

## Restoration of the Kingdom of God – 25

We return, after a detour, back to the return of Jesus and “*the first resurrection*” - **Revelation 20:5**, which is of “*they that are Christ’s at his coming*” - **1 Corinthians 15:23**. They are the ones who will have “part” (Greek, *meros* = portion, inheritance, or lot) “*in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*”

- They are those “*meek*” who will inherit the earth - **Psalm 37:11**, having placed no trust in human power or wisdom - **Psalm 146:3**, but believed God’s promises. Having been made immortal, they will rejoice that Jesus has “*made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth*” - **Revelation 5:10**.

The “*child*” born in Bethlehem, having established his government of immortals, will be called the “*Prince of Peace*.” **7** *Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever*” - **Isaiah 9:6**.

- The work of administration in that government over all nations will be when “*the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints\* of the Most High*” - **Daniel 7:27**.

\*They are called “*saints*” = those set apart, because they have been “*sanctified by the truth*” - **John 17:19**. They have been enlightened by reading and understanding the divinely inspired Scripture, which “*is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work*” - **2 Timothy 3:16**.

- Those good works began with the personal behaviour of the baptized believer in this mortal life. They will find full expression as governors in the kingdom of Christ over the mortal nations. Their rule will be free of corruption, while all sections of society will receive even-handed dealing.

Under Christ’s authority they “*will bring justice to the poor of the people, will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor...will spare the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy.*” Christ’s government **14** “*will redeem their life from oppression and violence*” - **Psalm 72:4**.

- Mankind craves peace, but has not the wisdom to bring it about - and so wars with their death and suffering continue. But under Christ’s government **weapons will be abolished**, when “*they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.*” The lovely result of this will be that “*nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore*” - **Isaiah 2:4**.

But this is not the main work of the immortal saints who will govern under God’s “*Elect One*” who by his direct rule, will be “*as a light to the Gentiles, 7 To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house*” - **Isaiah 42:1-7**.

- The nations, “*having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them*” are imprisoned by sin, awaiting final death - **Ephesians 4:18**. They will be **enlightened** by “*those who are wise*” and “*shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and ... turn many to righteousness*” to their everlasting salvation - **Daniel 12:3**.