

## KINGDOM ANTICIPATED

- A. **We have noted** that God worked through Israel, the nation, to prepare for the Kingdom for His Son.
1. Jesus came to establish a Kingdom; He was born for that purpose – God did not fail.
  2. His Kingdom differed from the popular concepts of the day, even as it does today.
  3. The nature of His Kingdom should have been understood; it was prophesied in the O.T.

[Generally, when there is a problem understanding the Lord's Kingdom it is the result of placing confidence in men who have ambitions for an earthly kingdom.

In this lesson we want to go back to that time in history when the Kingdom of Christ was highly anticipated by the Jews.]

## I. ANTICIPATED IN N.T. TIMES

- A. **The Angel Gabriel** anticipated the coming of the Kingdom when He delivered the promise of Jesus' birth to Mary.

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**Luke 1:31-33** – 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb & bring forth a Son, & shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, & will be called the Son of the Highest; & **the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.** 33 And **He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, & of His Kingdom there will be no end.**

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1. The phrase “house of Jacob” had designated the nation of Israel, but it would soon identify “all the families of the earth that would come under the Redeemer’s ample wing” (JFB).
  - a. Once the gospel of Christ was preached, the terms “Jacob”, “Jew” & “Israel” would refer to the church & its individual members in the body of Christ ([1 Tim 3:15](#); [Rom 2:28](#); [Gal 6:16](#)).

2. The “throne of His father David” didn’t refer to the actual seat upon which David sat when he was King, but to the authority God would give Jesus to reign.

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**1 Chron 28:5** – [David] And of all my sons (for the Lord has given me many sons) He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of **the kingdom of the Lord** over Israel. **29:23** – Then Solomon sat on **the throne of the Lord** as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him.

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3. And finally, notice from the passage in Luke that Jesus’ reign would be “forever”; “of His kingdom there will be no end” of it.

- a. “Forever” is a concept that only has meaning to humans, because we live within a time frame.
- b. God does not live within a time frame; He had no beginning & He will have no end of life.
- c. So the kingdom of which Gabriel spoke was a kingdom that would outlast time itself; it is not restricted by time – *so it cannot be a 1000 year kingdom on the earth.*

- B. **Simeon & Anna** also anticipated the coming of the Kingdom.

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**Luke 2:25-32** – And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was **Simeon**, & this man **was just & devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel** [the Christ was to Comfort His people at His appearance] & the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And **it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.** 27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms & blessed God & said: 29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen **Your salvation**, 31 **which You have prepared before the face of all peoples**, 32 **a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles**, & the glory of Your people Israel."

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1. In this Kingdom Simeon said that “the Lord’s Christ” would bring consolation (**Heb 6:18**), salvation (**1 Thess 5:9; 2 Thess 2:13**), light (**2 Cor 4:6**), revelation (**Rom 16:25**) & glory (**Eph 3:21**) – *all of which are blessings we enjoy today in the church, which ought to tell us that the Kingdom is currently in existence.*
2. These blessings are not promised to a future people living under an earthly reign of Christ, but they are gifts from God granted today to those who submit to the authority (rule) of Jesus Christ.

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**Luke 2:36-38** – Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, & had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; 37 & this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings & prayers night & day. 38 And coming in that instant **she gave thanks to the Lord, & spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem** (cf. Mic 5:2)

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1. Redemption (or forgiveness of sin) came through the blood of Jesus Christ (**Eph 1:7**).
2. His blood is the propitiation for our sins (**Rom 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 4:10**).
3. We are justified by His blood, & saved from God's wrath against sin (**Rom 5:9**).
4. The blood of Christ is applied to our account when we are baptized into His death (**Rom 6:3-4**).
5. Simeon & Anna didn't know it at the time, but their King did not require an earthly throne to bring Consolation & Redemption.

C. In N.T times, everyone who knew anything about the Word of God anticipated the coming of the Kingdom: **John, Jesus, Disciples, & the Jews**.

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**Matt 3:1-2** – John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"**

**Mk 1:14-15** – [Jesus] The time is fulfilled, & **the Kingdom of God is at hand**. Repent, & believe in the gospel.

**Matt 10:7** – [Jesus commissioned the disciples] As you go, preach, saying, **"The Kingdom of heaven is at hand."**

**Luke 16:16** – The law & the prophets were until John. Since that time **the Kingdom of God has been preached, & everyone is pressing into it**.

A common expression. like saying, "Everyone's doing it" – meaning that it occupies general attention of everyone – not that it existed yet.

**Matt 11:12** – And from the days of John the Baptist until now **the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence**, & the violent take it by force.

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1. In Jesus' time, the Jews tried to "highjack" the Kingdom & form it into their own image.
2. They even gave Jesus a chance to go along with their plan, but He refused & they killed Him.

3. And yet, God established His King & His Kingdom anyway.
4. In fact, the Jews played right into the hand of God's eternal plan to set up the Kingdom of His Son who now reigns from heaven.

D. Finally, **Joseph of Arimathea** anticipated the coming of the Kingdom in N.T. times.

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**Luke 23:50-52** – Now behold, there was a man named **Joseph**, a council member, a good & just man. 51 He had not consented to their decision & deed. He was **from Arimathea**, a city of the Jews, **who himself was also waiting for the Kingdom of God**. 52 This man went to Pilate & asked for the body of Jesus.

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1. Joseph & the man who helped him prepare Jesus' body for burial (Nicodemus) knew that Jesus' death didn't necessarily prevent Him from being the King!

[In N.T. times the Kingdom was highly anticipated; it was "at hand", but it hadn't yet been established.]

## CLOSING

A. **In our next lesson** on this subject we will talk about Signposts (signs).

1. The Holy Spirit set out several signs in the N.T. that point us in the direction of when, where & how the Kingdom of Christ would begin.
  - a. The O.T. provided some general signs, but the signposts in the N.T. are quite specific
  - b. God did not want to leave any doubt as to where, when & how the Kingdom of His Son would begin.

### God's Plan For Our Salvation:

**Hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; read it in your Bible:** Acts 2; 3; 13; Rom 10:17

**Believe Jesus to be Lord and Christ, the Son of God and Savior:** Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:4

**Repent of your sins:** Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

**Confess your faith in Jesus Christ:** Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

**Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins:** Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

**Be obedient to the Lord, He will be your Judge:** Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48