

Chapter Two

THE SUBJECTS OF THE KINGDOM

CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE WHO WILL RULE WITH CHRIST

Clearly Taught In The Old Testament

There are many references in the Old Testament that speak of the glorious future Kingdom, which will be established upon the earth.

There are many places that speak of the coming peace, the animals,

When you read the whole chapter, of forty verses with the future Kingdom in mind, it becomes obvious that the Lord is giving the qualifications of those **who will inherit His future Kingdom.**

and the righteous rule of Christ. There are also many facts concerning His coming reign on earth. *Psalm 47* may not be talking about the Millennial Reign, but it establishes that He is King. The passage of scripture that deals with the principle characteristics of those who will rule with Christ on the earth is *Psalm 37*. There are **at least five different verses** in this chapter with the promise that the faithful **“shall inherit the**

earth.” When you read the whole chapter, of forty verses with the future Kingdom in mind, it becomes obvious that the Lord is giving the qualifications of those **who will inherit His future Kingdom.**

Don't worry or fret. Today, evil doers are prospering and having their way. **Verse 1 Don't worry about it.** Their success is only temporary. They will soon be cut down. **Verse 2** All over the earth, evil doers plot against and persecute the righteous. Again God says, **“Don't worry about it.** They will be cut off and destroyed.” **Verse 38**

Your day is coming. You are in a world governed by the god of this age and his world system. The devil and his workers are against you. But you are to **walk by faith and demonstrate the grace of God** in your life, so you **will inherit the earth** later.

Listen to the Lord's clear commands and His absolute promises:

Command in verse 3: Trust in the Lord and do good.

His Promise: You will dwell in the land and be fed.

Command in verse 4: Delight thyself in the Lord.

His Promise: He will give you the desires of your heart.

Command in *verse 5*: Commit thy way unto the Lord.

His Promise: He shall bring it to pass.

Command in *verse 9*: Wait on or do service for the Lord.

His Promise: You shall **inherit the earth**.

Command in *verses 10-11*: Watch the destruction of the lost.

His Promise: The meek (humble) shall **inherit the earth**.

Command in *verses 21-22*: Show mercy and give.

His Promise: You will be blessed and **inherit the earth**.

Command in *verses 27-29*: Depart from evil and do good.

Depart from evil and do good. The righteous (those living righteously) shall inherit the earth .

His Promise: The righteous (those living righteously) shall **inherit the earth**.

Command in *verse 34*: Wait (serve) and keep his way.

His Promise: He shall exalt thee to **inherit the earth**.

Studying these verses will shows the characteristics of those who will inherit and

have a place in ruling the earth during the coming kingdom. They are:

- faithful (trusting)
- patient (enduring)
- righteous (living right)
- humble (depending on the Lord)
- waiting on (serving) the Lord
- committed (to righteous principles)
- delighting themselves (in His service)
- strong (in the Lord)

From these verses and other references, it becomes apparent that in order to **have a position of rulership** or inheritance, one must be a practicing Christian who has **a humble nature to do God's will**. The ones whose lives are out of harmony with the world system will have conflict with the world in this age, but if they overcome these conflicts by faith, they **will be leaders in the coming age**.

Confirmation From The New Testament

There are many promises and references of the future Kingdom found in the Old Testament for those who will reign with Christ. These same promises and

principles are taught and confirmed in the New Testament.

The Principles That Jesus Gave Guarantee a Ruling Position in His Kingdom

Just as God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses to serve as the

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foundation of a moral society, Jesus gave eight characteristics of people who will

make up the moral foundation and the ruling element in His Millennial Kingdom. Each of these promises was introduced by Jesus in His “Sermon on the Mount.” (*Matt 5:3-10*) Each of the promises begins with the word “blessed”, which means to be happy. Examine each of these promises in the light of the future kingdom.

- “Blessed are the poor [humble] in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
- “Blessed are they that mourn [burden for the lost]: for they shall be comforted.” (*Psalms 126:5-6*)

- “Blessed are the meek [submissive to Christ]: for they shall inherit the earth [future].”
- “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness [to know more about Jesus]: for they shall be filled [Paul longed to know Jesus in a more intimate and personal way].”
Phil 3:10
- “Blessed are the merciful [a tender heart toward the hurting]: for they shall obtain mercy [be exalted].”
- “Blessed are the pure in heart [right motives]: for they shall see God [comprehend and intimately know Him].”
- “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children [mature, grown up children] of God.”
- “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake [because of their righteous stand for Christ]: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [rule on earth].”

Jesus concluded by promising a great reward to **every person who is reviled, persecuted, maliciously maligned, or lied**

about because of his righteous stand for Christ. He knew that:

- those who have a poor or contrite, broken heart
- those who mourn for the lost to be saved
- those who are humbly keeping His commandments
- those who are Bible students, hungry to know and do God's will
- those who are merciful toward a lost and dying world
- those who are pure in heart and who desire what Jesus desired
- those who are peacemakers between Holy God and sinful man
- those who are living righteous lives, which cause people to see their lost condition would be **reviled, persecuted, maliciously maligned, and lied about.**

In *verses 11 and 12*, He gave encouragement to those who were poorly treated by the world as they lived for Christ.

