

**“Now after that John was put in prison,
Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the
Gospel of the kingdom of God” (Mark 1:14).**

The Kingdom Message



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JESUS CHRIST preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God from the beginning to the close of His personal ministry, until His death. He said to His apostles, “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matt. 24:14). To the “end” of what? To the end of the world or age, as clearly revealed in verse 13, which reads: “He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

The Kingdom of God and its message are closely connected as revealed in the Word of God. Every humble servant of God should study the question with a prayerful desire to understand and teach it as the Lord has given it. There are many theories concerning the Kingdom and the time of its establishment. Many are led away from the truth concerning it. We briefly reveal important matters to our readers, necessary for both old and young. Since they are in the inspired Word of God, they are given for our acceptance, and for our good by the God of heaven.

We do not propose to interpret the Lord’s Word, but simply refer to what is said in both the Old Testament and New Testament. By “Kingdom” is meant the government of God which will be under the leadership of the Son of God at the time appointed, at the second coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus said to His apostles, “All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me” Luke 24:44).

Let us look into the prophecy of David in Psalm 2:6. “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.” In harmony with other portions of the Word of God, this refers to Jesus Christ occupying the seat of judgment power as God’s King while reigning in “mount Zion, and Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously” (Isa. 24:23).

The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.” Such passages have no reference to the church this age. They refer directly to the reign of Jesus Christ on earth. The overcomers of this age who constitute the Church of God are promised a position with Christ on His throne after their redemption (Rev. 3:21). Paul referred to this when he said, “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him” (2 Tim. 2:12). The church was not reigning with the Son of God then, because Jesus was not reigning then. Neither is He

reigning now. Anyone who will read the Lord's Word prayerfully and sincerely can clearly see and understand that the Kingdom has not yet been established.

Carefully read 2 Peter 1:11, and be convinced that the church, the called-out people of God, was not in the everlasting Kingdom of God, but their "entrance" was assured *if* they remained faithful to the Lord. Several New Testament passages spoken after the ascension of Christ *seem* to teach that the Kingdom was in existence. But they do not teach such any more than those passages used before the death of the Lord teach that it was in existence on earth before Jesus died. One can see that Isaiah 9:6 refers to Jesus Christ being born, yet He was not born in Isaiah's time, though the word "is" appears in the verse.

There are those who believe and teach that the Kingdom is in existence now. They tell us it was established on the Day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They offer Daniel 2:44, Isaiah 2:1-4, and Micah 4:1-8 as proof. These prophets had no reference to anything that transpired on that occasion. One should carefully study these prophecies. In them is evidence of the future Kingdom that has never been equalled by arguments of theologians who would apply them to the present. The whole unscriptural argument is based on the fictional theology of the immortality of the soul. Those who believe this theory believe in heaven for the righteous, and a burning hell for the wicked. They have no use for the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ for the purpose of reigning on earth, as the Word of God teaches it.

We should be interested in the Kingdom (government of God) since Christ offered His servants a hope of being in the Kingdom on condition of faithful service. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). God caused Ezekiel to prophesy, "I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him" (Ezek. 21:27). To what coming of Jesus does this refer? There are only two such events, as revealed in Hebrews 9:26, 27. By reading and studying the New Testament in connection with the Old Testament we can easily see that the prophecy of Ezekiel could not and did not refer to the Lord's first coming. He referred to Christ's second coming in power and great glory (Luke 21:27; Matt. 16:27, 28).

Jesus Christ, seeing His future exaltation as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:16), said, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory" (Matt. 25:31). His throne will be the throne that David and Solomon occupied, "the throne of the Lord" over Israel (1 Chron. 29:23). It will be extended to include the entire earth. David said: "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust" (Psalm 72:8, 9).

The foregoing prophecy has had no fulfillment as yet. Until Jesus comes again, it will remain unfulfilled. This is the hope of God's people, that His Son will return personally to earth and set up His Kingdom that has been promised by the Father through all His prophets. It is a shame and disgrace that some theologians wrest and mutilate the Word of God on this wonderful and glorious subject. When it is taught that the prophecies of the Kingdom refer to the church of the Lord in this age, ignorance will still

prevail. It was Isaiah who said: “Darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people” (Isa. 60:2).

Among the prophecies concerning the Kingdom of God to be established on the earth after Jesus comes the second time is Daniel 2:44: “In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed. . . . It shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.” Where, in all past ages, can we find that this prophecy has been fulfilled? It is not to be found. No wonder Isaiah referred to the ignorance that would fill the earth because men and women would listen to false teachers! The mighty Kingdom under its supreme King, Jesus Christ, will break to pieces all kingdoms of man, and it shall stand forever. Jesus Christ “shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:33). It will have a beginning but no end. This does not conflict with the reign of Christ for a thousand years. The first thousand years will be to destroy the kingdoms of man, and to clean the earth of man’s miserable failure to bring peace and happiness to the world. Much of Israel’s trouble was caused through false “pastors” (Jer. 23:1). So it is today. Men and women know so little about the glorious Kingdom of God because sectarian “pastors” are not teaching them the truth.

“Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21). That was the reason Isaiah was able to say, concerning Christ’s reign and judgment, “He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isa. 2:4). What a glorious work the Lord will do on this earth after Jesus Christ comes back again! Are we looking for that day? May the Lord soon come and end wars for all time, and establish God’s Kingdom on earth in fulfillment of the glorious promise of God.