

MATTHEW 10:28-33

Introduction:

1. Last week, we learned the second coming of Christ **could have** happened right on schedule without any interruption. If Israel had believed that Jesus was the Christ, the next thing in line to be fulfilled was the Tribulation - Daniel's 70th Week. Then they would have gone into the kingdom (which at that time was "at hand" or **near**).
2. When Christ returns and sets up His kingdom, He will **then** send out His Kingdom of Priests, or Ministers, to [the uttermost]. (Matthew 25:31-46)

Exodus 19:6 - And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Isaiah 61:6 - But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: *men* shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

3. In Matthew 10:23b [...Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.]
 - a. The cities, or territory, here are those He had **excluded** in verse 5 [...any city of the Samaritans enter ye not].

****Remember, Israel at that time consisted of 2 tribes of the Southern Kingdom and 10 tribes in the Northern Kingdom.**
 - b. The Samaritans were excluded from the Apostles. Who were the Samaritans? In I Kings 12, there was a **division** in the kingdom. Solomon had died and his son, **Rehoboam**, began to reign.
 - c. Nebat's son, **Jeroboam**, who had been exiled to Egypt by Solomon, had been heavily burdened by taxation. Since Solomon had died, Jeroboam went before King Rehoboam to ask for clemency and **lesser** taxes that had kept him in bondage.
 - d. King Rehoboam **rejected** the counsel of the **older** wise men, who said to lighten Jeroboam's bondage. But Rehoboam followed the counsel of the younger men to even be tougher on Jeroboam and his people by increasing their **yoke**.
 - e. Ultimately, as God had **fore**told (I Kings 11:29-40), the kingdom was divided into 10 northern tribes and 2 southern tribes (Judah & Benjamin). Jeroboam became king over the 10 northern tribes, but he refused God's counsel to live holy and went against it.
 - f. Remember, the Jews were responsible to go to Jerusalem during three feasts a **year**. Jeroboam feared **losing** people to the Southern Kingdom because the Temple was there. Also, he would lose the Temple taxes, which he could use. But for fear of life, Jeroboam was counseled that he should not go to Jerusalem because that would make him vulnerable to being **killed**.

*| So Jeroboam made two calves of **gold** and said to all Israel (the Northern Kingdom-10 tribes),
*| "It is too much to go to Jerusalem (because of the circumstances), so let us worship these
*| golden gods that brought you out of Egypt." He put one golden calf/god in Bethel and the
*| other one in Dan.

- g. Jeroboam also made **high** places (stars and **sun** worship), appointed ordinary people to be priests (who were **not Levites**), and he made the North's own feast days. Jeroboam set up their own **alter**native religious system in the two cities and told the people to go to the church of their choice. But they were not to go to Jerusalem, where **God** wanted them to go!
- h. So Jeroboam sets up a **counterfeit Mosaic system** in the Northern Kingdom. The Jews scattered and the Gentiles came into the Northern Kingdom (10 tribes) and established **Baal** worship, a pagan idolatrous religion using Mosaic scripture to make it acceptable to the Jewish people.

I Kings 13:32 - For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which *are* in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.

****God sent prophets to them to **warn** them of their idolatry and finally said in Hosea 4:17 - [Ephraim *is* joined to idols: let him alone.]**

- 4. Later, Sennacherib defeated and destroyed the Northern Kingdom. The Jewish people scattered and the Gentiles came into the N. Kingdom and **planted** cities. They began to inter**marry**, creating many half-Jewish/half-Gentile.
- 5. Because of idolatry, they were **ex**cluded from the ministry of the apostles.

John 4:7, 19-22 - There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. John 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

****Remember, salvation comes from Judah's **Jews** - Jerusalem. Zechariah 12:7a - [The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first,...]**

Joel 2:32 - And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

- 6. Here in Matthew, because of Samaria's sinfulness at this time, they are excluded. But in Acts 1:8, after the **cross**, it says [and Samaria]. When the **offer** of the kingdom begins, they are **in**cluded in the ministry of the apostles. Samaria is after Jerusalem and Judaea.
- 7. Question? Why is Samaria included now in Acts 1:8?
 - a. John 10:15-16 - As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. John 10:16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

[other sheep] - This is usually interpreted as being Gentiles. But it is referring to the 10 Northern Tribes being brought **back** into the 2 Southern Tribes - making it **one** fold, once again.

- b. The promise is that God will bring together the divided kingdoms back into one nation - **Israel**.

Ezekiel 37:15-17, 21-22 - The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Eze. 37:16 Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel his companions: Eze. 37:17 And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. Eze. 37:21 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: Eze. 37:22 And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:

- c. Jesus in John 4:4-[And he must needs go through Samaria], is giving a **fore**taste of prophecy in the bringing back of Samaria (10 N. Tribes).

****This would have been fulfilled in Acts 1-7 if Jerusalem and Judah had believed. But they did **not**!**

A. Matthew 10:28 - And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

1. He is simply telling them that they did not need to fear men, but God! Man may harm the body, but their soul no man can touch because they (soul-spirit) belong to **God**.
2. God is able to destroy both man's soul and body and will for the **lost** man at the Great White Throne. Remember also, there was **one** among the 12 who was not saved. Perhaps this was a **warning** shot to Judas.
3. This verse also shows that the body and soul are not the **same**. So when one dies (body), their soul **still** lives and leaves the body.
 - a. The unbeliever: Luke 16:22-23 - [And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; Luke 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.]
 - b. The believer: II Corinthians 5:6, 8 - [Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 2Cor. 5:8 We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.]

Revelations 6:9-10 - [And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: Rev. 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?]

B. Matthew 10:29-31 - Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. Matt. 10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Matt. 10:31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

1. Jesus tells them encouraging words. The birds have His attention, but you get His **special** attention. God is so involved in their lives that He even keeps track of the hairs on their head! You are above any creature that God has ever created, which gives you more value. You are significant to God. This should have been a **com**fort to them.
2. Remember that these words have a **future** meaning and fulfillment in the Tribulation. These words, no doubt, will be a comfort to them. *It is saying He **loves** them!

C. Matthew 10:32-33 - Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. Matt. 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

1. This passage is often used as a salvation proof text for today. However, in its context, it is **not**. Many use it to try to get people to walk the aisle. They say, "If you are not willing to come forward, if you deny Him, He will deny you!"

*But the context is to the 12 and those preaching the kingdom message before men. They were to do it **un**ashamedly.

2. This is not talking about **losing** their salvation. He had just told them in verses 28-31 that, as believers, their souls were **safe** in God.

*He is telling them that discipleship was going to **cost them**. No doubt, by their standing up for Christ, they would have adverse reactions from many who would hear the kingdom message. If they would **un**ashamedly stand for Christ, the Father would be pleased. But if they would deny Christ, the Father would deny them the blessings that they could have had in the kingdom.

II John 8 - Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

D. Matthew 10:34-37 - Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. Matt. 10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. Matt. 10:36 And a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household. Matt. 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

1. Do not think Christ has come to cause peace. The reason Christ would say this is that He **knew** what was going to happen when His apostles would preach the truth. Persecution and national rejection awaited them. Trouble **not** experienced by them before was **coming**.
2. He came to cause a division in the **nation**. He came to call **out** a remnant, a believing Little Flock, away from apostate Israel. The religious leaders-rulers would **hate** them for preaching Jesus Christ. Why?
3. He tells them to not allow **even** their own family to stop them from their commitment, their belief, and their sacred oath to this kingdom message. He is saying, "I am separating you believers **from** non-believers and the non-believers will not like or **under**stand this - especially family! But do not allow that to stop you from following Me."