness was smashed and replaced by the rule of the Kingdom.

It does not mean that everybody would automatically be saved or that the demonic powers would altogether cease their deceiving tactics, but many more people would be freed to turn from darkness to light once the rule of darkness was lifted.

Again, I believe that Abraham saw that the City was crucial to the change of rule and would be the cause of men and women being saved in unprecedented numbers. Abraham saw: A Land, A Multitude and A City. It was the City that was the means to possess the land and reap the multitude.

C. JERUSALEM WAS THE CITY THAT ABRAHAM SAW

The thinking of some of our theology and hymnology is that we are looking forward to the day when New Jerusalem will be created as the glorious heavenly bride made ready for her husband. We have been programmed to think that she does not come into existence until then, but the Bible teaches us plainly that New Jerusalem already existed while the New Testament was being written, and in fact came into existence the moment the church was born.

The final glory of the City is yet to be seen when she comes down out of heaven as a bride adorned for her husband (Rev. 21:1, 2, 9-22).

That does not mean that she does not already exist. Paul speaks of the present earthly Jerusalem as being in bondage with her children (Gal. 4:25). This clearly meant the existing physical city which represented the legalism and bondage of dead religion. Even to this day physical Jerusalem continues to be the world center for the legalism and deadness of three of the major world religions.

Paul also speaks of another heavenly Jerusalem which is above. She already exists and she is our Mother (Gal. 4:26-31). For the children of promise, this City now is and is where we already live.

The writer to the Hebrews in chapter 12:18-24, also compares the two covenants. On the one hand Mount Sinai, with it's fear, darkness and bondage of religion and on the other hand, Mount Zion with it's joy, light and liberty. We are told "you have already come to Heavenly Jerusalem....to the general assembly and church of the firstborn. So where does the church of born-again believers meet? Clearly in Heavenly Jerusalem which already is!

This was the city that Abraham saw in his spirit and he embraced it afar off although he never entered it in his life time. Abraham saw this City was the means of possessing the land and reaping the multitude.

D. JESUS SEES THE CITY

In Matt. 5:13-15, Jesus said three things concerning the Church. He said it was to be Salt, Light and a City. Both the Light and the City were to be revealed in such a way that they were to be visible to the whole world. Of the City, He said it could not be hidden.

1. Three Characteristics of the Church

a. Salt - In the natural, salt was the main means of flavoring the whole dish of food and was also the main means of preserving food and stopping corruption. In the spiritual, it means the salt of the kingdom permeating society. In practice this would mean individual Christians, full of the power of the kingdom, infiltrating every strata of secular society and flavoring it with the joy, light and righteousness of the Kingdom and holding back the

corruption that would otherwise swamp society.

b. Light - the pure life of the Kingdom shining in an individual Christian, a Christian family, a Christian business, a Christian school, a Christian medical practice or any other institution in such a way that the true light of the Kingdom is shining without adulteration. As a result, it stands out as light against the darkness in total contrast to the darkness which is always present in the similar institutions of this world. This gives a clear manifestation of the Kingdom for all to see.

d. City - The power centers from which the government of the Kingdom is established.

E. ZECHARIAH'S VISION

Zech. 1:11-21; Zech. 2:1-5. When the Jews returned to rebuild the city, they first concentrated on building the temple. While it was still at foundation level they lost heart to continue.

At this point Haggai prophesies and galvanizes the dispirited Jews to start the work again. At the same time Zechariah also begins to prophesy. As he begins to prophesy to the immediate, in classic prophetic style, he is carried in spirit to see beyond the present small physical reality to the greater spiritual reality that this whole exercise represents.

1. The Four Horns and Their Meaning

He is taken by the angel and begins to see four horns which represent four mighty powers that have scattered the people of God so that "no one lifts up his head". Then he lifts up his eyes and he sees four craftsmen who have come to terrorize these horns and destroy them. The horns represent strong satanic forces that have been able to wreak havoc among God's people because they have not been obedient to Him.

As a result there is much discouragement among them because of the way that Satan has been able to scatter them so effectively. God's answer to this terrible destructive work among his people is the raising up of the four craftsmen. They have the power to utterly rout the enemy. Who are they and what do they do that is so terrifying to these strong horns?

Understanding this is vital to defeating the powers of darkness that hold such sway in our land.

There has been a fair amount of debate as to whether the Eph. 4 ministries are fivefold or fourfold. Some have even suggested that the pastor and teacher is really the one person. What I have begun to see is that there are four ministry skills residing in the five kinds of men who function in Eph. 4 ministry.

The Ephesians four ministry skills are:

< Prophet

< Evangelist

< Pastor

< Teacher

2. The Apostolic Ministry

The apostle is not another ministry skill, but a man with special wisdom in building (1 Cor. 3:10). He has an ability to put to work the four ministry skills already mentioned. At least one of these skills is resident in the apostle, but he is also able

to draw on these four skills in other men and put them to work with an understanding which is the hallmark of the apostle.

