

JESUS REDEEMS A NATION

TEXT: JOHN 19, ACTS 2

Introduction:

1. The nation of Israel under the Old Testament was a representation of the church.
 - a. Both were chosen by God – Israel (Gen. 12:1-3; 22:18); the church (1 Pet. 2:9).
 - b. Both were separated by God (2 Corinthians 6:17; Revelation 18:4).
 - c. Both were ruled by God – Israel (Exodus 20); the church (John 1:17; Heb. 1:1-2).
 - d. Both were purposed by God (Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 5:23).
2. The lessons learned from the Old Testament kingdom help in understanding the New Testament church.
3. Thus, when studying the Gospel, one learns that the church is kingdom of Jesus (Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9).
4. By His death on the cross, Jesus redeemed a nation.

I. Definition of a Kingdom

- A. There are four things that are necessary to have a kingdom.
- B. First, there must be a King.
 1. Under the Old Law, the king was an imperfect man (Deuteronomy 17:15).
 2. Under the New Law, the King is Jesus (Colossians 1:13, 18; Rev. 17:14).
- C. Second, there must be a law.
 1. Under the Old Law, it was the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 5:3ff).
 2. Under the New Law, it is the Gospel (Acts 2:47; Galatians 6:2).
- D. Third, there must be subjects.
 1. Under the Old Law, it was the children of Israel (
 2. Under the New Law, it is the members of the church (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 2:19). *{The invitation into the kingdom is open to all.}*
- E. Fourth, there must be a territory.
 1. Under the Old Law, it was the borders of Israel (Genesis 15:18; 1 Kings 4:21).
 2. Under the New Law, it is the whole world – wherever the Gospel is obeyed (Colossians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; Revelation 5:9).
- F. Indeed, Jesus reigns over a kingdom.
 1. It is the reign of God in the kingdom of Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:23-26; Ephesians 1:20-23).
 2. It is spiritual in nature (Matthew 4:17-19; John 18:36).
 3. It is manifested in the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18-19; 1 Thes. 2:12).
 4. It exists in both the present and the future (Matthew 25:34; 1 Cor. 15:50).

II. Purchase of the Kingdom

(John 19)

- A. Jesus promised to build His church, which is His kingdom (Matthew 16:18-19).
- B. The price paid for the kingdom was tremendous – the precious blood of Jesus (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19).
 1. The blood of Jesus washes away one's sins (Revelation 1:5).
 2. That same blood purchased the church.

A BLESSED NATION

LESSON 5

JESUS REDEEMS A NATION

3. Thus, everyone who is washed by Jesus' blood is added by Him to His church (Acts 2:38, 41, 47).
- C. This means that Jesus suffered and died for the church (John 19).
1. After he was betrayed by Judas and arrested, Jesus stood trial before the Jewish High Priest and then before Pilate (John 18).
 2. Jesus suffered scourging (19:1).
 - a. This involved being whipped by sticks or strips of leather tied together and often embedded with stones or other sharp objects designed to tear the skin (cf. 1 Kings 12:11).
 - b. Under the Law of Moses, the person to be beaten was made to lie on the ground and then whipped in the presence of the judge.
 - c. The number of stripes received was not to exceed 40 (Deuteronomy 25:2-3).
 - d. Under Roman law, the number of lashes was not limited and could often result in death.
 - e. At the time of Jesus, the one to be scourged was usually tied to a post so the skin on the back would be stretched tight and more easily torn.
 3. Jesus suffered mockery (19:2-5).
 - a. This included the crown of thorns.
 - b. This included being smitten in the head with a rod and being spat upon (Matthew 27:27-31).
 - c. This included being hit by the soldiers.
 4. Jesus suffered rejection (19:6-7).
 5. Jesus suffered injustice (19:8-16).
 6. Jesus suffered crucifixion (19:17-22).
 - a. This involved the nailing of the criminal's hands and feet to a cross, allowing him to hang and suffer until he died.
 - b. A cross was made of two wooden beams joined together in some fashion.
 - i. The original method involved only one beam – an upright stake – to which the hands and feet were nailed.
 - ii. The "Tau Cross" was comprised of two beams joined in the shape of the letter T.
 - iii. The Romans sometimes used a cross shaped like the letter X – called a Crux Decussata (after the Roman numeral 10).
 - iv. The so-called Latin Cross is shaped like a lowercase "t" and is commonly considered the type on which Jesus was crucified.
 - c. The pain caused by crucifixion is horrible and horrifying. *{It is from this punishment that we get the word "excruciating."}*
 - d. The piercing of the hands and feet affected numerous nerves that would send pain throughout the body.
 - e. The suspension of the entire body's weight upon the nails and, therefore, those nerves would be almost unbearable.
 - f. The suffering could last for days as one slowly died of suffocation or starvation (cf. Psalm 22:14-18).
 - g. To hasten death, sometimes the legs would be broken, leading to quicker asphyxiation.



A BLESSED NATION

LESSON 5

JESUS REDEEMS A NATION

7. Jesus suffered shame (19:23-29).
8. Jesus suffered death (19:30).
 - a. Jesus declared, "It is finished" – meaning that His mission and God's work of salvation was accomplished.
 - b. Then, He "gave up the ghost" – or, surrendered and yielded His spirit to the Father (cf. Luke 23:46).
 - c. It is important to understand that Jesus actually died.
 - d. It is also important to recognize that Jesus gave His own life upon the cross (Matthew 20:28; John 10:11, 18; Philippians 2:8).
9. Jesus suffered disrespect (19:31-37).
10. Jesus suffered burial (19:38-42).
- D. Jesus endured all of this to pay the price for the sins of the world – for my sins.
- E. Jesus suffered so terribly to establish His kingdom and to purchase the church.

