

"THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

INTRODUCTION

- I. The words, "The Kingdom of God" are found and referred to many times in the New Testament.
 - A. The word "kingdom" itself originated in OT times, in the kingdoms of men, and the kingdom of Israel of the Mosaical age.
 - B. The kingdom of God is also the kingdom of Christ, and referred to many times as simply "the kingdom" or simply, "the kingdom."
 1. Some believe the church is NOT the kingdom of God, and is only a substitute until such time Christ returns and sets up His literal kingdom on earth, where He shall reign a thousand years.
 2. In the first century, the kingdom is spoken of as being in existence at that time. Heb. 12:28
- II. Now, let's make a study of "the kingdom of God."

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let's make a study of the development of KINGDOMS.

- A. There were kings spoken of in the Patriarchal age, in the early days of mankind, even before the law of Moses was given on Mt. Sinai.
 1. The first mention of kings (*which requires a territory, rule and people*) is in Gen. 10:8-10,
 - a. In Gen. 14; there were territories and kings in Abraham, as he was victorious in the battle with several kings to rescue his nephew Lot who had been captured.
 - b. In this battle, there appeared a king (who was also a priest), in the person of Melchizedek, who blessed Abraham, and received titles and honor from Abraham.
 2. The word "kingdom" came to refer to a territory where people lived and were recognized their leaders as "kings."
- B. Obviously, God's rule over the special nation which had developed and escaped bondage in Egypt, was to be that of a KING over a KINGDOM.
 1. When Israel came out of Egypt, God ruled over it through the many judges He set up, for hundreds of years.
 2. The time came that Israel was not satisfied with this rule, and wanted a "king" they could SEE and HONOR, and be "like the nations" around them, who had their kings.
 - a. One of the judges rejected being a king, for he stated that GOD was their king. Judg. 8:22-23
 - b. However, they came to the point that they insisted having their worldly king, and thus rejected God as their king. 1 Sam. 8:5-8
 - c. God allowed them to have their own king, selected BY them (who was named Saul) who eventually became so wicked that GOD stepped in and replaced him with DAVID, a man after His own heart, and then established HIS kingdom with the lineage of David from that time on. 1 Sam. 13:14; 15:8; 16:1; 18:8,14; 23:17; 6:20

II. 2nd, let's study the ESTABLISHED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL.

- A. David was the first king God put on the throne, reigning for 40 years, and was succeeded by Solomon and others until the kingdom was divided between the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
 1. During this period of the divided kingdom, the prophets began to foretell the coming of another kingdom, to be ruled by another descendant of David.
 - a. David himself foretold a coming kingdom, in which the King would ALSO be ruled by one of his descendants, who would **also** be a high priest as well as a king. Psa. 2:1-6; 10:1-5; cf Acts 2:29-36

- b. Other prophets also foretold the coming of one who would have this dual role of *king and high priest*. Dan. 2:14; 7:13-14; Zech. 6:12-13; 9:19; 14:9
- 2. The kingdom was divided under the reign of Rehoboam into the house of Israel (*Northern kingdom*) and the house of Judah (the *Southern kingdom*).

B. These two divisions of the kingdom were taken away into Assyrian (Northern kingdom in 721 B.C., and Babylonian captivity (Southern kingdom in 606 B.C., and stayed this way until Christ came to establish HIS kingdom, which began about 33 A.D. during the reign of the Roman kings (*which was in power from 27 B.C. until 476 A.D.*)

III. 3rd, let's study the KINGDOM OF GOD AND CHRIST.

A. Christ came at the right time to establish His kingdom, which Daniel says would be in the days of the Roman empire. Dan. 2:44

- 1. Jesus was **born** to be king. John 18:36-37; Luke 1:30-33
- 2. Jesus acknowledged to BE the king over His kingdom, which was to be a **spiritual** kingdom, rather than **carnal** in which it's citizens would fight. John 18:36
- 3. Jesus preached the nearness of his kingdom. Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1
- 4. Then, Jesus **died** to be king, which would be after He ascended into heaven.
- 5. Jesus would assume His role AFTER His ascension. Dan. 7:13-14; Acts 2:29-36
- 6. Jesus' rule was to be BOTH king and high priest, as the Old Testament had foretold. Heb. 1:8; 7:17
 - a. Under the Mosaical era, the kings came from the tribe of Judah, and the priests from the tribe of Levi.
 - b. In the gospel age under Christ, the roles are combined in the reign and priesthood of Christ. Heb. 8:1-4

B. The citizens of the kingdom are also members of the body or church OF CHRIST, signifying that the kingdom IS the same as the church—under different figures.

- 1. Jesus had linked them together in His promises.
 - a. His promise to build the church included the kingdom. Zech. 6:12-13; Matt. 16:18-19
 - b. His promise of the Lord's Supper was to be IN the kingdom, but was observed IN the church.. 1 Cor. 1:2; 11:23-26
- 2. The scripture also links the church and kingdom together, for to be in one is to be in the other. Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:4, 9

CONCLUSION

I. Jesus NEVER came to earth to establish a kingdom WITH HIM RULING FROM JERUSALEM FOR A THOUSAND YEARS, as taught by Premillennialists.

A. The church is the earthly phase of the kingdom, and the church in heaven will be the heavenly phase of the kingdom. Luke 19:11-15

1. Jesus' rule is **NOW** as He rules **before** His second coming. Psa. 110:1; 1 Cor. 15:21-26

2. When He comes, He will THEN transfer the kingdom back to God, 1 Cor. 15:27-28

B. When Jesus returns, the earth will be burned ;up, and there can BE no rule on earth by anyone.

II. Are you a citizen of the kingdom of God? Cf John 3:5

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