
Words of Truth

The Kingdom Already Exists!

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Many people have twisted the Scriptures concerning the kingdom of our Lord. Many say things such as this: "At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will return with the hosts of heaven as well as the Church to establish the Messianic Kingdom on earth. His Kingdom will last for a thousand years. At this Second Coming, the Antichrist will be cast into the Lake of Fire and Satan will be bound for a thousand years. The nations and their representatives will be judged. Israel will be restored to her land, never more to be removed. Christ will reign with firmness and equity. His kingdom will be marked by material and spiritual blessing, since the curse upon the earth will be removed" (http://www.moodyministries.net/crp_MainPage.aspx?id=644).

Things concerning the Second Coming of Christ are considered first principles (Hebrews 6:1-2). You would think that anyone who has studied the Scriptures can see the errors above, but many fall for these things. Even the babes amongst us know that the kingdom of our Lord is not of this world (John 18:36). Therefore, we can deduce that Christ is not looking to establish an earthly kingdom. For the sake of review of what we studied on May 13th, let's examine a few things about the quote above and how simple it is to prove such untrue. Let's start with the conclusion of that quote and show that the kingdom is not something Jesus is still looking to establish.

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Every variation of the false doctrine known as "Premillennialism", that I have known about, include the idea of an earthly kingdom coming from the future. They see prophecies such as Isaiah 2:1-4 and Daniel 2:1-45 as things still yet to come. While you should be able to read Daniel 2:31-45 and know that the kingdom was promised in the days of the fourth empire discussed there, not all people see what is clearly written. We know that the prophet Daniel started with the Chaldean Empire (Daniel 2:38) as the first empire. Then he discussed the Medo-Persian Empire (Daniel 2:39), Grecian Empire (Daniel 2:39), and then the Roman Empire (Daniel 2:40-45). It was in the time of that fourth empire that the kingdom was established. This is not yet to come; it is far in the past. We'll prove this out more clearly after we address Isaiah 2:1-4.

Isaiah 2:1-4 talks about the kingdom being established in the "last days". Here, on this point, people lose their minds. The phrase "last days" is mind boggling to people. Thus, let's simplify this for those who get tripped up on this rather simple point. WE ARE NOW IN THE LAST DAYS. In fact, we have been since the first century. Please notice the following Scriptures: "*But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams... God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake*

in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Acts 2:16-17 and Hebrews 1:1-2).

Now, to make things very simple and clear, let’s prove that the kingdom already exists. Here is the evidence: *“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son... Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved (not just lasting 1,000 years – B.A.Y.), let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear... I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Colossians 1:12-13, Hebrews 12:28, and Revelation 1:9).*

Anyone who honestly studies what we’ve discussed thus far should see that all doctrines resulting with a kingdom to come in the future are false. Now, let’s deal with some of the other doctrines that tie into various errors concerning a future kingdom to come to this earth from God.

The Errors Of The Antichrist, Jesus Reigning On Earth, Etc.

The Bible shows us that there is not one, but many antichrists. Moreover, the Bible also shows us that we’re not waiting for antichrists to come, but they’re here now and have been in the world since the first century (I John 2:18, I John 2:22, and I John 4:3). Anyone who does not confess that Christ has come in the flesh is an antichrist (II John 7).

We know that Jesus will NEVER step foot on this earth ever again. We know this for several clear reasons. First, when the second coming of Christ occurs, we will meet Him in the air and remain with Him there (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). Secondly, when He returns, there will be no earth left for Him to reign on (II Peter 3:9-14). In a time unknown to anyone but the Father, this earth will cease to exist (Matthew 24:35-36). Thirdly, Jesus will not ever be on earth again because of His status as our high priest. Jesus is our high priest (Hebrews 4:14). Jesus will never cease being our high priest (Hebrews 6:20 and Hebrews 7:22-24). If Jesus were ever to be on this earth again, He could not be our high priest (Hebrews 8:1-4). Therefore, He cannot come back to this earth.

We know that the kingdom will not be on this earth blessed with material blessings. How do we know this? After Jesus returns (Acts 1:11) and judges mankind (II Corinthians 5:10), He will then surrender the throne to His Father in Heaven (I Corinthians 15:24-28).

Conclusion

Remember to always know the context of verses you’re studying or discussing. The Book of Revelation MOSTLY discusses things that would shortly come to pass (Revelation 1:1-3). Remember that some verses sound like the end of the world is being discussed (Matthew 23:37-24:33), but context reveals that those things occurred in that generation (Matthew 24:34). Jesus is not waiting in Heaven to come back and establish a kingdom that already exists. What He is doing is preparing a place, In Heaven, for His faithful disciples (John 14:1-3).