

KINGDOM ESTABLISHED

A. Last week we noted that when Jesus was born the Kingdom of the Christ was highly anticipated; it was “at hand”, but it hadn’t yet been established.

B. In this lesson we will talk about the signs that direct us to the establishment of that Kingdom.

1. The O.T. provided some general signs, but the signs in the N.T. are very specific.

[God did not want to leave any doubt as to where, when & how the Kingdom of His Son would begin.]

I. SIGNPOSTS OF THE KINGDOM

A. Jesus said the kingdom would come with power.

Mark 9:1 – And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see *the Kingdom of God present with power.*”

1. This verse falls in an awkward place in the text; these words belong to (8:34-38).

a. Jesus was preparing His disciples for the rigors & requirements of His kingdom.

2. Six days later Jesus was transfigured in the presence of Peter, James & John (Read – 9:2-13).

a. That was a powerful event, but it did not signal the start of the Kingdom.

1) “Elijah” had already come; he was John (9:11-13; Matt 11:14; 17:12-13; Lk 1:17).

2) But Jesus had not been raised from the dead (9:9).

[Jesus must have been referring to some other event when He said, “some standing here...will not taste death until they see the Kingdom of God present with power.”]

B. Jesus said the power would come to the apostles in Jerusalem.

Luke 24:49 – Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but *tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.*

1. This Jesus said after His resurrection.
2. He had just shared a meal with the apostles & studied the Scriptures with them (Lk 24:44-48).
3. In Acts, Luke tells us that Jesus spent 40 days speaking to them about the Kingdom (Acts 1:2-3).

[So we are drawing nearer the time of its establishment.]

C. Luke recorded that the power that came to the apostles in Jerusalem was the Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit was “the Promise” of the Father to the apostles (Jn 14:26; 15:26; 16:13).

Acts 1:4-5 – And being assembled together with them [apostles, verse 2], He [Jesus] commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but **you** [apostles] **shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**”

D. Luke recorded that the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles in Jerusalem on Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-4 – When the **Day of Pentecost** had fully come, **they** [the antecedent is “apostles” Acts 1:26; see also 2:7, 11] were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, & it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, & one sat upon each of them. 4 And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** & began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:14 – But **Peter, standing up with the eleven**, raised his voice & said to them, “Men of Judea & all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, & heed my words.

Acts 2:22-24, 32-33,

Acts 2:36 – Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord & Christ.**”

[So the conclusion we should draw from these signs is that the Kingdom came when the power of the H.S. was given to the apostles in Jerusalem on Pentecost.]

[When you hear the word “Kingdom”, think of words like rule or reign, authority or power, law, King, subjects, punishment & privilege.

What I want us to see next is that the existence of the Kingdom (the rule, authority & law of Jesus Christ) ushered into existence the church: the willing subjects of His Kingdom, “the called out” (Acts 2:41, 47; Matt 16:18-19).

II. THE CHURCH & THE KINGDOM ARE INSEPARABLE IN TIME

A. Paul taught that the church is *in* the Kingdom.

Col 1:12-14 – Giving thanks to *the Father* who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 *He has* delivered us from the power of darkness & *conveyed us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love*, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins

1 Thess 2:10-12 – You are witnesses, & God also, how devoutly & justly & blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; 11 as you know how we exhorted, & comforted, & charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, 12 that you would *walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom & glory.*

B. Paul & John taught that the church *suffered tribulations* in the Kingdom.

Acts 14:21-22 – And when they [Paul, Barnabas] had preached the gospel to that city & made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, & Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, & saying, “*We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.*” (Paul acknowledges that entering the Kingdom is a process of faithful, patient, endurance through trials. It’s not just a one step or five step process.)

Rev 1:9 – *I, John, both your brother & companion in the tribulation & kingdom & patience of Jesus Christ*, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God & for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

C. Daniel & Luke reveal that the church & the Kingdom *began when Rome ruled.*

Dan 2:44 – And *in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a Kingdom* which shall never be destroyed; & the Kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces & consume all these kingdoms [Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Roman], & it shall stand forever.

Acts 17:6-7 (Unbelieving Jews were seeking to arrest Paul & Silas in Thessalonica) – But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason & some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. Jason has harbored them [Paul & Silas], & these are all acting contrary to the decrees of *Caesar*, saying *there is another king — Jesus.*” (There cannot be a King without a Kingdom, & in verse 1-4, Paul preached made disciples among the Jews & Greeks, thus there was a church belonging to Christ.)

[The church & the Kingdom are inseparable in time. But one day, time will be no more – what then?]

D. Paul revealed that at the end of time [Jesus will give over His kingdom to the Father.](#)

1 Cor 15:23-28 – But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are **Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers** [“to give over”, Acts 3:13] **the Kingdom to God the Father**, when He puts an end to all rule & all authority & power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now **when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him**, that God may be all in all.

1. When will all this occur? During some Pre-millennial reign of Christ on the earth? No!
 - a. When Jesus comes in vengeance on those who do not obey the gospel (**2 Thess 1:7-9**).
 - b. At that same time, His willing subjects, the church, will be caught up together with Him & glorify Him forever (**1 Thess 4:17; 2 Thess 1:10**).

CLOSING

A. **Jesus Christ** is now currently the King of His Kingdom, in the fullest sense of the word, & He has been for over 2000 years.

Rev 1:5 – **Jesus Christ**, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, & **the ruler over the kings of the earth** (**Rev 17:14; 19:16**).

To understand the TRUE nature of the Kingdom & church, we must understand this lesson.

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