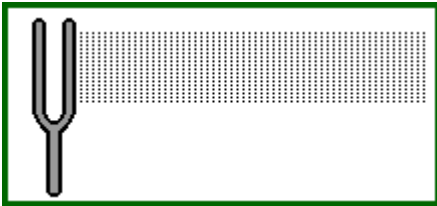


GOD'S TUNING FORK



IS THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM, by Jim Burks

Whether a solo, duet, four-part harmony, choir or symphony, you have to hit the notes. And, if the music is off key, everyone knows it.

But, when it comes to the Bible, not everyone has "ears to hear" (Mt 13:9). In fact, concerning Kingdom Parables, Jesus said, "...blessed are your ears for they hear" (Mt 13:16). A circumcised heart is needed.

Are YOU okay with what YOU hear, or does it sound off key when God's TUNING FORK OF THE KINGDOM MESSAGE sound is placed as the reference? Is there harmony or, do some important passages come off like the scratching of a blackboard, nowhere near the truth?

It is joy unspeakable when we learn the meaning of any Scripture. And, when we learn something about God's eternal message of His Kingdom come, our hearts resonate with "AMEN!" Our faith hears harmonious tones of God's ONE PURE FREQUENCY, bouncing back to our hearts. In full and rich tones, our faith rests in "Thus saith the LORD."

THE KINGDOM PLAN

The future will be, when Jesus returns, God's KINGDOM set up in the earthly Jerusalem. This Kingdom is not new, but serves as the backdrop of the New Testament, as Jesus explained, "... all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me," Luke 24:44.

We may understand that the Kingdom plan has always been, when we look "in the beginning" and see God's kingdom fully displayed in Eden. God's coming rule on earth was vividly portrayed in the past scene of the Garden.

Eden shows that a Kingdom has four (4) elements. (1) God, the King; (2) God's Law; (3) Constituents (Adam-Eve); and (4) Territory, Eden.

The kingdom message moves on by supporting the nation of Israel. Here, the picture of God's Kingdom is clearly set forth. There is (1) Israel's King (David), (2) Their Law -Mosaic; (3) Israel, Constituents; and (4) Their Territory, Canaan.

In the New Covenant, the Kingdom message is everywhere. In "Thy kingdom come" prayer, we are presented with: (1) The King, Jesus; (2) "His will" - God's law; (3) "be done" in His constituents, His body, the church, and, (4) His territory "on earth, as it is in heaven."

This is so sweet that I must rephrase it this way: 1. "Our Father," (King); 2. "Thy will be done" (law); 3. "On Earth" (Territory); and, 4. (Constituents) - His body, the church, Ephesians 3:21.

GOD RETUNES HIS PEOPLE (His plan remains same)

Certainly, every student of God's word knows that Israel did not receive their King, nor His Law. The nation looked for a physical kingdom which would set Israel up as "the head and not the tail" (Dt 28:13).

However, Jesus was about to establish a spiritual kingdom; one of the heart. In choosing His church, individuals from Israel were ordained, taught and sent into all the world (Mt 28:19-20). Converts, including gentiles, believed the Kingdom message, were baptized and, in turn, became missionaries, preaching, baptizing and organizing churches throughout the world.

However, Israel is not alone when it comes to being tone deaf to God's pure kingdom message. Man, naturally, is born off key, hearing traditions and teachings of misdirected men. God's kingdom is not in meats and observance of days, but a message for the heart.

Consequently, whenever the TUNING PROCESS of the Kingdom message sounds out, it becomes clear that there is no harmony in works of men and the gospel. Not until the pure message of God's tuning fork strikes the heart, can man hear God's truth of the Kingdom. "He that has ears to hear, let him hear,"

Although Israel looked for their Messiah, the traditions of the Jewish Elders was something most of Israel could not give up. Israel missed their King. "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. BUT, as many as receive Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believed on His name," John 1:12.

Are we hearing God's message? Could it be that many churches are no different than the nation of Israel? Are traditions and set beliefs keeping believers there from hearing?

Jesus places His divine approval upon His coming kingdom in many places in the Bible. In Revelation 1:6, He places His church in the highest position within the

Kingdom. "He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and dominion forever and ever, AMEN."

God's REDEMPTIVE PLAN does not only include salvation from condemnation, it must be viewed from its final restoration of all things. In His death we are saved, in His resurrected life we serve as kings and priests. It is His will be done on earth, within His Coming Kingdom and Jesus as King.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches," Rev 2:7.

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