

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

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Issue 27

Coniah And The Throne Of David

by: Ronnie Scherffius

One of the great errors of our time is the premillennial doctrine of the one-thousand years reign of Jesus in Jerusalem. Passages such as *Daniel 7:13-14* (a prophecy in Jesus ascension) and *Amos 9:11-12* (a prophecy fulfilled the church [cf. Acts 15:13-18]) are used to teach an earthly reign of Jesus. Though the Scriptures do in fact reveal that Jesus will come again (Mt. 25:32-34; Jn. 14:1-4; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; et al) it is never affirmed that Jesus will set foot on this earth. In fact, Jesus said that He would “receive us” to himself (Jn. 14:3) and Paul affirmed we would “meet Him in the air” (1 Thess. 4:16-17).

One text of the Old Testament that is bot decisive but destructive to the premillennial error is found in the prophecies of Jeremiah. Speaking of Coniah (a.k.a. Jeconiah (1 Chron. 3:16) and Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:6) Jeremiah wrote:

“Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not? O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: **for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.**” (Jer. 22:28-30)

While at first view this passage may seem to have little impact on the premillennial earthly reign of Jesus, a closer observation reveals that Jesus cannot reign in Jerusalem **and** His reign be as it is described in Scripture. David spoke of the Messiah as reigning from Zion over all the earth and ruling over His enemies with a rod of iron (Ps. 2:6-9). Isaiah characterized the Messiah’s reign as a government of, “peace” that would have “no end” (Isa. 9:7). How does the prophecy of Jeremiah regarding Coniah, a king of Judah who was taken into Babylonian captivity and died in Babylon have any effect on the premillennial reign of Jesus? Jeremiah’s prophecy simply will not allow a successful prosperous earthly reign of Jesus in Jerusalem!

Note again the end of Jeremiah’s prophecy, “for no man of his **[Coniah’s]** seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah” (Jer. 22:30). Matthew’s gospel account begins with the “generation of Jesus Christ” (Mt. 1:1). From Abraham to Solomon (2-6) we find familiar names of those great men and women in the family tree of Jesus. But it is the name of one of the kings of Judah after the time of Solomon that especially catches our attention: “And Josias begat **Jechonias** and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon” (Mt. 1:11). Jesus is a descendant of Coniah! According to the “word of the LORD” (Jer. 22:29), No descendant of Coniah “shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah” (Jer. 22:30). How then can Jesus, a descendant of David (Mt. 1:6) through Coniah (Mt. 1:11), prosperously rule on the throne of David?!

Hear the words of Jesus, “My kingdom is not of this world” (Jn. 18:36).

The word of the Lord assures us that the Messiah will in fact rule on the throne of David (2 Sam. 7:12-14; Acts 2:30), and at the same time that none of Coniah’s seed will prosper while sitting on that throne! Thus, we conclude that the throne of David on which Jesus will reign is **not** an earthly throne but heavenly. Therefore, Peter would preach that Jesus is reigning even now from His throne (Acts 2:36).

Premillennialism is false from start to finish! “O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD”: Jesus was born to be King (Jn. 18:37; 2 Sam. 7:12-14; Acts 2:30); He was raised up from the dead to be King (Acts 2:32-36); He is now reigning as King (1 Tim. 6:15)!

Living an Urgent Life

Cody Westbrook

Today the average American lives 78.8 years. That averages out to approximately 945 months, 4,111 weeks, 28,781 days, or 690,746 hours. On the surface that certainly seems to be a long, long time. But, really it is not. Ask someone who has lived for 80 years how quickly their life has progressed and it is almost guaranteed they will say that is has absolutely flown by! The Bible says the same. “Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble” (Job 14:1). Our days are as a shadow and a handbreadth (1 Chron. 29:15; Ps. 39:5). From the second we are born the clock begins ticking, and with each passing moment we are inching closer to the end. Life is short. It is like a vapor that is here today and gone tomorrow (Jas. 4:14). Thus, the admonition of Ephesians 5:15-16 is incredibly appropriate: “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” The blessing and brevity of life implores us to live with urgency!

