



## “But Now”

### The Rejected Kingdom and Coming Hostility to the Gospel

#### Kingdom Proclaimed and Rejected

##### Matthew 10:1

1And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

##### Matthew 10:5-8

5These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:**

6**But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

7**And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

8**Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.**

At this time the disciples were sent out for a short time to their countryman and not to the gentiles. The Lord was still with them. Their journey would be short and the mission field small. The gentiles would not have the gospel of the kingdom presented to them until after the Jews had rejected it.

##### Matthew 10:9-10

9 **Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,**

10**Nor scrip for *your* journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.**

They were also, with respect to their need, to depend entirely on Him who sent them. Emmanuel was there. If miracles were a proof to the world of their Master's power, the fact that they lacked nothing should be so to their own hearts. The ordinance was abrogated during that period of their ministry which followed the departure of Jesus from this world. - *Darby*

##### Luke 10:3-4

3**Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.**

4**Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.**

##### Matthew 10:16

16**Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.**

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves - He who is called to preach the Gospel is called to embrace a state of constant labor, and frequent suffering. He who gets ease and pleasure, in consequence of embracing the ministerial office, neither preaches the Gospel, nor is sent of God. If he did the work of an evangelist, wicked men and demons would both oppose him. - *Clarke*

## “But Now”

The conditions as existed while the kingdom was being proclaimed no longer held true after its rejection. - *E.W. Bullinger, The Companion Bible*

With the rejection of the kingdom the disciples were now to be sent out into a hostile world, no longer among their countrymen. The things they didn't need before the rejection of the kingdom and that the Lord provided; they now

would need in an evil world that would hate them as they hate the one who sent them. Now with the departure of the Lord from this world they were told to arm themselves for the defense of the Gospel and their protection. The sword in the sense the Lord meant for its use was to be defensive and not offensive. (The sword in Eph. 6:17 if offensive as the Word of God). The Lord knew that they would face opposition to the spreading of the Gospel by Satan and his demonic forces, and that by the preaching of the Gospel and the very name of Jesus would not bring peace to a fallen world under the control of Satan but rather division. - *Ephesians 2:2* Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to *the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience*:

The application of this for the church is that when we leave the confines of our sanctuary and the fellowship of other believers things change ('but now'). Where before among the brethren we need not a sword; but now as we go into the mission field let us take up our sword in defense of the gospel and for the cause of Christ.

### **Luke 22:36**

36 Then said he unto them, **But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.**

Buy a sword (agorasatō machairan). This is for defense clearly. The reference is to the special mission in Galilee (Luk\_9:1-6; Mar\_6:6-13; Matthew 9:35-11:1). They are to expect persecution and bitter hostility (Joh\_15:18-21). Jesus does not mean that his disciples are to repel force by force, but that they are to be ready to defend his cause against attack. Changed conditions bring changed needs. This language can be misunderstood as it was then. - *Robertson Word Pictures in the New Testament*

### **Matthew 10:34**

34 **Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.**

### **Luke 12:51**

51 **Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:**

### **Micah 7:6**

6 For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies *are* the men of his own house.

### **Luke 12:49**

49 **I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?**

The preaching of the Gospel will not bring peace to a world under the influence of Satan and his forces but will set the Children of God against the Children of Disobedience (Col. 3:6). The spiritual warfare between Gods people and the devils people will bring a sword, division, fire, and set families against each other. Are we not told of this warfare, and that it is a spiritual warfare between Gods people 'the church' and Satan's people the principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12).

### **2Corinthians 10:3**

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Imaginations = logismos - log-is-mos'

From G3049; computation, that is, (figuratively) reasoning (conscience, conceit): - imagination, thought.

### **Ephesians 6:12**

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

The peace that the Lord Jesus Christ brings is not a world peace but rather a peace of reconciliation between man and God to those that believe and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is a peace not understood by the world but rather only by those heirs of salvation and reconciled to God.

**John 14:27**

27Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

**The Church and the Sword.**

“There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter claimed by Satan. – *C.S. Lewis*

As the consummation of all things as foreordained by God is coming upon the world the true blood bought born again Church must not marvel at the rise of satanic and demonic opposition and the hostility of a lost world. But we must endeavor in the time left we have to do battle against those that oppose the Gospel and, to reach the lost and share the gospel and bring into the fold as many as can be plucked from the snares of the devil and an eternity in hell where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched. We have need of the armor of God and the sword- the word of God. It is a weapon forged not with human hands but by the very power of the Eternal Living God. So let us ever be to the plow with the sword at our side and not be overtaken by surprise at the hostility and opposition of those that oppose us in the spreading of the gospel. It should be no strange thing to the people of God.

**John 15:18-20**

18If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated you.*

19If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

20Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

**Jude 1:3**

3Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

**Ephesians 6:11-17**

11Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places.*

13Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

“The safest place to be is in the will of God” – *REG*

**Proverbs 16:7** When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

JESUS SAVES

REG