He said, "Rejoice and be **exceedingly**

In *II Tim 2:12*, it is clearly stated, "**If we suffer, we shall also reign with him**".

happy because your future in the coming

Kingdom has been **greatly enhanced** because of your suffering.”

Listen to the very words of Jesus, “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: **for great is your reward in heaven:** for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.” Matt 5:11-12

Paul stated in II Tim 3:12, “...all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” In II Tim 2:12, it is clearly stated, “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him:...”

The condition of becoming an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ is based on **suffering with Him**. “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we **suffer with him**, that we may be also glorified together.” Rom 8:17

CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE WHO WILL NOT REIGN

Just as there are some verses that give the requirements of those who will have some position in the Millennial Reign, there are also some verses that give the

characteristics that **will bring disqualification and judgment.**

JESUS' PLAIN STATEMENT OF TRUTH

Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matt 7:21

Please also note in this verse that getting into the Kingdom of God depends on doing the will of God, which means getting to Heaven depends upon one's works. **We know this is not true**, because the Bible clearly declares that one is saved by grace without any works on the part of the person. (*Eph 2:8-9*) Therefore, the truth Jesus is declaring in this verse is that not everyone who states they are saved will have any inheritance in the 1000-year reign, but only those who do the will of God.

THE UNRIGHTEOUS SAVED WILL NOT INHERIT

In *I Cor 6:9a*, Paul asked the question, "Know ye not that the unrighteous **shall not inherit the kingdom of God?**" Then he lists the fleshly practices that will

bring disqualification. Those who are living as:

- **Fornicators**
- **Idolaters**
- **Adulterers**
- **Effeminate**
- **Abusers of themselves with mankind**
- **Thieves**
- **Covetous**
- **Drunkards**
- **Revilers**
- **Extortioners**

Paul emphatically stated, “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” I Cor 6:11

People who go back to that lifestyle after they are saved will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

All of the sinners, who fit into one of the above categories, if they are saved, **will have all of their past sins blotted out and stand before God justified.** Justified means they are pure through the righteousness of Christ and stand in His righteousness with **those things blotted out and forgotten.**

When one gets saved, all of his sins are gone. They will not disqualify him from going into the Kingdom. But the principle stated is still true. People who go back to that lifestyle **after they are saved will not inherit** the Kingdom of God.

There are many who carry grace too far. You can never carry grace too far when it pertains to salvation. **It is all of grace.** But grace does not nullify the plain teaching of the Bible about accountability and the Judgment Seat of Christ.

A person could take the verses in *I Cor 6:9-10* and make them stand alone and from those two verses form a doctrine. But one is admonished not to do that. Peter said, "...No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." II Peter 1:20 This means you cannot take one verse alone to form a doctrine. The Scripture must be interpreted within its setting and must harmonize with the rest of the Bible to be true.

"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, **as becometh saints.**" Eph 5:3 Here, Paul was clearly speaking about people who have been saved. He said, concerning the saints, "Don't let those sins

be once named among you.” Then he continued on, “Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.” Eph 5:4 Again, it is clear that Paul was talking about **saved people who are doing these things.**

Verses five through seven give the punch line. “For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, **hath any inheritance in the kingdom** of Christ and of God.” Eph 5:5

Then Paul gives further warning, “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God **upon the children of disobedience.**” Eph 5:6

Paul continued his warning, “Be not ye therefore partakers with them.” Eph 5:7 It becomes even more emphatic when one remembers that Paul was not writing a general epistle to the world, but to the local church at Ephesus. This church was made up of both practicing and careless members. He was warning the members to be careful of how they live.

Two Fold Nature of the Child Of God

Those that rightly divide the Word of God recognize the teaching that Jesus revealed to Nicodemus in John 3:6, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” When a person is saved, he is born of God and **receives a spiritual nature in addition to his fleshly, Adamic nature.**

Paul referred to the works of the flesh in *Gal 5:18-19*, and listed at least seventeen sins of the flesh. In *Gal 5:22-24*, he listed the fruits of the spirit. It is absolutely clear that he was writing to the church at Galatia, which had begun to go into doctrinal error. In *Gal 5:21*, when he finished listing the works of the flesh (speaking to those who had been born again), he strongly warned them saying, “...they which do such things **shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**”

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world is alluring to the child of God. Oh, the pain they will suffer at the Judgment Seat of Christ when they see what their sins have cost them and their families.

I Cor 6:9-10, Eph 5:3-7, and Gal 5:17-21 teach the same thing. A person saved by grace has all of those sins gone forever; but after a person is saved by grace, he **cannot** go back to that old lifestyle without severe consequences and forfeiture of rewards. If he does go back he will have no position of rulership in the coming Kingdom.

The question posed is this, **“Where will you live on the other side of the river during the 1000-year reign?”** It is obvious that those who humble themselves and submit themselves, as dedicated servants of Christ, are promised a place of honor and distinction.

It is also stated that one must be

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careful not to lose the things that “...we have wrought [gained], but receive a full reward.” II John 8 A 1000 years is a long time! Where you will live depends on how you respond to the Word of God.

Peter, in admonishing Christians who are living in the end times about how they should live, wrote “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be

diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless.” II Peter 3:14

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