

KINGDOM OR EMPIRE?



Are we East of Eden?



*“Then Cain **went away** from the presence of the **LORD** and settled in the land of Nod, **east of Eden**. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. **When he built a city**, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, **Enoch...**”*

Genesis 4:16-17

There was a place called Eden. It was a paradise and a place where everything was as it ought to be. Where the favour and peace of the Lord rested on everything. Cain wasn't there. He was east of there... are we?

Egypt - Exodus 5

- Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'" But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go..."
- ..."Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens." And Pharaoh said, "Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!"
- The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen, "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves. But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, 'Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.' Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words."
- So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, "Thus says Pharaoh, 'I will not give you straw. Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least.'" So the people were scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. The taskmasters were urgent, saying, "Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw." And the foremen of the people of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not done all your task of making bricks today and yesterday, as in the past?"

Jerusalem

- Now **if you obey me fully** and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." (Exodus 19:5-6)
- Here is the account of the **forced labor** King Solomon conscripted to build the LORD's temple, his own palace, the supporting terraces, the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, **Megiddo** and Gezer. (1 Kings 9:15)
- Solomon **accumulated chariots and horses**; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem. The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as plentiful as sycamore-fig trees in the foothills. Solomon's horses were **imported from Egypt** and from Kue—the royal merchants purchased them from Kue. They imported a chariot from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for a hundred and fifty. **They also exported them to all the kings** of the Hittites and of the Arameans.

Exile

- Exile is not only a location, but a state of the soul.

2 Results:

- 1. What happens when you fail to convert blessings from God into blessings for others.
- 2. When you find yourself a stranger to the purposes of God.

Rome – Jesus' Ministry

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Son of God.”

“Jesus is Lord.”

“Thy kingdom come...”

“Prince of Peace”

(peace thru victory)

“Turn the other cheek”

“Walk with him 2 miles...”

*“Love your enemies and pray
for those that persecute you”*

In the world, but not of the world...

- *"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the **full measure of my joy** within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. **They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.** Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.*

» John 17:13-16

A Different Kind of Citizen...

- They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God with one another and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

» **Acts 2:42-57**