

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***  
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

***Standing on the Promises of God - -***

**1 Chronicles 16:34** Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good and His loyal love endures. *NET Bible*

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**KINGS OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!**

**Matthew 5:13**

The backdrop of this passage is the Sermon on the Mount.

- ✓ The Lord Jesus Christ and twelve disciples have ascended the mountain.
- ✓ The Lord Jesus Christ is teaching the disciples the principles by which the kingdom will be ruled.
- ✓ The Lord Jesus Christ has corrected the Pharisees' interpretation of the Law.
- ✓ The Lord Jesus Christ is preparing the disciples to be sent out to the nation Israel.

The Lord Jesus Christ tells them that they . . .

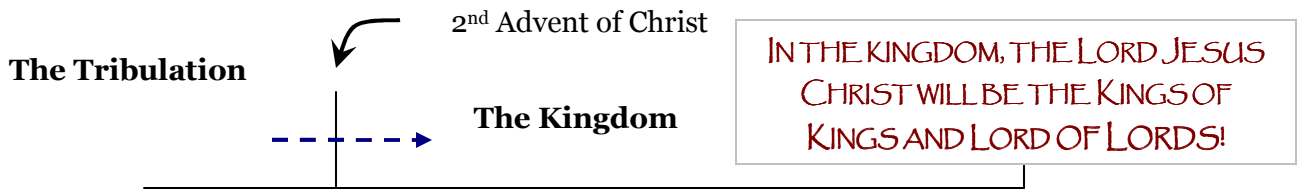
- **13 "... are the salt of the earth. . . ."**
- **14 "... are the light of the world."**

As salt must come into contact with food and function as a preservative to prevent food's decay, the disciples must **come into contact** with the subjects of the kingdom and **teach them** the principles with which Messiah will rule that kingdom.

This will prepare the subjects for life in the kingdom when Messiah establishes it  
and prevent the decay of what has been achieved, thus far.

***In review - -***

1. John the Baptist had prepared the way for the nation Israel to receive her promised Messiah-King (**Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-5**).
2. Many had been identified with the kingdom and the promised King through John's baptism (**Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:5; John 1:35-37**).
3. Prophecy had been fulfilled and divine authority and power demonstrated by Jesus, thus authenticating Him as Israel's promised Messiah (**Matthew 1:1, 22-23; 2:6 cf. 2 Samuel 7:12a; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Hosea 11:1; Luke 7:22 cf. Isaiah 35:5; Luke 4:14-21 cf. Isaiah 61:1** ).
  - The disciples needed to function as a preservative because the Pharisees were mounting a counterattack to prevent Messiah's momentum (**John 5:15-18; Mark 2:16, 24; 3:6**).
  - As the disciples fulfill their responsibilities, the people will be drawn to them as one is attracted to light.
  - Then, the disciples must show them the way into the kingdom.



**The Kingdom will initially be populated with believers only - Jews and Gentiles!**

*Application for us today (in review) - -*

**POD (1) - Spiritual decay is prevented through *contact* between fellow believers (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11-13; Ephesians 4:16 cf. Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11).**

**1 Corinthians 12 -**

**7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

**Spiritual Gifts are for the benefit of those with who you are in contact.**

**Commands for one another:**

**Pray for one another!  
Keep on encouraging one another!  
Build up one another!**

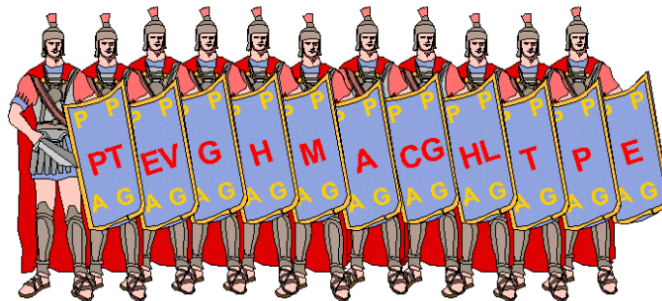
**Ephesians 6:12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**Ephesians 4:16**

From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint (**contact**) that is supplied, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

**EXOTERIKOS HARMONIA**

PL/Θ (ER/DWG<sub>50</sub> + ER/DWG<sub>5</sub> + ER/SG )



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**Hebrews 10:24-25**

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

## 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

**POD (2) - The believers in contact must be functioning according to their divine design, in the geographical will of God, for *maximum* impact (Ephesians 4:16; Romans 1:13; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19; 1 Thessalonians 3:3, 6).**

**POD (3) - This geographical will is only revealed to the believer who *desires* God's will [*above all things*] and walks dependently upon the Spirit to direct his paths.**

- **Ephesians 5:18** "... keep on *being* filled with the Spirit." *cf.*
- **Galatians 5:16** "... walk by the Spirit. ..."
- **Galatians 5:18** "... led by the Spirit. ..."
- **Jeremiah 10:23; 1 Corinthians 3:16**
  - ✓ Revealed through the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit *from within* (**Romans 8:16; 9:1**)
  - ✓ God's providential hand *from without* must open the door (**Colossians 4:3**).

**Jeremiah 10:23** I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

**1 Corinthians 3:16** Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

**You cannot live this life on your own!**

## Colossians 4:2-3

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with [*an attitude of*] thanksgiving; <sup>3</sup> **praying** at the same time for us as well, **that God will open up to us a door for the word**, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

**Prayer sets God in motion to open up doors.**

## Acts 12:5-10

<sup>5</sup> So Peter was kept in the prison, but **prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.**

<sup>6</sup> On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison.

<sup>7</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands.

<sup>10</sup> When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, **which opened for them by itself**; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

**Prayer!**

**Willingness!**

**God is bound to His infallible Word as we pray!**

## Matthew 7:7-8

**"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>"For [*because*] everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*