



THE COMING KINGDOM OF CHRIST



IS THE KINGDOM LITERAL OR IS THIS JUST "PIE IN THE SKY?"

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KINGDOM IN SCRIPTURE

The Wise Men's Question (Matthew 2:1-2)

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

John The Baptist's First Sermon

The first sermon preached by John the Baptist was: "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 3:1)

Jesus' First Sermon

The first sermon Jesus preached was, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17)

The Lord's Prayer

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "Thy KINGDOM come."

Jesus and Nicodemus

When Jesus spoke with Nicodemus in John 3, Jesus told him that unless he was "born again," he could not enter the KINGDOM of God.

The Disciples' Last Question

The last question the disciples asked

Jesus (Acts 1:6-7) before He ascended into heaven was "Wilt thou at this time restore the KINGDOM to Israel?"

Paul's Last Sermon

The last sermon Paul preached was about things pertaining to the KINGDOM (Acts 28:30).

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE KINGDOM YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ANSWER

1. What is the Kingdom of God?
2. Is there a difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven?
3. Will the Kingdom be an earthly, literal Kingdom. the reign of God in the hearts of his people, or is it the church?
4. If the Kingdom is literal, when will Christ set it up?

THREE POPULAR VIEWS OF THE KINGDOM

Literal

The Kingdom is a literal, visible, earthly reign of Jesus Christ on this earth.

Spiritual

The Kingdom of God is the rule and reign of Jesus Christ in the heart of the believer.

The Kingdom is the church

This is the Roman Catholic position. A modified view of this is also accepted by many non-Catholics today.

THE POSITION OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Pre-millennialism was the position of the early church until the third century.

As far as we can determine, all of the Old Testament prophets and all of the early church leaders believed in a literal, earthly kingdom over which the Messiah would reign.

In addition to this, all of the reputable church leaders until the third century interpreted the Bible literally. It was not until the third century after Christ that people began to follow the teachings of a man named Origen, and later St. Augustine, the Roman Catholic Theologian, and began to "spiritualize" the clear teachings of the Word of God and reject the belief in a literal, one-thousand year Kingdom on this earth.

WHAT WILL LIFE IN THE KINGDOM BE LIKE?

Satan Bound (Rev. 20:1-3)

1. And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled:

Saints Will Reign on Earth (Rev. 2:4-6)

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast,

neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Wild Animals Will be Tame (Isaiah 11:6-9)

6. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

Christians Will Judge the World (I Corinthians 6:1-3)

"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?"

All Wars Will End (Isaiah 2:2-4)

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Jesus Will be King over all the Earth (Zech. 14:8-9)

8 "And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and

in winter shall it be. 9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: In that day shall there be one LORD.”

Perfect Environment

There has never been a time so far when the world has had a chance to see God, Man, animal life, vegetable life, the animals, and the environment, all living in perfect harmony. During the millennium, man will have a chance to see what life would have been like on earth if sin had not entered and corrupted Gods' creation.

Universal Health Care

(Isaiah 35:3-7)

5. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.”

People Will Live Longer

(Isaiah 65:20)

“There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old;”

God Will Open The Eyes of the Jews

(Zech. 12:7-10)

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son .

WHO WILL BE IN THE KINGDOM?

1. The Resurrected Saints of the New

Testament.

2. The Resurrected Saints of the Old Testament.

3. One Third of the Jews in Israel who survive the Great Tribulation (Zech. 13:8-9).

4. The Tribulation Martyrs (Rev. 20:4)

WHEN IS THE KINGDOM COMING?

There is no need to speculate about the time of the Kingdom. The second chapter of the Daniel holds the key to the “timing” of God’s future kingdom. When you read this chapter, neither is there a need to speculate on what it means, because God Himself gave the interpretation. All we have to do is read it and believe it. Here is an outline of what that chapter in Daniel reveals.

- The head of gold represented the Babylonian Empire.
- The chest and arms of silver represented Persia (Iran).
- The belly and thighs of brass represented the Greek Empire.
- The legs of iron represented the Roman Empire.
- The feet mixed with iron and clay and the 10 toes represent 10 political (European) leaders of the latter days.
- The Stone represented Jesus Christ.

With that in mind, go back and read that chapter again and answer this one question. When you can answer this question you will know when God promised

to set up His earthly Kingdom.

WHERE DID THE STONE STRIKE THE IMAGE?

- In the head?
- In the chest or arms?
- In the belly or thighs?
- In the legs?
- Or in the feet or toes?

What did God say He would do in the days of those toes?

Daniel 2:44

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

WHERE WILL YOU BE WHEN CHRIST SETS UP HIS KINGDOM?

(Rev. 20:5-6)

5. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

WHO ARE THE REST OF THE DEAD???

(Rev. 20:11-14)

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life:

and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

The Second Death

13. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

YOU HAVE A CHOICE: THE KINGDOM OR THE LAKE OF FIRE!

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO GET INTO GOD'S KINGDOM

Repent of your sins. Believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again. Receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. If you will do that, you will be "Born Again!"

SUGGESTED PRAYER

Dear God,
I admit that I have sinned.
I'm sorry that I have sinned.
I believe you died for me and are alive today.
Today, I want you to come into my heart, forgive my sins, and save my soul.
In Jesus Name, Amen.

This message was preached by Pastor Gene Keith on Sunday Morning, December 21, 2008, in the Countryside Baptist Church of Gainesville, Florida. You may correspond with Pastor Keith by calling (352) 332-1493 or by Email at gk122532@bellsouth.net. You may also visit our website at cbcgainville.net
