

The Kingdom of God

Introduction

The kingdom of God has long been the topic of discussion among religious people. Some teach that Jesus did not set up His kingdom the first time He was here and is coming again to set up His kingdom in Jerusalem and will reign there 1,000 years. In this study we will examine what the Old Testament prophets said in reference to the kingdom and then we will see what Jesus said in reference to the subject.

I. Old Testament Prophecies About the Kingdom of God

A. Isaiah 2:2-3

The Jewish concept was that a glorious kingdom would be restored like in the days of Solomon.

1. Did Isaiah say that the kingdom would include all nations (ethnic groups)? _____
2. Did Isaiah call the kingdom "The Mountain of the Lord" and "The House of God" _____
3. Did Isaiah say this kingdom would be established in "The last days"? _____
4. Did Isaiah say the word would go forth FROM Jerusalem? _____

B. Daniel 2:31-45

1. Did Nebuchadnezzar see a dream involving a statue? _____
2. Did Daniel interpret that dream for the king? _____
3. Daniel said that the parts of the statue represented four world kingdoms.
 - a. The first kingdom was Babylon (over which Nebuchadnezzar was king).
 - b. The second kingdom was Medo/Persia (536 BC - 331 BC).
 - c. The third kingdom would be Greece (331 BC - 63 BC).
 - d. The fourth kingdom was Rome 63 BC - about 400 AD).
4. Did Daniel say that the kingdom of God would be set up in the time of the kings of the fourth world kingdom (Rome)? _____
5. Would this kingdom endure forever? _____

C. Daniel 7:13-14

1. In this vision, did Daniel say that one like "The Son of Man" must come before and be presented to the Ancient of Days in order to receive this kingdom? _____
2. Would all people, languages, and nations serve the Son of Man? _____
3. Did Daniel say this kingdom would never pass away? _____

D. Review:

1. The prophets say that the kingdom of God would begin in the fourth world kingdom, the Roman Empire. The Son of Man must be presented to the Ancient of Days (God) in order to receive this kingdom. The word of the Lord would go forth from Jerusalem and all nations (ethnic groups) would be drawn to and included in this kingdom.

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II. The New Testament Promise of the Kingdom

A. Matthew 3:1-2

1. Did John the Baptist say that the kingdom was almost here? _____

B. Matthew 4:17

1. Did Jesus say that the kingdom was at hand or near? _____

C. Mark 9:1

1. Did Jesus say that some of the people to whom He was talking would see the kingdom of God come before they died? _____

2. Did Jesus say that the kingdom would come with power? _____

D. Luke 17:20-21

1. Would this kingdom be physically visible? _____

2. Where would this kingdom be? _____

E. John 18:36

1. Was the kingdom of Christ to be a political kingdom like the other kingdom's of the world? _____

2. If the kingdom of God was a political kingdom, did Jesus say that his "army" would fight a real war because their leader had been taken? _____

F. Matthew 16:18-19

1. Did Jesus say He would build his church? _____

2. Did He then tell Peter that He would give him the keys to the kingdom? _____

3. Note: Jesus did not change subjects. The church is the spiritual kingdom of which Jesus spoke.

G. Luke 24:44-49

1. Did Jesus say that ALL that was written in the Old Testament about Him must be fulfilled? _____

2. In verse 47, did Jesus say that the word would be preached from Jerusalem? _____

3. Is this also what Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 2:3? _____

4. In verse 49, did Jesus say that the apostles would receive power in Jerusalem? _____

5. Was power to be a sign of the coming of the kingdom (cf. Mark 9:1)? _____

H. Acts 1:8; 2:1-4

1. Did the apostles receive the power they had been promised? _____

I. Acts 2:16-17

1. Did Peter say that what was happening was in "the last days"? _____

2. Is this when Isaiah said the kingdom would be established? _____

3. Was this in Jerusalem? _____

4. Was Jerusalem in the Roman Empire? _____

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5. Did Daniel say that the kingdom would be set up in the days of the Roman Empire (Daniel 2:44)? _____

J. Luke 1:31-33

1. Was Jesus to sit upon David's throne? _____
2. Was He to rule over a kingdom that would have no end? _____

K. Acts 2:29-36

1. Did David prophecy about Jesus resurrection? _____
2. Has Jesus been exalted to the right hand of God and seated on the throne? _____
(see also Hebrews 1:3; 8:1)

L. Colossians 1:13

1. Are Christians in the kingdom of Christ? _____
2. If Christians are in the kingdom of Christ, does Christ have a kingdom? _____
3. Has the kingdom of Christ then already been established? _____

M. Hebrews 12:22-23, 28

1. We have come to Mt _____, the heavenly _____, the _____, to the _____ of the firstborn... :28 Therefore, since we receive a _____ which cannot be shaken...

N. John 3:1-7

1. How does one see the kingdom of God? _____
2. How does one enter the kingdom of God? _____
3. What are the two elements of the new birth? _____ and _____

O. Acts 2:38

1. Did Peter mention these two elements when using the keys to the kingdom for the first time? _____

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III. Conclusion

- A. The kingdom of God that the prophets saw and that John the Baptist and Jesus said was near was established in the lifetime of those who heard Jesus speak (Mark 9:1). Jesus received the kingdom when he ascended back to heaven after offering himself as a sacrifice for sin just as Daniel foretold (Daniel 7:13-14). The kingdom began in the last days in Jerusalem during the reign of the Roman Empire and included all nations as the prophets predicted. Christ is presently reigning from His throne over His kingdom. When a person becomes a Christian, he is added to the kingdom of Christ (Colossians 1:13), which is the church of Christ. The terms of entry into this kingdom are a birth of water and spirit (John 3:3-5). The kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36) and is therefore not visible or measurable as a political and military force (Luke 17:20-21).
- B. Those who say that Jesus did not set up His kingdom yet have dethroned Jesus and called him a liar (Mark 9:1), and have discredited the prophets that predicted that the kingdom would come in the days of the Roman Empire in the last days in Jerusalem. All these prophecies were fulfilled in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost AD 33.