

Vision: The City of God II

“What went wrong?”

When the Hebrew children left Egypt, Yahweh guided them from being just a people to becoming a nation. They were to establish a new community, a kingdom in the earth as it is in Heaven.

- “*The Kingdom of God is the community as God imagines it*”

^{NKJV} **Matthew 6:9** After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Followers of Jesus are to pray and work for the kingdom to come and His will (desire) to be done in earth as it is in Heaven, *the community as God imagines it*.

^{NKJV} **Ezekiel 37:11** Then He said to me, “Son of man, **these bones are the whole house of Israel**. They indeed say, Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!”

Not much **changed** from the captivity, to Jesus’ day and the post resurrection world.

- There was **total systems** failure.

I

The political system continued to use **oppression** verses insuring justice.

^{NKJV} **Acts 16:35** And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, “Let those men go.” ³⁶ So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, “The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace.” ³⁷ But Paul said to them, “**They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison**. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out.” ³⁸ And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. ³⁹ Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city.

The Religious/Value shaping system continued to use control verses passing on God's values to the community.

NKJV Matthew 23:23 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and **have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith.** These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ²⁴ Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

The community was mostly illiterate, had an oral tradition and people were controlled by what they were told.

- The Negro Bible -The Slave Bible – Select Parts of the Holy Bible for the use of the Negro Slave of the British West – India Islands *Joseph Lumpkin*

II

The economic system continued to use exploration verses ensuring the fair distribution of God's bounty.

NKJV James 5:1 **Come now, you rich,** weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! ² **Your riches** are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ **Your gold** and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. **You have heaped up treasure** in the last days. ⁴ Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, **which you kept back by fraud, cry out;** and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵ **You have lived on the earth in pleasure** and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. ⁶ **You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.**

The prophets continued to use seduction verses holding systems accountable.

NKJV Matthew 24::11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

- Seductive prophets are signs of the last days.

III

The people continued to use exploitation verses obeying the Lord.

NKJV James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶ **But you have dishonored the poor man.** Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself,”** you do well; ⁹ but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

- The Lord is still looking for someone to stand.
- The Lord is looking for someone to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before Our God. *Micah 6:8*