

Berean Christian Fellowship DEVOTIONAL 126.0 September 1

September 16 2016

The Revelation of God's Mystery—P6

"Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).

From the beginning, God's Word is wiser and stronger than any power in His creation, for "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). God promised by His Word that mankind would inherit the coming world and that the angels would serve them.

Satan rebelled and enslaved mankind to condemnation through sin, separating man from the presence and life of Holy God, bringing spiritual and physical death. By condemning all mankind to death, he thought to subvert the Word of God. For a time, satan may have thought he succeeded, but then an unexpected thing happened— "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Man is flesh and blood, so the Word "Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives" (Heb. 2:14-15).

The details of God's plan from the beginning were unclear to angels, and Lucifer presumed incorrectly that in regards to mankind it was all or nothing. By the truth of His Word, God never promised the coming world to ALL mankind—just as God promised that Israel would be saved, but not ALL Israelites were saved, only those who were spiritually of Abraham's seed—those who have faith in God, for "a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the

Spirit" (Rom. 2:29a). God always preserves a remnant—"so too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace" (Rom. 11:5). Through Jesus, God opened a way for anyone who inwardly sought Him to come out from the condemnation of sin into His family, for "all who did receive Him. who believed in His name. He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13), for "if you confess with vour mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rom. 10:9). So that at the proper time it was brought "to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places" (Eph. 3:9-10). Satan's rebellion proves pointless and his scheme to condemn all mankind is undone, for in "all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:37-39),

In our salvation, God's promise and His Word are proven true, and we can hold fast to His Word concerning our future, things that "no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9), "so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:7), for we "will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years" (Revelation 20:6b), and after that, we "will reign forever and ever" (Rev. 22:5b). Praise God! Amen.

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