

## **The Kingdom from the Heavens** Interpreting the Gospel of Matthew

- The Kingdom from the Heavens is distinct from the Kingdom of God (Mt. 19:23-25).
- Repent! Why? (Mt. 3:1-2); No longer to wait for Jehovah's return. The Anointed One is back among Israel (Ps. 2:2).

### **The Kingdom from the Heavens—Offered Form**

- 1. Scripture:** (Mt. 4:17-11:12)
  - 1) Beginning after John the Baptizer's imprisonment (Mt. 4:17).
  - 2) Till Jesus' terms rejected (Mt. 11:12-14; Jn. 6:15, 18:36).
- 2. Ruler:** The Anointed one, The Christ—Jesus as King (Ps. 2:2; Dan. 9:25-26; Mt. 3:16-19; Jn. 1:31).
- 3. Subjects:** Disciples—**form 2** (Mt. 4:12 till Mt. 11:12).
  - 1) Literally abandon earthly family (Mt. 10:34-37).
  - 2) Those that literally continually follow Jesus (Mt. 10:38).
  - 3) "Cross" at this time symbolizes ignoble lifestyle of disciples estranged from earthly family (Mt. 10:36-39; Lu. 14:27).
  - 4) Called disciples (Lu. 14:26-27, 33).
  - 5) Not all disciples were believers (Jn. 6:60-66).
- 4. Entry requirements:** discipleship.
  - 1) Forsake all and follow Jesus—literally (Mt. 10:34-37).
  - 2) Thus disciples had a righteousness greater than the Scribes and Pharisees (Mt. 5:20; Lu. 14:26-35).
  - 3) Discipleship in this form (**form 2**) for the Kingdom from the Heavens is not the same as entry into the Kingdom of God (Jn. 6:60-66).