As in all things, Jesus is the perfect example of how to live an urgent life. The gospel account of Mark is a book that highlights Jesus’ commitment to the urgency of His work. The words “straightway” and “immediately” appear 32 times in 16 chapters. After His baptism in the Jordan, “straightway... He saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him” (Mark 1:10). “Immediately” the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness (Mark 1:12). Upon seeing James and John, “straightway” He called them (Mark 1:20). They followed Him into Capernaum and

“straightway” he began teaching in the synagogue (Mark 1:21). The effects of Jesus’ miracles were immediate as is seen in passages like Mark 1:29; 2:12; and 5:42. When the apostles were frightened upon seeing Him walking on the sea, He “immediately” talked to them and calmed their fears (Mark 6:50). After feeding the multitude, He entered “straightway” into a ship with the disciples and sailed to Dalmanutha (Mark 7:10). Even a casual reading of Mark’s gospel account reveals, without question, the fact that Jesus wasted no time in His work. He knew that He had a job to do – “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10) – and He knew He was on a time limit – “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4).

Assuming that Jesus’ ministry lasted a full 3 years, that would mean that He had approximately 26,280 hours to complete His work. Yet, His determination and resolve was so strong, He did not waste a single second of that time. Could the same thing be said about us? Our mission is similar to Christ’s. Jesus told the Apostles to “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). That same charge is given to you and me today. Paul instructed Timothy to “be instant” (KJV) or “ready” (NKJV) to preach the word (2 Tim. 4:2). He instructed the church at Colossae to “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time” (Col. 4:5). However, Paul did not just write about urgency, he practiced it as well. After hearing the gospel he was instructed to stop tarrying and be baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 22:16). Later, after preaching to the Philippian jailer, he baptized him and his household “straightway” (Acts 16:33).

When Jesus called Peter and Andrew to follow Him, “straightway they forsook their nets, and followed Him” (Mark 1:18). They, like Christ, understood that there was much work to be done and no time to waste. We must have the same mentality as it pertains to the Lord’s work. The average American will spend 9 years of his life watching television, 4 years on the phone, and 9 years emailing, texting, using social media, and other forms of online communication. That removes 22 years of an 80- year lifespan. Imagine how much good we could do for the Kingdom of God during that amount of time. How many good works could we pray for? How many bible studies could we have? How many passages of scripture could we memorize? James wrote, “Whereas ye know now what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away... Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (Jas. 4:14; 17). Brethren, it is urgent that we get busy doing good!

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of July 7, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Sammy Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford
Offering: Don Lynn
Assist: BJ Davis, Curtis Scherffius, Pat Gooch

Sunday Evening: Lupe Escojido, Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Ron White
P.M. Closing: Anthony Scherffius

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Larry Nuckels

Open/Close Building: Scherffius

Sound System: Trenton Jenkins

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Dolan

MidTown will be hosting the 2019 Coastal Bend Summer Youth Series on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 7pm. We need volunteers to bring drinks and cookies. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

G.E.M.S. MEETING JULY 13:

Girls Encouraging Many Souls is at 9am this Saturday at the church building. This is a group for girls 8 and up to learn about serving God and moms are always welcome to stay.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Richard Hill, who was in the hospital last week.
Wayne Jones' mother, Cathy, who was diagnosed with cancer last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 11: MidTown hosts Area Summer Youth Series
July 13: GEMS meeting @ 9am at the building
July 14: Quarterly Men's Business Meeting @ 3pm

AREA EVENTS

July 21-26: Peach Valley Youth Camp
Aug. 2-4: Discipleship University @ Dripping Springs
Aug. 10: Adams Street Ladies' Day in Beeville
Sept. 21: San Pedro C of C Ladies' Day in San Antonio

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Della Rampley, Josha Gooch (7);
Mike Page (8); Braxton Flonnory (13)

Happy Anniversary: Les & Sandra Daltry (8); Mark &
Nia FitzSimmons (9); Bryant & Nina Siegel (13)

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of June 30, 2019

Bible Class.....115
A.M. Worship.....141
P.M. Worship.....95
Wednesday Bible Study.....91

Offering \$3,996

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

Each week will focus on reading a portion of the New Testament, each reading will only take 30 minutes:

Acts 8—Acts 14



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

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