

What will we do in Heaven?
Part 4

God's Kingdom ... and ours

1/2/11

“Don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.” James 4:4

Consider the predicament of decent German citizens under the Nazi regime. Did they love their homeland, Germany, or did they hate it? Both, simultaneously. They hated the Nazi government, the arrogance, depravity, bigotry, brutality, and persecution. Yet they knew there was a better Germany, even though it was buried beneath the prevailing tide of fascism. They were loyal to the better Germany, and they could still see signs of it in the beautiful countryside, at a concert, the eyes of a kind neighbor, Germans jailed for resisting the Nazis, and faithful citizens quietly intervening to save Jews. Paradoxically, it was their very love for Germany that fueled their opposition to Nazi Germany. Likewise, our love for God's Earth fuels our opposition to fallen Earth.

A day is coming when:

I. Christ will take possession of this Earth

In Dan 7 we're given a prophetic revelation of four earthly kingdoms, beginning with Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, that will one day be forever replaced by a fifth kingdom.

The four kingdoms of Daniel are pictured as “beasts”
The 4 kingdoms would include: Babylon, Medes and Persians, Greeks and the Romans. They represent a period time on the Earth. The horns of the beasts represented “individual kings”.
The fifth kingdom of the Earth, ON THE EARTH, is that of Heaven on Earth.

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” Daniel 7:13-14

II. Christ will hand over this Earth to the Saints

“Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.” Daniel 7:27

What is the “greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven” that will be “handed over to the saints”?

I believe it includes all that makes the nations great:

Commerce, sports, arts, science, intellectual achievements, transportation, government, education, exploration, etc.

The great accomplishments and wealth of the ungodly will be handed over to God's people to:

1. Manage
2. Develop
3. Expand

“But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.” Daniel 7:18

III. You and I will rule over what belongs to Christ

Many people believe that if God rules the universe, there's no room for other rulers. But this can't be true, because we're told that:

"...all rulers will worship and obey him." Daniel 7:27

Humans are made to be kingdom builders, but history shows that when we try to build without God as King, our "utopia" become hell on Earth.

Jesus said to his disciples (and to us), "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32

We tend to think that faithful service to our Lord while on Earth should be rewarded with an eternal vacation.

But God offers us something very different:
Meaningful work designed specifically for you, in accordance with how well you followed Christ while here on this Earth.

"The Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."
Eph 6:3

More Responsibilities
Increased opportunities
Greater abilities, resources, wisdom, and empowerment.

Can you imagine what you will be able to accomplish with a redeemed mind, a resurrected body, a clear purpose, and unabated joy?

Should we be excited that God will reward us by making us rulers in his Kingdom? Absolutely.

Jesus said, "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in Heaven." Matthew 5:12