

## **The Immovable Kingdom**

Harmony M.B.C., July 5, 2009 (Morning)

Robert P. Myers

**Hebrews 12:28** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

We are living in a time when fundamental landmarks of what America is are being moved. Some are being shifted around in our cultural atmosphere in order for those in power to put new definitions to things like freedom, rights, liberty, the constitution, unalienable, choices, by the people, of the people.

Some of those landmarks which identify who we are as a nation are not just being moved...they are being thrown into the landfill, never to be used again. One of those landmarks is the right to speak out in behalf of God without fear of retribution. Another of those is the right to raise our children in a society where sin is accepted by our culture as sin, morality is about what the Word of God has taught that it is. Still other landmarks that are slated to be hauled away to the dump are the right to make your own choices about how you will spend the money you work to earn, and about how the government will spend, or not spend your money that is given to them for taxes. Other freedoms that will pass away in this decade are the independence you have to buy the automobile of your choice, to drive that vehicle where you want to on your own money, the right to own a home that has equipment and appliances in it that you choose to buy, the right to own a gun, the right to protect your family from the wicked, the right to dictate what your child will learn at school, the right to choose your own medical insurance, doctor, or hospital. All these freedoms will be taken from us and the decision about them will be given to the government.

So, on the weekend of the celebration of the Declaration of Independence and the beginning of the greatness of America, and the fact that our independence and our greatness may be ending, it seems right and timely that we as God's people should think about the differences that are going to drastically change the way our children live; things that are going to alter the way that even we live.

This century has seen the realization of many of the dreams that our founding fathers only imagined when they hammered out the legal and political foundations upon which our nation is built. They envisioned a time when every American could work toward and realize his or her "American dream." They envisioned a time when the climate of liberty and free expression this nation has always stood for would bring forth fruit after its kind. They must have dreamed of the day when every child could get a sound, moral, ethical, unbiased education, people could work hard and realize the fulfillment of their dreams in a free country. They must have visualized a nation where anybody could serve God according to the dictates of their own conscience, and church buildings would dot the landscape of America as people sought to conduct worship of Jehovah, who gave us these freedoms. We have realized all that during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

centuries. But most of those things are going to pass in the tsunami of political action that is sweeping everything away as government seeks to suppress personal expression, to deny personal ambition, to take by force the wealth and initiative of American citizens, to shut the mouths of the faithful witnesses of God, and to suppress any resistance or revolt by the people of America as they try to oppose the heavy-handed, deceitful takeover of what we have known as free America.

As Christians, when we begin to try to think about our freedoms and the beginning of the loss of them, which is an absolute certainty if the Lord does not intervene, it is important that we look away to something that is more unchanging, more lasting, certainly predictable, and something that ensures true freedom for everybody who can say that they are part of it. That is what our text this morning points to. We find in this passage a comforting Rock of Gibraltar of established certainties. Here we have the Word of God confirming something that will become more and more precious to us as we move through what time remains to the inhabitants of the earth. So, we want to look at them and ask the Holy Spirit to comfort and encourage us with them as news at home and abroad becomes more and more chilling.

## I. We are Receiving a Kingdom

- First, in the context of God giving (in order for us to receive this kingdom, God had to give it)
  - > The nature of this transaction; how did He do it? Col. 1:12-13 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath **made us meet** (enable or qualify) **to be partakers of the inheritance** of the saints in light: 13 Who hath **delivered** (rescued) **us from the power of darkness**, and hath **translated** (transfer or carry away) **us into the kingdom of his dear Son**:
    - Luke 12:32 **Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**
- Second, “receiving a kingdom” in the context of us taking it to ourselves
  - > Knowing that God has given us the kingdom, it is incumbent on us to take it in the same spirit He has given it.
  - > We need to possess those things of the kingdom that are ours now ,
    - Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
  - > We need to have our expectation toward those things of the kingdom of God that are yet to be inherited
    - We will reign with Christ for a thousand years at the beginning of our eternal journey with the Lord: Rev. 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.
    - We will be invited personally by Jesus to inherit the eternal part of the kingdom: In Jesus’ account of the dividing of the nations in Mat 25:34 **“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:”**
    - We will inherit a final purged kingdom which will be totally clean of all wickedness

and wicked men: See Mat. 13:38-42

- We will have an open eternity in which to shine with the glory that Christ has shared with us: Mat. 13:43
- We will have the opportunity to receive a level of joy never before known in our temporal lives: In Mat. 25:14-29 we read that Christ likens the kingdom of Heaven to a man who goes away for awhile and leaves his servants with some money to use for the purpose of advancing his interests...this is popularly known as the parable of the talents. The servants that did well with their talents receive a special invitation from their master: Let me read the statement of that master to the servant who had the five talents: Mat 25:21 **His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: *thou* hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**

