

Royal children and non-royals in the kingdom #1 - 20190713

Hi all,

In the previous series I shared about Jesus the Oriental King. Now I'm sharing a related topic, royals and non-royals in the kingdom of heaven.

We are royals in the kingdom of heaven

"You are a choice *race , a royal priesthood, a holy *nation , a people acquired..." I Peter 2:9

The word 'race' here is the Greek word 'genos', for 'family', and where English gets 'generation' and 'genealogy' - family. The word 'nation' is the Greek word 'ethnos', where we get the word 'ethnic'.

Ethnos doesn't mean a nation like we think of a nation with borders covering a specific geographic area, but rather 'ethnic' as a distinct ethnicity, a "subgroup within a population." It means being classed with others of a common background or origin. Ethnically in the kingdom of heaven, we are a unique class of being, royal priests.

I Peter 2:9 thus reads: "You are a chosen family, a royal priesthood, a holy (distinct) ethnic group within the population, a people acquired..."

Most Christians assume all people in all ages who get saved will be folded into 'the body of Christ' as one big happy heavenly family, but that is not what the Bible actually says.

Here is something to consider

As royalty we won't be the only ones in the kingdom. We are royalty, the others are not. We are the royal family. Was the royal family of King David the only citizens in Israel? Is the royal family of Great Britain the only citizens in the UK?

A kingdom

A kingdom has a king, in our case, Jesus. A kingdom has its own laws, customs and....a royal family who 'outranks' the rest of the citizens of the kingdom. Today the UK is an example everyone knows, so I'll use that. The first five royals in order to the throne are:

1, Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales. 2, Prince William, The Duke of Cambridge. 3, Prince George of Cambridge, eldest child of William and Kate. 4, Princess Charlotte of Cambridge, child 2 of William and Kate. 5, Prince Louis Arthur Charles, Prince of Cambridge, child 3 of William and Kate.

And so it goes. One site lists 53 in line for the throne, and their relatives are part of the extended royal family as well, depending on how different lists are compiled. As royals they have rank and privilege.

But the total population of the UK is over 66 million people. The royals are a very small percentage of the total population.

God's royals: Israel

Israel came out of Egypt, and on the 50th day, in Exodus 19:5-6, when Israel was camped at the bottom of the mountain, the Lord told Israel: "You are my own treasure above all the nations of the earth, for all the earth is mine. You will be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation."

Notice - a kingdom of priests ABOVE all the nations of the earth. The whole of Israel was to have been royal priests to God above the other nations, and therefore His representatives to the other nations of the earth. They were the royal nation over all the other nations of the earth. They had special rank with God that other nations did not.

All the earth - all the people - are His creation, but Israel was to be the top nation, the favored nation. God made covenant with them and no other nation. The knowledge of God was to have been dispersed to the nations through Israel.

They failed, and now we Gentiles have been given the opportunity to share God with the world. We are unique in that privilege. We are His royal children. All who believe in Jesus in this age are God the

Father's own royal family, a unique ethnic group in this world, given the privilege of knowing Jesus and sharing that knowledge with the world.

You may be asking if we are the royal family, then who are the other citizens in the kingdom who are not royalty?

And that will require many verses for next week...so until then...blessings,

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Royal children and non-royals #2: Who is qualified to reign? -20190720

Hi all,

I closed last week talking about the fact we are royal children, and as with any royalty, royals rule over non-royal citizens. The kingdom of heaven is set up the same way. We are royalty, but not all in the kingdom of heaven are.

I think we lump every believer down through the ages and into the future ages all together as being the body of Christ, the bride of Christ, royal children, but that is because we haven't been taught what the Word actually says. Once we do that, order is seen, and also we will see just how special you are!

Who is qualified? Who will rule the earth?

"Do you not know the saints will judge the world?...Do you not know that we will judge angels?" I Corinthians 6: 2-3

"For to the angels He did not put in subjection the world to come..." Hebrews 2: 5

"And has made us kings and priests to God and His Father..." Revelation 1: 6

"...and has made us unto our God a kingdom of priests, and we shall reign on the earth." Revelation 5: 10

"...and laid hold of...the devil...and cast him into the bottomless pit...until after 1000 years...And I saw thrones and those who sat upon them, and authority to rule was given them...and I saw people who had been beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshipped the beast neither had taken his mark on their foreheads or in their hands...and they lived and reigned with Christ 1000 years. But the rest of the dead did not rise until after the 1000 years were finished. This was the first resurrection." Revelation 20: 1-5

How spiritually mature now must you be to rule then?