The ideal apostle would have all the four ministry skills within himself just as Jesus and Paul did. This would enable him to empathize with all these different ministries, direct them more effectively and train developing Eph. 4 ministries as someone who has first hand experience of the job.

If these ministry skills do not all reside within the apostle then it is even more vital that he is in close relationship with well developed Eph. 4 ministries in all the skills he lacks, otherwise he cannot fulfill his apostolic ministry. The chief purpose of the apostle is to direct these ministries and not just give advice and counsel to elders on how to run better "village" churches.

Once the present apostolic ministries see the city and their call to build it as a first priority, then we shall be seeing in the church what Zechariah saw in spirit many years ago, namely the releasing of the four craftsmen to terrorize the strong horns of the demonic prince rulers who control this present world darkness. The means of achieving this is to build strong fortified spiritual Cities to wrest the rule of the heavens from the powers of darkness and establish the rule of God in its place.

Immediately after the craftsmen, Zechariah is shown the City for this is what they are called to build. The first thing that he sees is an angel with a measuring rod in his hand. It must be built to the dimensions set by God.

F. THE CITY ZECHARIAH SAW

It was made up of many villages without walls because of the multitude of men. It was surrounded by a wall of fire, not of stone, and the glory of the Lord was in the midst.

See the attached diagram of the city that Zechariah saw. (Appendix)

What Zechariah saw, when he lifted up his eyes, was a city that was made up of a

number of villages without walls between them and dwelling together to make one great city because of the multitude of men. It was surrounded by a wall of fire and the glory of the Lord was in the midst.

In reality, at the time, he was looking at the foundations of the temple that the Jews were building and it was not very impressive in comparison with the temple that had previously stood there. In the spirit he was not seeing that temple at all, but his prophetic eyes were seeing the heavenly reality that this temple typified.

He was seeing the City whose builder and maker was God. The glory in the midst was the heavenly equivalent of David's tabernacle and was the place where the Eph. 4 ministries were to seek the face of God just like David's mighty men had done and receive revelation, wisdom and strategy for establishing and governing the kingdom.

Each village represented a local church with all the qualities of local church life, but each village was also a segment of the City without walls. Individually, the villages had all the benefits of the intimacy of the family life of a local church, but corporately, all the villages joined together had the power, visibility and impact of a mighty City.

The wall of fire is a wall of intercessors who are baptized with the Holy Spirit and with Fire and who take their place on a wall of protection round the City which no demonic power can penetrate.

May all this quickly come into manifestation in our Cities and in our Nations so His Kingdom can really come.

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IV. KINGDOM BUSINESS MEN AND WOMEN AND THEIR SPECIAL CALL TO ADVANCE THE KINGDOM

A. EVANGELIZING THE BUSINESS WORLD

Special techniques are required to make disciples in the business world. These need to be developed prayerfully. By ministering to them in groups, or one to one, these men and women can be reached for Jesus and then envisioned to see the

Kingdom. By careful teaching, they can then be inspired to give their time and expertise to advancing the Kingdom. Unfortunately, most motivated businessmen and businesswomen are bored with average church life. If they go to church it is usually without active participation and they usually want to get their visit over as quickly and as smoothly as possible. Hence the success of slick, short, well presented ASeeker Friendly® express services.

B. SALT AND LIGHT IN SOCIETY

1. Salt - Secular society needs to be invaded by the clear manifestation of the Kingdom of God. Some men and women are called as individuals to go right into the toughest and most demon infested parts of our secular world and unashamedly stand for God, His Kingdom and His righteousness. They are salt in the sense that they bring a good and Godly flavor into all they do. Life tastes better for all who are around them in their secular setting. Their second impact is to stop corruption and purify the environment for the good of all. As a result many are impacted, impressed, changed and finally come to salvation.

Joseph, Daniel and Nehemiah were not church men but governors and administrators involved in the political arena. They were great Biblical examples. Their impact on secular despotic rulers was incalculable and their power to influence their political environment and change their world was phenomenal.

2. Light - Here, a group of on-fire Christians come together to jointly own and run a business in such a way that the Kingdom is clearly proclaimed without ungodly pollution. All the staff would be Christian so they can work together without diluting the witness, so that by the excellence, loving kindness and honesty with which they conduct their business people are impressed and drawn to Jesus. Good examples would be Medical Practices, Hotels, Health & Fitness Centers, Auto Repair Shops, Child Care Centers and the like. They need to be the kind of businesses that are in touch with people all the time.

C. WISDOM AND EXPERTISE FOR THE BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS OF THE CHURCH

It is heartbreaking to see how many problems are created and how much money

Pastors waste because they make unwise business decisions. They often have no experience in these areas and just hope somehow that God will guide them and give them wisdom. It seems to me that sometimes He does and sometimes He evidently has not been able to do so for whatever reason.

