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The Starting Point: Believing

Jn. 3:11-16

Steps for Israel to "see" and "enter" their long-prophesied earthly Kingdom:

Starting block: Believe in His Name—justification before God and His tribunal unto eternal life, all person/individual sins forgiven. Believing from the heart, God places them into the Believing Israel; God's born-again Nation of Israel (Jn. 1:12-13; 2:23; Ezek. 36:1-23). All this is by faith WITHOUT works.

Step #1: This gives them the spiritual eyes of faith that will empower them to "see" the Kingdom, perceive it, recognize it. The Kingdom present at that time was the presence of the King, the Lord Jesus Christ and the signs (Jn. 3:3; Lk. 11:20; Ezek. 36:1-23).

Step #2: "Seeing" the Kingdom gives them a longing to "enter" the Kingdom, which occurred by them faithfully being brought through (born of) Israel's National Cleansing and Repentance Program, at that time JohnB's and Jesus's water baptism, later advancing to Peter's water baptism and Christ baptizing with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, giving a foretaste of Kingdom/New Covenant Blessings for the next roughly 7 years at which would be fulfilled when the Lord Jesus Christ's 2nd Coming when He Himself sprinkles them with water, cleansing them from all association with Israel's NATIONAL debt of sin and then giving them the spirit so that they never again accrue a NATIONAL debt of sin. Individuals will commit sin and it will be dealt with immediately (Acts 5:1-11), but they will never again be burdened with a NATIONAL debt of sin (Jn. 3:5-6; Ezek. 36:24-28).

Step #3: This results in the "born again" Nation of Israel, whom God gather to Himself by blowing His Wind/Spirit over them, raising them from their Gentile graves and bringing them into (giving birth to them) the Promised Land a restored sin debt-free re-born Nation, His Own Nation, a Holy Nation that will supply the world with a Kingdom of priests (Jn. 3:8; Ex. 19:5; Ezek. 37:1-14).

Back to the <u>Starting Block</u>: To be qualified for any of this, for participation in Israel's National Re-Birth and Restoration in the Kingdom begins with RECEIVING AND BELIEVING GOD AND HIS WORD (Jn. 3:11-15).

- 1. After receiving Christ's instructions, Nico should have progressed:
 - a. He should have recognized that he and his religious co

 -workers don't know anything. Jesus knows everything. (Jn. 3:1-11)
 - b. Nico progressed to seeing Jesus go from being a teacher sent from God (3:2) to the Son of Man/Son of God, LORD, Messiah/Christ who is the vehicle of eternal life and the Savior of the world (Jn. 3:12-21).
 - c. Nico should have progressed from just being a ruler/leader of the Jews (3:1) to being the master/teacher of Israel (3:10).

- 2. As a self-proclaimed expert in the Scriptures, Nicodemus should have known what God's Spirit needed to do with the dead nation of Israel to reborn to be restored to her in the Kingdom (Jn. 3:1-12).
- 3. He should have known that doing signs did not necessarily mean God was with someone (Jn. 3:2; Deut. 13:1-5; Mat. 7:21-23).
- 4. He should have known that going all the way back to Moses God has been declaring to Israel that she needed a spiritual regeneration to see/perceive/understand the Kingdom. She needed to be born again (3:3).
- 5. He should have known that they needed to go through Israel's cleansing program to enter the Kingdom (3:5-7; Ezek. 36:24-26).

- 6. He should have known that to be restored to the land under the Davidic King—established in the Kingdom--the Spirit needed to blow over the dead bones of Israel, restoring her to life (Ezek. 37:1-14; Acts 2:2).
 - --It was beyond human (the flesh's) ability to accomplish and beyond human control.
 - --The darkness will not be able to overpower it (1:5). Rather it will empower believers to become the children of God and be brought into the Light (1:9-13).
- 7. Israel's problem was that the majority of religious leaders didn't believe in the Father; therefore, they did not receive the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Light; thereby remaining in darkness where they could neither see nor enter the Kingdom (Lk. 18:9-14).

- 8. Jesus explains to Nicodemus, who represents the whole accursed nation, that what they need is not external religious system but an internal new spiritual heart by believing.
 - --this was a requirement from the very beginning of Israel's history (Deut. 6:5-6, 30:5-6) and was a provision of the New Covenant (Jer. 31:33-34; Ezek. 11:19-20) and this would require a new spiritual birth (Ezek. 36:24-28, 37; Is. 66:5-8; Ps. 22:31; Mat. 19:28; 1 Pet. 1:23).
 - --Jesus came to call sinners not the righteous—1500 yrs under the curses of the Law and the COPs should have led them to understand that they were sinners in need of a Savior and could not do it on their own. Needed to fall on the grace resident in His Jehovah Name by believing (Jn. 5:45-46; 3:14).