The above verses were written to real people - imperfect people - and they were told they will rule and reign with the Lord in the 1,000 years called the Millennium. Some of these Paul wrote to were the Corinthians.

Paul said to them 'we' will judge the world and angels. Not 'he' but 'we', meaning Paul and those he was writing to.

Again, 'judge' is an administrative term from the first century, meaning you are going into government service, it is not a court situation of judging angels like right or wrong, but rather being in charge of them, giving assignments and such. For the people we rule over the age to come will be settling disputes by the gifts of the Spirit and seeing to it that the Lord's will is done in that which we are put in charge.

Rabbit trail

Early on when the Lord started visiting me to teach me things, He let me ask 'my' angel questions after he had delivered his message to me. I asked him on one such occasion how he felt about me ruling over him in the age to come. The expression on his face immediately turned to horror that I could ask such a thing as he said in utter shock to me:

"It is right! It is proper!" I asked 'Why?' and he responded, "Remember, we know Him as Creator. But you know Him as Savior!"

Those wild & crazy Corinthians!

The Corinthians had at least 10 major issues covered in Paul's first letter. This will give us hope for ourselves!

In chapter 3 they were in envy and strife and divisions living like they weren't born again Paul told them.

In chapter 5 a man sleeping with his step mother and the rest of the body of Christ not dealing with it. In chapter 6, the first part has believers suing each other, while others in the chapter he names as formerly "sexually impure, homosexual, idol worshippers, adulterers, 'abusers of themselves with mankind' (let your imagination wander on that one), thieves, drunks, extortioners, 'party spirit', visiting prostitutes connected to temple idolatry, and rioters...And such were some of you..." His exhortation was to stay with the Lord, and pure in Him.

In 7 it was confusion about dating, marriage, divorce.

In 8 it was flaunting their freedom in Christ by eating meat that had earlier been sacrificed to idols in the presence of other believers who thought it was a sin to eat meat that had been sacrificed to idols.

In 9 it was about supporting Paul financially because they had received so much from him but gave nothing back.

In 10 he warned them saying Israel's unbelief was an example for them, and closing thoughts on eating meat that had been previously sacrificed to idols in the pagan temples.

In 11 we see the rich refused to eat with and have the Lord's Supper with the poor, and as a result of their prejudice some had died early and others were 'weak and sickly' Paul said, for 'not discerning the body'.

Chapters 12-14 were about the gifts of the Spirit, love, order in the home based meetings that was church.

In chapter 15 it was about the rapture as taught in the Feast of Trumpets.

In 16 it was giving to others, personal plans and closing messages.

So you can see, they had issues just like Christians today! And yet he said, they will judge the world and angels.

I shared that because if someone is their own worst enemy, the thoughts that arise are 'I'm not worthy to be one of those who reign' and 'I'm not qualified because....' But the truth is that Paul included the Corinthians with all their faults and immaturity in his teaching on the rapture, saying they were included, and they would administrate the coming world and angels. Amazing grace!

I felt we needed to get that out of the way. Those saved from the gospels to the coming of Jesus are included in those who will reign...amazing grace. Yes, you are qualified to reign in the age to come, not by reaching a level of maturity, rather being in Christ now and knowing Him now.

"Now are we the sons of God, but it does not yet appear what we shall be, for when He appears we will see Him as He is, and we will be like Him." 1 John 3: 2

If you look at yourself now you may say 'No way am I qualified'. The good news is, Jesus is basing His choosing of us to live in this time based on what 'we shall be' when we see Him 'as He is', in full glory - a glory that will further transform us. So rejoice...and more next week, until then, blessings,

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Royal children and non-royals in the kingdom: Over whom do we reign? #3

Hi all,

In the first two parts of this series I shared we are called 'royal' by the Word in several places, and are further told we will reign on the earth during the 1000 year reign of Jesus. Today we will look at who the rest of the kingdom residents are.

How do we get from heaven to rule on earth?

Zechariah 14:5 tells us of the return of Messiah: "...and the Lord will come, and all the saints with you!", confirming the 'armies of heaven' described in Revelation 19 all riding white horses as the Lord does at His return, are indeed believers who have been in heaven up to that point. Further confirmation is given in Revelation 19.

Revelation 19: 7-8 tells us those in heaven have been having a marriage supper for 'His wife has made herself ready', which tells us our responsibility in this life to live as one preparing for our wedding day. It says of those saints that 'fine linen, clean and white' was given to them, "for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." Verse 9 concludes: "Blessed are those invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb", which means in order to have an invitation there must also be those not invited.

