

Luke 11:21c-22; Luke 22: Plans A & B

CTL Luke 11:21 - Whenever a prepared man has been completely armed with weapons, guards and defends his own home and property ...

Next comes the present active participle of the verb: *huparcho* + the possessive pronoun: *autos* - “his possessions.”

What his possessions are is indicated by the present active indicative of the verb: *eimi* - “are.”

present - Static; a principle which perpetually exists and is always true.

active - Your possessions, when protected and defended by you, produce the action of perpetually remaining in a status quo of being undisturbed.

en + eirene - “in tranquility”; “in a state of peace”; “undisturbed.”

Luke 11:21 - Whenever a prepared man has been completely armed with weapons, guards and defends his own home and property, his possessions are undisturbed.

The Lord then goes on to demonstrate that even this man may be overwhelmed by a superior, better armed, and more powerful adversary.

Luke 11:22 - But when someone stronger than he attacks him and is victorious over him, he disarms him of the weapons on which he depended and distributes his plunder.

Analysis

Our Lord describes to the multitude and the Pharisees His victorious assault upon the demon which possessed the formally mute man. In order to illustrate His miracle of outcasting, He chooses an example from establishment truth. He states a circumstance which everyone recognizes is a principle of natural law:

Luke 11:21 - Whenever a prepared man has been completely armed with weapons, guards and defends his own home and property, his possessions are undisturbed.

He then shows through another principle of natural law that if he is attacked by someone who is a superior and overpowering adversary then his possessions are placed in jeopardy. Note again verse Luke 11:22.

Before leaving this passage, we need to complete the message our Lord is teaching.

Before a thief can rob a house, the owner must be overpowered. This can also be seen from a parallel passage in:

Matthew 12:29 - How can anyone enter the strong man’s house and carry off his property unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

In the illustration, the “strong man” of Luke 11:21 is Satan.

The house which he defends and protects is his earthly kingdom.

The Messiah has entered the satanic domain in order to reveal Himself as the Jewish Messiah, the rightful Heir to David's throne, and the Savior of a lost and dying world.

In Luke 11:22, Jesus Christ is the "*stronger Man*" Who overpowers Satan with His work on the cross.

The armor on which Satan had depended was his adroitness in prestidigitation and legerdemain though which he lured man into sin with continuous assaults from the SWAT Team of the sinful nature.

Those who believe in Christ alone for eternal salvation become the property which the Lord redeems from the slave market of sin.

If you are being held hostage and in bondage, you don't mind if a stronger man breaks in to free you from your tyrannical master, in this case your first husband, the sinful nature.

Nevertheless, the principle from establishment truth, used as an illustration, is still valid:

Luke 11:21 - Whenever a prepared man has been completely armed with weapons, guards and defends his own home and property, his possessions are undisturbed.

We now turn to another passage in Luke in order to note the biblical mandate to keep and bear arms.

Luke 22:35–38

In this passage, the Lord informs His disciples that a policy established for **Plan A** is now changed for their involvement in Plan B. Plan A was His initial message to Israel that the "*kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" **Plan B** went into effect when the Jews rejected the kingdom through negative volition. The Lord's message then changed from introducing His public kingdom, namely the Millennium, to evangelizing for His private kingdom, namely the Church.

I. Comparison of Plan A and Plan B

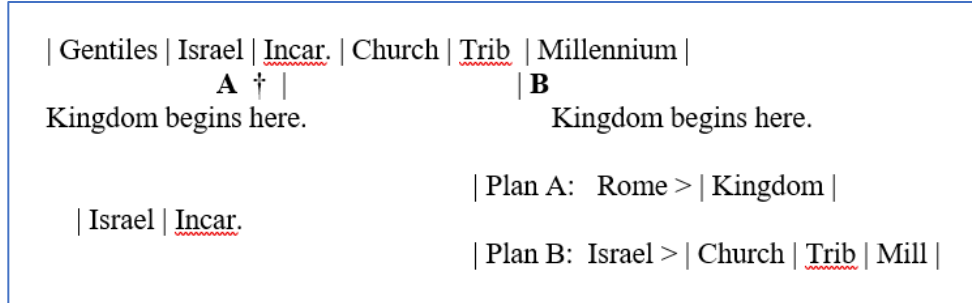
The Millennium is the public presentation of the kingdom of heaven. It will no longer be a mystery but an historical reality.

Our Lord's First Advent had as its initial objective the establishment of this public kingdom. It was the subject of the first statement made by our Lord in His public ministry:

Matthew 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand [imminent]."

However, the initial response to the establishment of the kingdom was rejected by both the people and the Jewish religious community. This caused our Lord to eventually shift emphasis away from what we might call Plan A over to Plan B.

Here is a time line showing how the sequence of dispensations would occur under both Plan A and Plan B:



The Hebrew Scripture clearly indicates that when the Messiah comes, His kingdom reign is the very next item on the dispensational agenda.

Our Lord remained faithful to the Jews by offering the kingdom promised in the Scripture.

The proclamation, “*the kingdom of heaven is at hand*” was repeated throughout the Lord’s early public ministry. The Jews understood the message, they just didn't believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah. They expected the Messiah to immediately set up His Theocracy and issue in a period of absolute prosperity.

In their obsession with escaping the constraints of human government, they conveniently ignored the Old Testament's clear revelation that suffering must precede glory—the cross must come before the crown. (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53) Nevertheless, their volition was objectively challenged by Jesus. His offer of the kingdom was real therefore could have been accepted. Jewish volition was free.

It must be remembered that in eternity past, the omniscience of God knew of Israel’s negative volition toward the Messiah and thus the Church Age was a certainty within the divine decrees.

It remains up to conjecture what would have happened had the Jewish people responded to our Lord’s message. They didn't and God knew they wouldn't. Nevertheless, the offer had to be real in order that volition might be legitimately challenged. Consequently, although there was a Plan A, it was decreed that it would be abandoned for Plan B. Potential history is excluded from the decrees in favor of what actually occurs.

What, then, was Plan A? We may speculate that had the Jews accepted Jesus as Messiah then the Romans would have crucified Him anyway since His claim to be King of kings would have been considered a capital crime by the Roman authorities.

And so, we can note the statement of Pontius Pilate in John 19:12-16 for insight into what might have occurred had the Jews been positive.

John 19:12 - As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release (Jesus), but the Jews cried out saying, “If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar.”

John 19:13 - When Pilate therefore heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, *Gabbatha*.

John 19:14 - Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold, your King!”

John 19:15 - They therefore cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”

John 19:16 - So he [**Pilate**] then delivered Him [Jesus] over to them [**the Jews**] to be crucified.

Even after the Romans and Jews had collaborated in the execution of Christ, His disciples were still in a state of confusion regarding the establishment of the kingdom.

Acts 1:6 - And so when they [**the Flag Apostles**] had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

The apostles understood the requirement of His suffering and death but assumed that following the resurrection He would establish the kingdom. Our Lord responded in Acts 1:

Acts 1:7 - He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs [**dispensations**] which the Father has fixed by His own authority [**the divine decrees**].”