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Unstoppable

Mark 4:26-34

Jesus ...
The King

The Kingdom Of God

The Miracle Crop & The Mustard Seed

Mark 4:26-34/Joel 3:12-13/Ezekiel 17:23 & 31:6/Daniel 4:9-21

The Kingdom Of God

What To Expect

1) The Kingdom Is . . . Unstoppable.

Mark 1:14-15/Matthew 16:18/1 Corinthians 1:18

2) The Kingdom Is . . . Unpredictable.

Their exact numbers are none too clear, since they are too busy baptizing newcomers to be counting them precisely. But by most accounts, membership of Pentecostal and independent churches already runs into the hundreds of millions. . . . Within a few decades such denominations will represent a far larger segment of global Christianity, and just conceivably a majority. These newer churches preach deep personal faith and communal orthodoxy, mysticism, and puritanism, all founded on clear scriptural authority. . . . In this thought world, prophecy is an everyday reality, while faith-healing, exorcism, and dreams-visions are all fundamental parts of religious sensibility . . .

Since there were only a handful of charismatics and Pentecostals in 1900, and several hundred million today, is it not reasonable to identify this as perhaps the most successful movement of the past century. According to current projections, the number of charismatics/Pentecostal believers should cross the one billion mark before 2050. In terms of global religions, there will be by that point roughly as many charismatics/Pentecostals as Hindus, and twice as many as there are of Buddhists. And that is just taking one of the diverse currents of rising Christianity: there will be even more Catholics than Pentecostals.

Far from Islam being the world's largest religion by 2020 or so. . . . Christianity should still have a substantial lead and will maintain its position into the foreseeable future. By 2050, some 34 percent of the world's people will be Christian, roughly what the figure was at the height of the European world hegemony in 1900.

(Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom, The Coming of Global Christianity*)

As I travel, I have observed a pattern, a strange historical phenomenon of God "moving" geographically from the Middle East to Europe, to North America, to the developing world. My theory this: God goes where He is wanted. (Philip Yancey)