

HAS THE KINGDOM COME?

(Matthew 6:9,10)

Introduction:

1. The O.T. prophets foretold the Christ would come to set up His kingdom.
2. Jesus spoke frequently of His kingdom.
3. The apostles made constant reference to the kingdom.
4. There is much controversy about the kingdom today.
 - a. Is the kingdom to be identified with the church?
 - b. Is the kingdom earthly and physical, or Heavenly and spiritual?
 - c. Did Jesus fail to establish His kingdom because the Jews rejected Him?
5. What does the Bible say?

Discussion:

I. THE KINGDOM WAS PROMISED TO GREAT MEN OF OLD.

- A. God promised Abraham Christ would come from his seed (Ge.12:1-3).**

“In your Seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice” (Ge. 22:18).

“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘And to your Seed,’ who is Christ” (Ga. 3:16).

- B. God promised Jacob a ruler would come from Judah.**

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people” (Ge. 49:10).

- C. God promised Moses He would raise up a Prophet like him.**

“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear” (De. 18:15; Ac. 3:22,23).

- D. God promised David He would raise up his Seed to sit on His throne (2 Sa. 7:12,13).**

“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever”(2 Sa. 7:12,13; Lu.1:33).

II. THE KINGDOM WAS PROPHESED BY MEN OF GOD.

A. Joel foretold the coming of the Holy Spirit (Jo. 2:28-32).

- 1. God would pour out His Spirit (Jo. 2:28; Acts 2:1-21).**
- 2. it would happen “in the last days” (Jo. 2:28; Ac. 2:16,17).**
- 3. Whoever “called upon the name of the Lord would be saved” (Jo. 2:32; Ac. 2:36-41).**
- 4. All this would take place in Jerusalem (Jo. 2:32; Ac.1:4; 2:1).**

B. Isaiah foretold the building of the Lord’s house (Is. 2:2,3).

- 1. It would be built “in the last days” (Is. 2:2;Ac. 2:16,17).**
- 2. All nations would come into it (Is. 2:2; Mt. 28:19,20).**
- 3. The Word would go forth from Jerusalem (Is. 2:3; Ac. 8:4,5).**

C. Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the great image (Da. 2).

- 1. The head of gold was Babylon (612-538 BC).**
- 2. The chest and arms of silver was Medo-Persia (538-331 BC).**
- 3. The belly and thighs of brass was the Greek Empire (331-63).**
- 4. The legs and feet of iron and clay was the Roman Empire (63 BC - 476 AD).**
 - a. Only four kingdoms are mentioned (Da. 2:40).**
 - b. God’s kingdom would come during Rome’s rule (Da. 2:44).**

III. THE KINGDOM WAS PREPARED BY JOHN AND JESUS.

A. John was a forerunner of Jesus.

“Behold, I send My messenger. And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts” (Mal. 3:1; Mt. 11:7-11).

- 1. John was “Elijah who was to come” (Mal. 4:5,6; Mt. 17:10-13).**
- 2. He preached, “Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand” (Mt. 3:1,2).**

3. John pointed people to Christ (Mk. 1:7,8; Jn. 1:29).

B. Jesus prepared for the establishment of His kingdom.

1. He preached “the kingdom is at hand” (Mt. 4:17).
2. He taught His disciples to pray for its coming (Mt. 6:9,10).
3. He sent His apostles to preach, “The kingdom of Heaven is at hand” (Mt. 10:7).
4. He told Nicodemus how to enter the kingdom (Jn. 3:1-5).
5. Jesus promised to build His church and to give Peter the keys of the kingdom (Mt. 16:18,19).
6. He told His disciples that some of them would live to see the kingdom (Mk. 9:1).
7. He told His disciples He would drink the fruit of the vine with them in His Father’s kingdom (Mt. 26:26-29; 1 Co. 11:23-34).

C. He told His apostles to wait in Jerusalem (Lu. 24:49).

1. The kingdom would come with power (Mk. 9:1).
2. The power was the coming of the Holy Spirit (Ac. 1:4-8).
3. The Holy Spirit came on Pentecost (Ac. 2:1-4).
4. The kingdom came when the Spirit came; the Spirit came on Pentecost; therefore, the kingdom came on Pentecost.

IV. THE KINGDOM CAME IN PERFECTION ON PENTECOST.

A. Pentecost was the right time.

1. It was in the last days (Jo. 2:28; Is. 2:2; Ac. 2:16,17).
2. It was when Rome ruled (Da. 2:40,44; Lu. 2:1; 3:1).
3. It was within the lifetime of Jesus’ disciples (Mk. 9:1).

B. Jerusalem was the right place.

1. The apostles waited in Jerusalem for the Spirit (Ac. 1:4-8).
2. Peter used the keys of the kingdom (Ac. 2:37,38).
3. Salvation came to those who called on the name of the Lord (Jo. 2:28; Ac. 2:36-41,47).
4. The Lord’s supper was eaten in the kingdom (Ac. 2:42; 20:7).
5. The Word went forth from Jerusalem (Ac. 2-8).

Conclusion:

1. After Pentecost, the kingdom was in existence (Co. 1:13; Re. 1:9).
2. The kingdom (church) is here now, but Jesus will deliver it back to God the Father at His coming (1 Co. 15:24-26).
3. We enter the kingdom by the new birth of water and the Spirit (Jn. 3:3,5).