The purchase of land or property, the purchase of equipment, obtaining loans, the signing of maintenance contracts and even the hiring of staff is a minefield for those who are not skilled in this area. Quite often the areas of proper budgeting and sound financial management are beyond the abilities of an otherwise great Pastor. The areas of office organization, administration and suitable computer programming and networking are other areas where churches often lag far behind and need some expert help.

Kingdom businessmen should make themselves available to the Church with their various skills to locate, acquire or construct the right buildings on the right sites. Churches often need expert appraisal and other advice along with the right financial skills to negotiate the best deals. They also need to have the smartest Kingdom lawyers available to handle all the legal affairs of the Church.

Kingdom business men should use their business skills to advise, equip and train the Church in efficient, sound administration. They need to be involved with the Pastor or other senior leaders in making the right decisions over matters requiring specialist business expertise so as to make sure the best decisions are made.

Specialist seminars should be run by Kingdom businessmen to which Pastors can come with their key staff to be given training in these areas.

D. USING BUSINESS SKILLS TO CREATE WEALTH BEYOND THE LEVEL OF NORMAL TITHES AND OFFERINGS SO THAT THE ADVANCE OF THE KINGDOM IS ADEQUATELY FINANCED

1. The Power to get Wealth is a Spiritual Gift

Business acumen and the power and skill to get wealth is no less a spiritual gift

than

preaching the word, healing the sick or casting out demons. These gifts are from God for His use to fulfill His eternal purpose. In every case we must use these gifts as the servants of God as He directs. The fruit of our labor is His, not ours, to be put to use in the Kingdom as He directs.

2. Mark 10:17-29: It's Hard for a Rich Man to enter the Kingdom

This rich man had become rich by godly living according to the spiritual laws of prosperity, but his financial success had become a prison for him. That's why Jesus told this specific man to sell everything and come and follow Him. Once riches become a snare you must get rid of them.

There is no special virtue in poverty. Real freedom is being able to handle large financial resources without becoming attached to them.

For those who have truly left everything, Jesus guarantees 100-fold return in this life and Eternal Life.

A supernatural work of grace is needed to change the heart of a rich man before he is willing to live this way. For a rich man to enter the Kingdom he must bring all his material resources under the direct rule of the King. He is not an owner, but a steward for God.

For the Kingdom to really advance with speed, America needs a good number of these men and women and we need to pray urgently for them to appear.

3. Kingdom Financial Institutions

In conjunction with the Kingdom businesses described earlier, it would be very valuable if Kingdom businessmen had sufficient resources to set up Insurance Companies, Loan Companies and Banking facilities. They could then provide the financial support necessary for Kingdom businesses from within the Kingdom. The profits from these transactions would then flow back into the Kingdom instead

of being lost all the time to the world system.

While the love of money is the root of all evil, money itself is not evil and is a necessary commodity for the effective and speedy advance of the Kingdom. Satan never seems to be short of the money he needs to propagate his evil deceptions. Islam, ACLU, Pro-Choice, lesbian and homosexual organizations etc. never seem to be short of publicity or money to promote their causes. Yet, at the same time almost every God ordained cause that is working to advance the Kingdom in many nations seems to be crippled to varying degrees by shortage of money. This ought not to be so. After all, whose world is it and to whom do all these resources rightly belong?

Many Christians need to be awakened to the spiritual battle over financial resources. We need to be multiplying our kingdom resources by our prayers and by our faith filled business activity and not simply relying on tithes and offering from average wage earners. Similarly, we need to be praying and working to ensure that the financial supply that flows to support the advance of Satan=s kingdom is cut off or at least severely curtailed.

Kingdom businessmen and businesswomen have a key role to play in this battle and need to organize themselves in a better way to procure and wisely distribute much greater wealth for Kingdom purposes. God is looking for such faithful Kingdom businessmen and businesswomen and when he finds them He will greatly increase their resources and their power to get wealth.

4. Apostles Working Together

The Apostles of the Business world, the Apostles of the Political world, the

Apostles of the Church and the Apostles given to cutting edge pioneering ministries need to meet in some kind of council to brainstorm together to determine how these things are going to be accomplished more effectively in the future. I am not looking for some impersonal national or international organization to arise. On the contrary, smaller groups need to be formed out of real relationships with proven high levels of integrity, trust and love developed among the participants. They need to be active, mobile quick response groups that can meet at short notice

to make effective decisions.

E. POLITICAL & BUSINESS LEADERS WHO HAVE EARNED THEIR RIGHT TO TAKE CHARGE AND BE THE MAIN LEADERS NATIONALLY

Such men and women have made it their goal to advance to the top of their chosen profession. They do so in such a way, that like Daniel, Nehemiah and Joseph, they are unashamedly confessing Jesus as their source of grace and power to do all they are doing. As a result they reach to roles of national influence and taking the highest offices of the land. They govern even the secular affairs of our nation for Jesus according to the Kingdom of God.