Who is invited?

In the Jewish Feast of Trumpets the 'rapture' is taught. In that feast day it teaches a 'catching away' initiated by a specific trumpet called 'the last trumpet' or 'last trump' happens with the dead who died believing in Messiah.

The Feast of Trumpets teaches the dead in Messiah will rise to be hidden in Messiah. This is why it is the only festival that starts on the New Moon phase when the moon is hidden, for the moon in Judaism stands for believers. (The sun stands for God, the moon for believers because it has no light of its own but reflects the light of the sun, was made to rule the darkness, etc).

It is why Paul stated in Colossians 2: 16-17 that the new moon is a shadow of something to come. The hidden moon is a type of the Feast of Trumpets blast which causes the dead in Messiah to rise to be hidden in Him.

But Paul adds fresh revelation to the Feast in I Corinthians 15: 51-52 the feast doesn't reveal; that not only will the dead in Messiah arise at what is called 'The Awakening Blast', but also those alive at the time of the blowing of the trumpet will be changed and join them to be hidden with Messiah. (I've recorded several MP3/CD teachings if you want more information, go to our site, click 'store', and search for end times category)

In the Feast the believers in Messiah will be judged (Judgement Seat of Christ) and then immediately take part in a celebratory wedding feast that goes on for 7 years. During these 7 years on earth however, the earth enters 'the days of awe' when the judgement books are opened and prepared for the remaining inhabitants of earth, which is a time of great tribulation, known at the 'time of Jacob's trouble', and culminating in 'the day of the Lord', which is the return of Jesus.

So the ones in heaven participating in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb as described in Revelation 19, is limited to those believers who had earlier died, and those alive when the Last Trumpet sounds. Those saved in the Tribulation won't attend because they will have missed the Last Trumpet's blast. Those who survive the Tribulation and Armageddon won't attend. Those born in the Millennium will be born too late to have attended. Only those it says, who were believers who had died before the Trumpet sounded, or were alive to hear it will attend.

In the immediate verses after saying the saints are given fine linen clean and white, in v11-14, the apostle is describing the return of Jesus telling us He is riding a white horse, and so are the armies of heaven, all of them clothed "in fine linen, clean and white" - showing by that context and also Zechariah 14:5 that the Lord returns with us, the saints who have died and gone to heaven in our age.

The survivors of the Tribulation and return of Jesus

After telling us the Lord is coming with all His saints, Zechariah 14:16 says this: "And it will happen that everyone who is left from all the nations which came against Jerusalem to fight (at the return of the Lord in Revelation 19), shall go year by year to worship the King, the Lord of the armies, to keep the Feast of Tabernacles."

The Feast of Tabernacles celebrates God living with man, and though they are to come every year to celebrate Jesus physically living with man, there will be people in some nations that will resist the Kingship of Jesus. They resent righteous rule by the Lord and the righteous government of the saints. For verses 17-19 reveal:

"And it will be that whosoever won't come up of all the people of the earth to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of the armies, then upon them will be no rain. (For instance) if the family of Egypt will not come up, then upon them will be no rain. That is the plague with which the Lord will hit the heathen that won't come up for the Feast of Tabernacles. This will be the punishment on Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that don't come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles." Notice, in the next age there will still be heathen that Jesus and we rule over.

Matthew 25: 31-32 describes the scene at Jesus' return once He sets foot in Israel: "...He will sit on the throne of His glory, and all the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. The sheep (nations) He will set on His right, and the goat (nations) on His left..."

Even at His return there will be (heathen) people and whole nations who don't want enforced righteousness made by the King and His royal family - and that is where we will pick it up next week to close out this series. Until then, blessings!

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Royal children and non-royals in the kingdom #4 - 20190803

Hi all,

In the conclusion of this series let me say up front what we don't know is way more than we know. The Word only gives us brief statements or sketches of what is to come, and I suspect once on the other side many times we will observe: "Oh....that's what that meant." Such is the nature of prophecy - always understood fully after it happens.