III. Citizens of the Kingdom

(Acts 2)

- A. Jesus preached that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 10:7).
 1. This meant that the time for the kingdom to be established was near.
 2. In fact, He promised "*there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power*" (Mark 9:1; cf. Matthew 16:28; Luke 9:27).
- B. By dying on the cross, Jesus paid the price to purchase His kingdom.
- C. Thus, on the Day of Pentecost, following His resurrection from the grave, Jesus established His kingdom (Acts 2).
 1. The power of the Holy Spirit drew a crowd to hear the inspired preaching of the Apostles (2:1-6).
 2. The Apostles of Jesus spoke in the local dialects of the various places from which they had travelled (2:7-12).
 3. Some tried to claim that the Apostles had been drinking, but the evidence proved this was not true (2:13-15).
 4. In fact, what was happening was the fulfillment of a prophecy made by Joel (2:16-21).
 - a. Joel had promised that "whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Joel 2:28-32).
 - b. Peter's sermon would now explain what that meant.
 5. Peter declared that they had put to death the Son of God, but God had raised Him from the dead (2:22-24).
 6. He showed that this was also the fulfillment of prophecy (2:25-31).
 7. Furthermore, He stated that he and the other Apostles were eyewitnesses of Jesus' resurrection (2:32).
 8. Then, he informed that the resurrected Jesus was responsible for the miraculous events that they were experiencing (2:33).
 9. The implication of his message was that Jesus is both Lord and Christ (2:34-36).
 10. Recognizing that they had crucified the Messiah and their Lord, they asked, "What shall we do?" (2:37).
 11. Peter commanded them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (2:38-40).

Thus, Peter explained what it meant to call upon the name of the Lord.

A BLESSED NATION

LESSON 5

JESUS REDEEMS A NATION

- b. It meant to recognize Him as Lord and to submit to His authority by obeying His commandments.
 - c. They needed to repent of their wrong attitudes and actions.
 - d. Then they needed to be baptized in order to have their sins forgiven by Jesus.
- 12. Those who accepted the truth that the Apostles taught obeyed by being baptized – and about 3,000 were added (2:41).
 - 13. Those who obeyed continued steadfastly in their faithfulness (2:42-47a).
 - 14. Those who were baptized were saved, and the Lord added them to the church (2:47b).
- D. Thus, the kingdom of God – the church of Christ – came into existence!
 - E. The citizens of that kingdom are those who hear, believe, and obey the Gospel of Christ.
 - 1. Hear the Gospel – (Matthew 17:5; Romans 10:17)
 - 2. Believe the Gospel – (John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)
 - 3. Repent of sins – (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)
 - 4. Confess Jesus – (Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10)
 - 5. Be baptized – (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Galatians 3:27)
 - F. Notice that the Lord adds those who obey Him to His church.
 - 1. The blood of Jesus that washes away sins also purchased the church.
 - 2. Thus, salvation from sin involves being added to the church.
 - 3. One does not “join the church of his choice.”
 - 4. One is not voted into the church.
 - 5. The Lord adds to the church those who are saved.
 - G. This means that all the saved are in the church (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23).
 - H. Citizenship in the Lord’s kingdom is available to all (Matthew 11:28-30; John 7:37; Revelation 22:17).
 - I. Ultimately, it is this kingdom – the Lord’s church – that will be taken to Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:22-24).
 - J. All the saved are in the kingdom and the kingdom is delivered to the Father (cf. John 14:1-6)!

Conclusion:

- 1. As important as the nation of Israel was under the Old Testament, God was planning to build a better kingdom.
- 2. As great as it is to be a citizen of the United States of America, it is better to be a citizen of the kingdom of Christ!
- 3. Jesus died to make us His people through the power of His blood.
- 4. Don’t you want to be a part of this blessed nation – the church of Christ?

“THE ONLY MEANS OF ESTABLISHING AND PERPETUATING OUR REPUBLICAN FORMS OF GOVERNMENT IS THE UNIVERSAL EDUCATION OF OUR YOUTH IN THE PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIANITY BY MEANS OF THE BIBLE.”

BENJAMIN RUSH

A BLESSED NATION

LESSON 5

JESUS REDEEMS A NATION

“THE HIGHEST GLORY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION WAS THIS: IT CONNECTED IN ONE INDISSOLUBLE BOND THE PRINCIPLES OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIANITY.”

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

“THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE FATHERS ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE WERE THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIANITY. I WILL AVOW THAT I THEN BELIEVED, AND NOW BELIEVE, THAT THOSE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIANITY ARE AS ETERNAL AND IMMUTABLE AS THE EXISTENCE AND ATTRIBUTES OF GOD.”

JOHN ADAMS

“IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL NATIONS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PROVIDENCE OF ALMIGHTY GOD, TO OBEY HIS WILL, TO BE GRATEFUL FOR HIS BENEFITS, AND HUMBLY TO IMPLORE HIS PROTECTION AND FAVORS.”

GEORGE WASHINGTON

“OH, ETERNAL AND EVERLASTING GOD, DIRECT MY THOUGHTS, WORDS AND WORK. WASH AWAY MY SINS IN THE IMMACULATE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND PURGE MY HEART BY THY HOLY SPIRIT. DAILY, FRAME ME MORE AND MORE IN THE LIKENESS OF THY SON, JESUS CHRIST, THAT LIVING IN THY FEAR, AND DYING IN THY FAVOR, I MAY IN THY APPOINTED TIME OBTAIN THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUSTIFIED UNTO ETERNAL LIFE. BLESS, O LORD, THE WHOLE RACE OF MANKIND AND LET THE WORLD BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEE AND THY SON, JESUS CHRIST.”

GEORGE WASHINGTON