

The Most Important Question

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If you were granted an audience with the king or queen of a country, or a prime minister, or a president; and could ask them only one question, you would probably give it a great deal of thought ahead of time. This is what Christ's disciples did, following his resurrection from the dead, when they asked him the following:

*Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, saying, "Lord, **will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?**" (Acts 1:6; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise stated; emphasis added).*

During the previous forty days that led up to the disciples asking this question, Christ discussed details regarding how his Father's government would be organized, and function on earth in the future.

*...(Christ) being seen by them during forty days and **speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom** (gov't) **of God** (Acts 1:3b; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

The reason the disciples asked this question is because it was related to what Christ had been teaching them over the forty days, but he didn't mention "*when*" all these things would occur.

As Christ had been teaching his disciples about the kingdom, or government of God, he would have explained in detail the key elements associated with this future system. For instance, any kingdom or government has a leader, laws, territory, and subjects/citizens; so, Christ would have provided more detailed information on each of these categories.

He may have reminded them about his encounter with Pilate just before he was sentenced to death.

*Pilate therefore said to him (Christ), "**Are you a king then?**" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. **For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth.**" (John 18:37; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Interestingly, if you were to quiz a Christian and ask them why Christ came into the world as a flesh and blood human being, they might answer erroneously that Christ came to do away with his Father's law or, correctly, that he came to atone or cover our sins, but very few would say that Christ was born to be a king. And yet this was the reward his heavenly Father intended to give him following the completion of his commission as Savior of the world. Therefore, it is no coincidence that the wise men who came to Jerusalem knew that Christ was born to be a king.

*...some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east, (saying), "**Where is the infant king of the Jews?**" (Matthew 2:1-2; The Jerusalem Bible; Ed. note in parenthesis)*

But as wise as they may have been, they did not realize that Christ was intended to be the King over all other kings, and the Lord over all other lords that have existed in the past and will exist in the future.

*And he (Christ) has on his robe and on his thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS** (Revelation 19:16; Ed. note in parenthesis).*

This truth was known during Old Testament times because Christ is pictured as the representative of his Father's government and, as such, carried all his Father's titles/offices.

*For unto us a Child (Christ) is born, unto us a Son is given; and **the government will***

be upon his shoulder... (Isaiah 9:6a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

This government will not have authority over only one country because Christ's shed blood was meant to redeem all sinners from every nation.

*And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior **of the world*** (1John 4:14; cf. John. 4:42; emphasis added).

The Apostle Paul defined this even further.

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for **you are all one in Christ Jesus*** (Galatians 3:28; cf. Colossians 3:11; emphasis added).

Therefore, Christ's job is King of all nations and, as such, he must have a set of laws that will be applied equally to all subjects/citizens.

One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you (Exodus 12:49; Numbers 15:16, 29).

Unfortunately, many in the Christian sphere of influence insist that Christ fulfilled all his Father's laws and therefore it is no longer necessary for human beings to obey them. This is a false doctrine and Christ dispelled it many times.

...if you want to enter life (everlasting), **keep the commandments** (Matthew 19:17b; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe (pay 10%) *on mint and rue and all matter of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. **These*** (tithes) **you ought of have done**, *without leaving the others undone* (Luke 11:42; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law (of my Father) *or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, **till heaven and earth pass away, one***

jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled (Matthew 5:17-18; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

What aspect of God the Father's law did Christ fulfill? *Answer:* Christ fulfilled the animal sacrificial system with its associated ordinances (cf. Hebrews 10:1-4). Nonetheless, the spiritual aspect of being willing to sacrifice has not changed.

I (Paul) *beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy*** (set apart for service to God), *acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service* (Romans 12:1; cf. Philippians 2:17; Hebrews 13:15; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Following Christ's return, all nations will be willing and eager to learn about all the laws associated with God's government.

Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain (symbol of gov't) *of the Lord, to the house* (family) *of the God of Jacob; **He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths.**"* (Isaiah 2:3a; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

*...for **the law shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem*** (Micah 4:2b; emphasis added).

N.B: Ultimately, God the Father's law proceeds from Him in heaven, as the following scripture confirms.

*But you have come to **Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels*** (Hebrews 12:22; emphasis added).

To summarize so far, we see that Christ will be the ruler over all nations on earth for a period of a thousand years, per Revelation 20:4-6. Also, he will administer his Father's laws over the entire population at that time. Any nation that refuses to obey these laws, which include

observing God's appointed Holy Days, will be punished per Zechariah 14:16-21.

Because God the Father assigned one family to serve as priests for all the nations on earth during the First Covenant period, the descendants of that same family will finally fulfill the responsibility they previously rejected. This explains why Christ's disciples asked him "when" this would happen.

*"Lord, **will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?**"* (Acts 1:6b; emphasis added).

Christ's disciples understood the fragmented family, that descended from Jacob, would finally take up their God-given responsibility of teaching all nations about God's truth, including His plan to redeem all sinners who would then willingly follow all His laws and commandments.

Thus says the Lord: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim (his son), and the tribes of Israel, his companions (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Benjamin); and I will join them with the stick of Judah (the Judeans, Jews), and make them one stick in My hand (Ezekiel 37:19; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

*And I will make them one nation in the land, and one king shall be over them; **they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again** (Ezekiel 37:22; emphasis added).*

The (other) nations will know that I, the Lord, set apart Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore (Ezekiel 37:28; Ed. note in parenthesis)

All the other nations on earth will be grafted into the twelve families of Jacob and enjoy all

the blessings associated with following God's laws and commandments.

It shall be that you will divide the land by lot as an inheritance for yourselves, and for the strangers who sojourn among you. They shall be to you as native-born among the children of Israel; they shall have an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. And it shall be that in whatever tribe the stranger sojourns, there you shall give him his inheritance (Ezekiel 47:22-23; emphasis added).

The Apostle Paul was referring to this future scenario when he stated the following.

And if some of the branches were broken off (representing the apostate nation of Israel), and you (Gentiles), being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them (in a future kingdom under Christ), and with them became a partaker of the root and richness of the olive tree (that represented Christ) (Romans 11:17; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In conclusion, Christ's disciples asked him a very important question regarding when all these things would come to pass, but Christ directed their attention elsewhere because these events were not intended to occur during their lifetime. However, based on the increase in lawless behavior today, it is likely that the answer to the question posed by Christ's disciples will come soon:

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