

Mariah Yanes update: Internal organs appear to function. Expect much improvement in a week.
However, do not cease in your prayer activities concerning this sister.
And, THANK THE LORD!!!

GoodNews Letter

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JOHN, THE BAPTIST (AND KINGDOM POSITIONS)

"I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" Mt 11:11-12.

"Greater than he," is understood as **greater than John** (in his position) **that he was called to as a forerunner to Christ**. None, born of women (that means everyone) is greater than John's position of introducing the LORD, Jesus Christ to Israel and to the world. He faithfully served.

Will there be positions in the (**coming**) kingdom? I say "**coming**" because Jesus instructs us to pray to the Father, "**Thy Kingdom come.**" And, we conclusively understand that it is a time when His will is done on earth, as it is in heaven, Mt 6:9.

Indeed! Serving the LORD now is a calling; just like the calling of John. In accordance to God's plan, he served faithfully. Further, we can find many other Biblical passages that show a "Greater position," when the KINGDOM comes; even, greater than John had while he was on the earth.

1) Jesus promised to the churches of Revelation: "**...which have not defiled their garments; they shall walk with me in white for they are worthy,**" Rev. 3:4. Here, the Greek word is *axios* and means **deserving** and **merited**. Deserving because of their faithfulness to their calling.

2) **Rulership**: Jesus was born to rule the earth "**And she (the nation of Israel) brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations (on earth) with a rod of iron....**" Revelation 12:5.

And, those who overcome and keep His works will be given "**power over the nations**" (on the earth), and "**shall rule them with a rod of iron,**" according to Jesus in Revelation 2:27 (the rod is made of iron, meaning no bending, no skirting issues).

It is clear that Scripture shows of a variety of activities and rulership at the time Jesus returns and sets up His Father's kingdom.

Therefore, while we are taught to preach **OF the kingdom**, it hasn't arrived; not yet. When John preached, "**Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,**" Mt 3:2, it was because Jesus was in their midst. Because He was here on earth, the kingdom was **at hand**; but, only for the time. **The Kingdom** could come, if Israel received their Messiah; and, it will come when they accept Jesus, at His Second Coming.

Jesus had the same message as John. "**...Jesus began to preach and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is 'at hand'**" (Mt 4:17).

But, this was during the first advent of Jesus. The kingdom lies within Him and His being; making the Kingdom "**at hand**," only while He was on earth.

When you think about it, how could the kingdom be on earth without a King sitting in Jerusalem, controlling the entire earth? We must notice what prophesy demands.

"**Behold, the day of the LORD cometh...For I will gather all nations (on the earth) against Jerusalem to battle...Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations (on earth), as when he fought in the day of battle...And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives (on earth),**" Zech 14:4.

Some teach and, even say they believe, that John won't be in the Bride of Christ. They put John into the category of: "**If one isn't in the church, he can't be in the Bride.**" According to such teachers, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Daniel, Moses, et al, are placed within the same league.

However, Jesus cleared up such a misunderstanding when He told the Jews, "**There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the KINGDOM OF GOD, and you yourselves cast out,**" Luke 13:28.

Jesus said these words to those in Jerusalem - Jews, whose entire heart was set on the establishment of the Kingdom. But, they only had eyes of a physical kingdom; one that was for their nation, alone. It was in a nationalistic sense that they defined the kingdom. They were of Abraham's seed but with minds that lifted Israel above all other nations.

The majority of Israel missed the kingdom teaching, and it's going to hurt when they see the splendor of the Kingdom; but not being able to enter it. They are cast out because they missed their King.

Thus, some of the import of just how glorious the Kingdom is will not allow room for tradition. Whether, Jewish, Christian or what, the kingdom was promised to

Abraham and his descendants. Fortunately, Paul explained, "Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise," Galatians 4:28.

Going back to John, the Baptist and the fullness of time, God sent the "greatest ever," to introduce the Seed of Abraham, Jesus. No one born of women has had a higher calling than John.

However, "The Law and the prophets were until John: since that time the KINGDOM OF GOD IS PREACHED, and every man presseth into it," Luke 16:16.

As the kingdom is taught and even pressed into, many will not receive it nor inherit it (see I Cor 6:9; Gal 5:20-21). But, for those who do, a higher and greater position will be given; even, more than John had while serving on earth.

When we read the kingdom truth, we find that there is a tremendous difference between those who are saved and those who inherit the kingdom. So, why is this? If we read the kingdom teachings in Luke, alone, we could find the answer.

Beginning at Luke 12:31 we read what it takes to inherit the Kingdom. Certainly, we shall have questions; but, Jesus' teachings are not about being saved from torment. He taught God's Kingdom, a future place where those of Hebrews eleven - the faith chapter - and those of faith will enter. Along with Abraham, we shall look for that city; that economy of the highest.

Jesus explains the kingdom in terms of: "Seeking first," teaching how to live. He shows that promise is not to the majority, but the few. "Fear not little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to GIVE YOU THE KINGDOM," Luke 12:32.

You'll read of the unfaithful servant who lost his position. You'll see the kingdom placed in parabolic form, where the "mustard seed" and "leaven" are used; as well as, "lost sheep" and "a lost son."

Once we get past John 3:16 and go on to why God loved and why He called us, we find that the Kingdom is not a hard doctrine to understand; it's the MAJOR TEACHING in God's Word. And, Kingdom teaching is so clear.

Yet, men push aside what Jesus said in order to fit their tradition. Don't be Jewish or have any other traditional position than that of the Kingdom position. Preach, "Repent, the kingdom of heaven is coming."

Hear Jesus! "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able," Luke 13:24.

It was John, the Baptist's position to present Jesus and the truth that was in His Person. It is our blessing to receive Jesus and His truth and, thereby, present it to the world. That's why He organized His church and sent it into all the world (Mt 28:19-20). After one is saved, then what? "Seek the Kingdom."