## II. That Kingdom Cannot Be Moved

- We are creatures of change, and if the humans on earth have anything that stands out as a signature it is the change that has happened to the societies of men through time.
  - > Many of the greatest and most hideous of changes have occurred in this generation. Human societies have shown their worst attributes in this generation. We have seen the morality of human kind erode away; we have seen the ethics of societies crumble; we have seen the honesty of cultures disappear and crafty devilish guile spew forth upon the earth. Truly we have seen come to pass the prophecy of Paul (2 Tim. 3:13) “...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse...”
- Because our societies, morality, philosophy, vision, etc. has changed so much through time, it is hard for us as humans to even think of something that is more stable than the mountains, more certain than the rising and setting of the sun.
- But here we see the word of God speaking of a Kingdom that cannot be moved.
  - > This means that nothing will alter its eternal state (in contradistinction to the rise and fall of earthly kingdoms ruled over by mortal men)
  - > Nothing will alter the things that God has established in it (in contradistinction to the always changing climate of earthly kingdoms ruled over by men with hugely oversized ambitions)
  - > Nothing can destroy or re-configure its principles (in contradistinction to the incessant tendency among human rulers to re-configure governments and nations after their own image)
  - > Nothing can shake its foundations nor its superstructure (in contradistinction to petty rulers of earth who, with dreams of altering nations and cultures to fit their preconceptions of what is good)
- The unmovable aspects of God’s kingdom which we are receiving is described well in scripture in Daniel 7:13-14: I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

### **III. The Assurance and Knowledge of This Calls Us To a Higher Standard**

(“...let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably...”)

- It is hard to give allegiance to an earthly ruler whose own human blindness makes him a flawed leader at best.
- It is hard to give allegiance to an earthly ruler who has personal agendas that rob you of yours
- It is hard to give allegiance to an earthly ruler who not only does not know God, but doesn't even attempt to follow the precepts of God.
- And we have many reasons not to want to follow such rulers.
- We are bidden to obey them that have the rule over us, and so we struggle to do so knowing many times that such obedience is going to land us in a very bad place.
- But none of these things can be said about allegiance to God.
- More than that, the very encouragement that God has set up an unmovable kingdom gives us the very reason we need to give allegiance to Him.
- What God is has determined the foundations of His kingdom
  - > He is a righteous God, so the principles of His kingdom are founded on righteousness
  - > He is truth, so the principles of His kingdom are those of truth (truth ensures that there is no guile or deception, no lies, no going back on His word, no saying one thing and doing another)
  - > He is a just God, so the principles of His kingdom are founded on just judgment
  - > He is a holy God, so the principles of His kingdom are founded in holiness
  - > He is a wise God, so the principles of His kingdom are founded in wisdom
  - > He is a God of grace, so the principles of His kingdom are founded in grace
  - > He is a Father to His people, so the principles of His kingdom are principles of a faithful Father
- We can know what those foundations are, and that they will not change. So,
  - > We don't have to worry that God might have a blind spot that will ultimately cause us grief
  - > We don't have to worry that God will do something stupid and cost us our freedoms or our dignity, our livelihoods or our pursuit of happiness
  - > We don't have to worry that God has a personal agenda that takes no consideration for our well being
  - > So, we are charged to simply receive the grace of God (let us have grace) through which we may serve Him acceptably.
- How can we describe this “serving God acceptably?” Here is summed up in this statement: “...with reverence and godly fear.”
  - > More and more we find it hard to respect, or render reverence to our nations leaders
  - > More and more we learn that they have not earned our respect; and we learn more and more every day that they are doing things that cost them respect
  - > But the higher standard we are called to regarding our true King and the kingdom he presides over has its own identity. This higher standard stands out because it is an acceptable service to God that is one of reverence and godly fear.
    - Reverence means we respect God's rules
    - Reverence means we respect God

- Reverence means we hold God in a place of ultimately high honor
- Godly fear means we adequately appreciate the power or ability of God to do anything He desires as the ultimate ruler
- Godly fear means we hold Him in such awe (because of that absolute power) that we abstain from anything that displeases Him.