

The Coming of the Kingdom

Purpose of Study:

See where you fit into God's historic plan for His kingdom.

See the continuity of the Old and New Testaments.

God's plan has always been to draw people from out of the world into a special relationship with Him (Abraham, Moses, the disciples of Christ).

Exodus 19:5-6

The Israelites were *drawn out* of Egypt

They were called to be a *special* kingdom (God is still king over *everything*)

What were the required conditions for joining in this special kingdom? Obey God fully and keep His covenant.

*It is appropriate here to define "Kingdom." "Kingdom" is defined in the OED as "a country, state, or territory ruled by a king or queen." A kingdom is the scope of king's rule. Traditionally, we think of a kingdom as the physical territory ruled by a king. However, God rules over all territories, both physical and spiritual. Therefore, God's kingdom, or the scope of His rule, is far greater than we often give it credit.

Question: What happened? Did the Israelites keep the covenant? NO. They enjoyed national success for some time but, because of their rebelliousness, God sent them into exile.

Still, God promised the survivors that He would establish an eternal kingdom.

Old Testament Predictions of the Kingdom (The height of Israel's glory was under the kingship of David approximately 1000 B.C.)

A. Isaiah 2:1-4 (750 B.C.)

Last days

Mountain (symbolizes kingdom): Mountain of the Lord, chief of the mountains

All nations

Jerusalem

B. Daniel 2:31-45 (550 B.C.)

Daniel interprets King Nebuchadnezzar's dream

Empires

Babylonian: gold

Medo-Persian: silver

Alexander the Great: bronze

Roman: iron (iron and clay) – mixture of peoples

Rock – cut out not by human hands (therefore God)

Rock becomes huge mountain – filled the whole earth

Kingdom that will never be destroyed (v. 44)

C. Daniel 7:18

The saints will possess the kingdom

It is an eternal kingdom

2. New Testament Predictions of the Kingdom

John the Baptist (25 A.D.)

Kingdom is near (Matthew 3:1-6)

Jesus (30 A.D.)

Kingdom is near (Matthew 4:17)

Kingdom will come in the lifetime of some of the disciples (Mark 9:1)

Kingdom will come with power (Mark 9:1)

Kingdom entered by new birth (John 3:1-7)

Kingdom is within you (Luke 17:20-21)

Peter has the keys (Matthew 16:13-19). Church and the Kingdom are here linked. The church is the kingdom of God, but the kingdom of God is not limited to the church (again, the kingdom is the scope of God's rule, which extends beyond the church). The church then becomes the special kingdom belonging to God.

The church will be built on the truth that Jesus is the Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached first in Jerusalem to all nations (Luke 24:44-49).

3. Fulfillment of the Old and New Testament Predictions Acts 1-2 (33 A.D.)

Last days (Acts 2:17)

Isaiah 2:2

All nations (Acts 2:5)

Isaiah 2:2

Luke 24:47

Jerusalem (Acts 2:5)

Isaiah 2:3

Luke 24:44-49

Eternal kingdom (Acts 2:37-42)

Daniel 2:31-45

Date of coming approximately 33 A.D. (Acts 1-2)

Old testament prophecy
John the Baptist "is near" (Matthew 3:1-2)
Jesus-"is near" (Matthew 4:17)
Lifetime (Acts 2:14)
Mark 9:1
"Some"- Judas died (Acts 1:18-19)
Power (Acts 1:8, Acts 2:1-4)
Mark 9:1
New birth (Acts 2:38)
Water and Spirit (John 3:1-7)
Kingdom within (Acts 2:37)
Luke 17:20 – 21
Peter with the keys (Acts 2:14, 38)
Matthew 16:19
Repentance and forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38)
Luke 24:44-49

4. Conclusion

The reign of God through the church was established approximately 33 A.D. It is through Christ's church that we enter the *special kingdom* of God.

Acts 2:42 As citizens of the kingdom and members of the body (the church), we must be devoted to:

Doctrine

Fellowship

Breaking Bread

Prayer

Ephesians 1:18-22 It is so important to understand what we have in the church: an eternal kingdom with Christ as King.