But let me summarize thus far:

The ones invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb as we saw previously, are those who died in Christ before the Feast of Trumpets' 'catching away', or were alive to hear the Last Trump and were as Paul said, 'changed' to ever be with the Lord. (I Corinthians 15: 40-55)

Those who die in the Lord during the Tribulation, which is happening on earth while the Marriage Supper is going on in heaven, obviously aren't in the Marriage Supper, but will be among those ruling and reigning with Christ in the Millennium. (Revelation 20: 4)

We saw in Matthew 25 how upon the return of the Lord He will divide the nations between the 'sheep' nations and the 'goat' nations. In Zechariah 14 we saw, some heathen nations will refuse to go to the Feast of Tabernacles to worship the King, and if they refuse then the Lord will stop the rain in their nation, presumably until they repent.

Our glorified bodies

In I Corinthians 15: 39-50 Paul says in part: "So also is the resurrection of the dead....there are bodies terrestrial and bodies celestial. The glory of the one is one thing, and the glory of the other is another thing. Flesh and blood shall not inherit incorruption...I show you a mystery, we will all be changed..."

He is talking about the glorified body we are to receive at the resurrection of the righteous dead. In Romans 8: 22-23 we are told all of creation 'groans and travails' in pain awaiting the revelation of the 'sons of God'. And we ourselves also groan and travail, yearning for the redemption of the body.

The redemption of the body he is talking about is not the theological truth that Jesus has redeemed us, but the literal fulfillment of that redemption - when we receive our glorified or celestial, bodies. We groan for this.

He says the same thing in II Corinthians 5: 1-8, reminding them they have a body made without hands in heaven, and for this we groan - Not, he says, that we want to prematurely end this body's existence,

just that we groan in longing for the new body and age to come. "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" was his conclusion.

The first thing I remember the Father telling me when I was a teenager, maybe 17 years old, was about the glorified body: "When you receive your glorified body you'll find it is not subject to the natural laws of the earth." I asked, "What do you mean?" and He replied: "If you want to walk you can walk. If you want to run you can run. If you want to float you can float, if you want to fly you can fly. If you want to be somewhere at the speed of thought you can be there."

Jesus is the first born of many to follow, from the dead, and the way He would appear and disappear to people, even behind closed doors, is a picture of us in our glorified bodies. Yet notice that He was able to eat bread, fish, and honeycomb with the disciples after His resurrection. (Luke 24: 42, Mk 14: 22 (implied))

That means our glorified body can eat food which is of the earth; a lower order of creation. But do you remember Elijah in I Kings 19: 4-8 who ate the meals provided by the angel, and that heavenly food lasted him 40 days? That shows us heavenly food is of a higher nature like our glorified bodies, and that life from above is like super food to the lowly earth-body we have now. Elijah went 40 days on the strength of that one meal.

We will reign on earth in our glorified body. You will be flowing in the words of knowledge and wisdom and other gifts as needed in order to rule and reign properly, righteously, before the righteous and unrighteous alike. You and I are going into government service, but with glorified bodies and the gifts of the Spirit!

A look ahead

Consider when Jesus returns and rules as King over all the earth, He does so from Jerusalem, Israel finally taking her place as leader of the nations of the earth at last.

There are 55 uses of the word 'kingdom' in Matthew, the vast majority used when Jesus is talking of the kingdom of heaven. There are 154 uses in the New Testament. So we need to think what being royalty in a kingdom means for that is how we are defined in Christ: Royal children of the King.

We who know Jesus are in the process of making Him King in every facet of our lives. In every area of life we know Him as Savior. But knowing Him also as King is a life-long process called discipleship.

We who know Him are submitted to Him in our hearts, though not always obedient in our minds or bodies. One day our glorified body will complete our trinity: Our spirit, soul, and body will be one in Him. We will flow from our spirit, out to our soul which will be 100% renewed in Him, to our body which, being made of heavenly material, wants to obey, and is in fact eager to obey the Lord in all things.

Gone will be this earth-suit that wants to go the way of the earth and world, in a constant struggle as Paul noted in Romans 7, between that which we want to do and that which we end up doing. Gone will be that struggle forever.

Being whole and made 100% of heavenly material, our spirit, soul, and body, will never again wonder if in 10,000 years we might rebel and reject Jesus, or that we might commit some sin in the Millennial age and be cast out - NO! We will be 100% made of celestial, heavenly material, flowing as we were designed, spirit to soul to body, in perfect harmony.

We are royalty, we will inherit the earth. Remember that when events of this life get us down. It is but for a moment, and no matter what man thinks of you now, when Jesus stands beside you and tells the Father that He knows you - that settles all opinions about you. "Now are we the sons of God, but it doesn't yet appear what we shall be, for when He comes, we will see Him as He is (full glory)." I John 3: 1-2

New subject next week, until then, blessings,
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