

THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST – A PRESENT REALITY

Texts: John 12:12-15; 18:33-37

I. JESUS WAS BORN TO BE A KING.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government & peace there will be no end. Upon the throne of David & over His kingdom, to order it & establish it with judgment & justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. (Isa. 9:6-7). 734 B.C.

READ LUKE 1:30-33 NOTE: Compare heir apparent

II. HIS PERSONAL PREACHING FOCUSED ON THE CERTAINTY & THE NATURE OF HIS KINGDOM

A. One came before Him to pave the way.

READ MATTHEW 3:1-3, 11-12

B. His rule was to begin soon.

Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:7; Luke 10:9

C. The beatitudes of the sermon on the mount began and ended with that focus.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 5:6).

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (vs. 10).

D. Numerous of his parables were told to illustrate the nature of His kingdom. "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed..." (MT 13:24). "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed..." (MT 13:31). "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." (MT 13:32). "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field..."

(MT 13:44). “The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls” (MT 13:46). “The kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet...” (MT 13:47).

E. The Promised kingdom was soon fulfilled.
Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4, 29-36

III. TODAY ALL AUTHORITY RESIDES IN HIM, Matt. 28:18-20

A. All authority Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1-2; Gal. 1:11-12
See that you do not refuse Him who speaks.
For if they did not escape who refused him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven. (Heb. 12:25).

Luke 5:5. legislative, executive, judicial

B. All nations.
She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God & His throne. (Rev. 12:5). Matt. 25:32

C. All things commanded. John 14:26; 16:13
He who receives you receives Me, & he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. (Matt. 10:40)

NOTE: Respecting Christ’s authority also means respecting His silence.

A. This principle illustrated in the Law of Moses.
You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you (DT 4:2).

B. Since Jesus lived & died under the Law of Moses, He could not be a priest on earth because the law did not authorize Him to do so.

READ HEBREWS 7:12-14; 8:4

Heb. 1:13

C. The same principle prevails in the N.T. as well.

Since we heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised & keep the law" -- to whom we gave no such commandment. (Acts 15:24).

Whoever transgresses & does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. (2 John 9).

Rev. 22:18-19.

CONCLUSION: Christ is King. His revealed will is to direct us as we live upon this earth, and His words will judge us when this life is over, John 12:48.

Shippensburg, Pa, June 25, 2000 (lectureship)
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, June 25, 2000
Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, May 14, 2002 (meeting)
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, May 19, 2002
Milton, VT, June 28, 2002 (meeting)
Dexter, ME, August 8, 2002 (meeting)
E. 6th St., Stillwater, OK, October 2, 2002 (meeting)
Piscataway, NJ, May 22, 2005 (meeting)