



A new creation focus through Colossians ...

The Kingdom of Christ

There are so many people confused by the teaching of modern false prophets, looking for the kingdom or reign of Christ to come in the future. But the kingdom is not a future event; the kingdom is now!

The kingdom is one of the great themes of the scripture. It first shows up in a prophecy given through Nathan the prophet to David the king. Through Daniel it was revealed that the kingdom would come in the days of the "iron" kings (the Romans), that it would eventually crush and put an end to all earthly kingdoms, that it would last forever, and would consist of people of every tribe and tongue. Thus the angel Gabriel informed Mary, concerning the Child that was about to be conceived in her womb, "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end" (Luke 1:32,33).

- **Body of Christ** — There are only two realms wherein the spiritual beings of all who of adult level mind dwell: the domain of darkness, or the kingdom of Christ. Those who are in Christ's kingdom are spoken of as in Christ, "in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14). That redemption, that forgiveness, occurs when a person is immersed in Jesus' name (Acts 2:38). Thus, when a person is immersed into Christ (Romans 6:3), he is also immersed into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). This body, according to the Holy Spirit, is also the church (Ephesians 1:22,23). It follows, therefore, that the kingdom of Christ is another expression for Christ's church.
- **Kingdom of God** — Jesus, in a teaching session with His disciples, stated, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in *His kingdom*" (Matthew 16:28). This is consistent with the idea that the church came into existence on the Day of Pentecost, AD 30, when the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles and then 3000 were immersed and added to their number. Mark, in his parallel passage, records it in this way: "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see *the kingdom of God* after it has come with power" (Mark 9:1). Clearly, then, the kingdom of Christ, the kingdom of God, and the church are exact equivalents.
- **The kingdom of heaven** — Jesus, in explaining a bit about His parables, made this statement as recorded in the gospel according to Mark, "To you has been given the mystery of *the kingdom of God*; but those who are outside get everything in parables" (Mark 4:11). Again, in another parallel passage, Matthew recorded it this way: "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of *the kingdom of heaven*, but to them it has not been granted" (Matthew 13:11). Hence all these terms — kingdom of Christ, kingdom of God, kingdom of heaven — all refer to the church.

The kingdom, therefore, is not a future event where Jesus is going to come down and reign on the earth. The kingdom is now, it is the *church*, and it began as recorded in Acts chapter two. It is the centerpiece of many prophecies, it is the topic of the parables of Jesus, and it ends up as the "eternal kingdom" where the successful saints "shine forth as the sun" (2 Peter 1:11; Matthew 13:43). What a blessing it is to be able to be delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of Christ. "Truly, truly, I say to you," averred Jesus, "unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). If you have not been immersed into Christ, get that taken care of! NOW!!

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