

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Message Seven

**The Manifestation of the Kingdom—
the Practical Coming of the Kingdom in Power**

Scripture Reading: Matt. 5:3; 7:21; 13:41-43; Rev. 2:7; 3:12; Matt. 25:21; Rev. 19:7-9;
20:4, 6; 2 Cor. 11:2-3; Eph. 5:26-27; 2 Tim. 4:8, 10; Eph. 5:15-16; Phil. 3:20;
Matt. 25:10; 24:44, 47; Luke 19:17-19

I. The manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens is the practical coming of the kingdom of the heavens in power—Matt. 24—25:

- A. The manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens will be the manifestation of the reality of the kingdom of the heavens—Matt. 5:3; 13:43:
 - 1. In the next age the reality of the kingdom will become the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens—Matt. 7:21.
 - 2. At His coming back, the Lord will deal first with the appearance of the kingdom, and then He will transfer the reality of the kingdom into the next age to become the manifestation of the kingdom—Matt. 13:41-43.
- B. The manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens, composed of the overcoming saints, will actually be the New Jerusalem during the millennium—Rev. 2:7; 3:12.

II. We must live in the kingdom's reality in order to be transferred into the kingdom's manifestation to participate in the Lord's joy and to rule and reign with Him—Matt. 25:21; Rev. 19:7-9; 20:4, 6:

- A. For our growth and maturity in the divine life, we should be watchful and ready, preparing ourselves daily by paying the price to buy the oil and by allowing the Spirit to saturate our entire being—cf. Matt. 25:1-13:
 - 1. We should keep ourselves as a chaste virgin, maintaining simplicity and purity toward Christ—2 Cor. 11:2-3; S. S. 4:12.
 - 2. We should be sanctified by the washing of the water in the word, which removes the blemishes of the natural life of our old man and beautifies us as His lovely bride—Eph. 5:26-27.
 - 3. We should have a living that loves the Lord's appearing, not the present age—2 Tim. 4:8, 10.
 - 4. If we would be the prudent virgins, we must redeem the time—Eph. 5:15-16.
 - 5. We should eagerly await the Lord's coming and always take His coming as an encouragement—Phil. 3:20; Titus 2:13.
 - 6. To the wise virgins the reward is the enjoyment of the marriage feast—Matt. 25:10:
 - a. The marriage dinner of the Lamb will be a reward to the overcoming believers; they will also be the bride of the Lamb—Rev. 19:7; cf. John 3:29.
 - b. We should be ready, always having oil in our vessel, always being filled with the Spirit of God in our whole being; watching and being ready should be our daily exercise for the Lord's coming—Matt. 25:10; 24:44; cf. Rev. 19:7.
- B. Matthew 25 also reveals that in addition to being watchful in life, we must be faithful in service in the Lord's gifts to make a profit for Him that we may enter into the joy of the Lord in the coming kingdom—vv. 14-30:
 - 1. In Matthew 25, we see two aspects of the reward given to the faithful slave: authority and enjoyment; the faithful will enter directly into the Lord's presence in the manifestation of the kingdom—vv. 21, 23:
 - a. That the Lord's servants were faithful over "a few things" signifies the Lord's work in this age—v. 21.

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- b. For the Master to “set them over” signifies the ruling authority in the coming kingdom; “many things” signifies the responsibilities in the coming kingdom—v. 21; 24:47.
 - c. *The joy of your master* signifies the enjoyment of the Lord in the coming kingdom; this refers to inward satisfaction, not to outward position—Heb. 12:2.
 - d. To participate in the Lord's joy is the greatest reward, better than the glory and position in the kingdom—Matt. 25:21, 23.
2. To the faithful and prudent slave in Matthew 24, the Lord will reward him with the authority to rule in the manifestation of the kingdom and set him over all his possessions—v. 47; 2 Tim. 2:12:
- a. To the good slaves in Luke 19, the reward for one will be to reign over ten cities and to another to reign over five cities, indicating that the overcoming saints' reigning in the coming kingdom as a reward will differ in extent—vv. 17-19.
 - b. To reign with Christ over the nations in the millennial kingdom is a prize to the overcomers—Rev. 2:26; 12:5; 20:4, 6.