

The Keys of the Kingdom

Wade E. Taylor

And I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven. Matthew 16:19

This speaks of our having the "key" that will unlock the door of entrance into our having "Kingdom authority." It will enable us to have a part with the Lord in cleansing both the heavens and the earth, in preparation for the coming Millennial Kingdom.

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. Revelation 5:10

The "kingly" aspect will enable us to affect the earthly realm, through our overcoming obedience. The "priestly" aspect will enable us to affect the heavenly realm, through our worship and communion with the Lord.

And he that overcometh, and keepeth My works to the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron... Revelation 2:26-27

For us to be ready to function in Kingdom authority in "that day" means that there must be a present ruling (overcoming) within our lives. Unless we have first submitted ourselves to divine governmental rule over us, we will never be qualified to rule others.

When Israel entered the Promised Land, they were told to slay all of the inhabitants of that land. The names of these nations can be related to "the works of the flesh." Thus, we also must first slay the "inhabitants" of our land (carnality) before we will be ready to partake of this promise: "we shall reign on the earth."

These "inhabitants" that must be slain are very busy manifesting themselves within us as these "works of the flesh." Thus, they must be utterly slain in order for us to become the "habitation of God" (priestly role), and begin to "rule all nations" (kingly role).

Within our spiritual life experience, there must be the dealings or workings of the Holy Spirit to produce the necessary quality of character that will make us ready to rule with the Lord in "that day."

Unlock and Open the Door

The Lord must be able to trust us with the use of these "Keys of the Kingdom," which can unlock and open the door that will lift us into a cooperative relationship with Jesus. This will lead to the establishing of the Millennial Kingdom.

I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears and opens...Revelation 3:20

The Lord can walk through any locked door, but He waits for a response on our part before He will enter into a Kingdom relationship with us. By prophetic revelation (the spirit of prophecy), Peter identified Jesus as being the Messiah and, as a result, he received the Keys of the Kingdom.

The Lord is waiting for an action on our part as He stands at the door knocking and waiting for us to use our key (the spirit of prophecy) to open the door.

There is a present work that we are to do, which requires the use of this Key.

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him: male and female...and God said unto them, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion..." Genesis 1:27-28

Jesus came to His disciples walking on water; He cursed the fig tree, and immediately it withered; and in Revelation 3:21, the Lord said that we are to overcome, as He also overcame. If Jesus used His deity to do these things, we have a problem because we are not deity. Instead, Jesus, as the "Last Adam," fully overcame and thus received the "dominion" that Adam had forfeited. As a "new creation man," Jesus used this authority to walk on water and to curse the fig tree.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve acted in disobedience by eating of the tree of knowledge (self). They forfeited the authority and dominion that had been given to them. Jesus faced this same testing in the wilderness when He became intensely hungry. He refused to turn stones into bread and eat at the word of satan, as Eve had done. As a result, Jesus regained this lost dominion.

Our Neighborhood, City, State, and Nation Should be Affected by Us as We Exercise this Authority

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. Genesis 2:15

The Lord created a beautiful environment, which Adam was commissioned to dress, or improve.

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking... in the cool of the [evening]... Genesis 3:8

During the day, Adam rearranged or improved the Garden of Eden. Then in the evening, the Lord, the Creator of the universe, came to see what Adam had accomplished during the day. As they walked together, Adam pointed out to the Lord the things he had changed. The Lord found great satisfaction in this, as the Lord takes pleasure in the works of our hands.

In redemption, we also have been given a word. We are to "dress and improve" the world of our day and time. As a result of the authority that Jesus gained in His victory over satan, we have been given the "Keys of the Kingdom," which gives us authority to rule over or to affect our environment.

When Jesus comes to walk with us in our present environment, He should find pleasure and satisfaction in what we have accomplished, because we have been given the "key" that will unlock and release the enemy's grip on the governments that rule the nations. Our neighborhood, city, state, and nation should be affected by us as we exercise this authority.

There are areas in or near where many of us presently live that if the Lord were to say to us, "You and I will go for a walk this evening in that area," we would have to say, "Lord, it is not safe to walk there at night." But we have been given dominion, and

there should be a present expression of the higher realm of authority that we will be given in "that day" to rule on the earth in order to establish the Millennial Kingdom of God.

This means that our ministry, our prayer life, our words, should be affecting the place where we live.

Only then can Isaiah 14:5-8 be fulfilled:

"The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.

"The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, 'Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.'"

If we have rightly used the "Keys of the Kingdom" that are presently being offered to us, we also will have a part in singing this new song.

Then, the Kingdom will become, as Jesus said it is to be, a place of "Righteousness, peace, and joy."

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