

THE TRUE GOSPEL

100 SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

By Marie Casale
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A REQUEST FOR HIGH POSITIONS IN THE KINGDOM

Mat 20:20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping [him], and desiring a certain thing of him.

Mat 20:21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in **THY KINGDOM**.

Mat 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

Mat 20:23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but [it shall be given to them] for whom it is prepared of my Father.

Mat 20:24 And when the ten heard [it], they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.

Mat 20:25 But Jesus called them [unto him], and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

Mat 20:26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

Mat 20:27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Mat 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Note: Zebedee's children were the Apostles James and John.

* Mat 4:21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James [the son] of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

The request their mother made of Jesus shows that they all knew Jesus' plan was to set up a literal Kingdom. And she wanted her sons to have the highest positions in that Kingdom next to Jesus. Jesus asked in symbolic terms of being 'baptized' whether they were able to suffer and die as he would soon suffer and die. They said 'yes'. Then Jesus foretold that they would indeed suffer and die as he would. How did James and John die? Herod killed James with the sword.

* Act 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth [his] hands to vex certain of the church.

Act 12:2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

This was similar to Jesus who died on the cross as a spear pierced his side.

* Jhn 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

However, the last we hear of John was that he was exiled to the isle of Patmos.

* Rev 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

We could assume that John was killed on a cross or with a sword later to fulfill the prophecy of Jesus. Or we could liken his exile to the sacrifice of Christ symbolized in the sacrifice of the Day of Atonement.

Lev 16 tells us that on the Day of Atonement, two goats are taken as a sacrifice to the Lord. One goat is killed and we believe he represents Jesus. The other goat is sent away into the wilderness bearing the sins of the congregation.

* Lev 16:7 And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the Lord [at] the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Lev 16:8 And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

Lev 16:9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the Lord'S lot fell, and offer him [for] a sin offering.

Lev 16:10 But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make an atonement with him, [and] to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness. This sacrifice shows the two penalties for sin. One is death and the other is separation or exile from the congregation. Jesus paid both penalties as he was killed and was also put outside the camp.

* Hbr 13:11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.

Hbr 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

Hbr 13:13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

You see then how both the death of James and the exile of John could fulfill Jesus' prediction that they would indeed be baptized with the same baptism that he was.

Other things we can learn from these scriptures:

* It is God the Father who shall appoint positions in the Kingdom of God.

* Those who wish to have high positions in God's kingdom may have to suffer the indignation of fellow Christians.

* Those who will have the highest position in God's Kingdom will probably have to endure suffering as Jesus himself suffered.

* Christians are not to conduct themselves like Gentiles whose rulers exercise authority and dominion over their servants, but to conduct themselves as servants of one another just as Jesus himself did.