

THE KING, THE KINGDOM, AND THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

- A. Visualize what heaven is going to be like.
 - 1. Streets of gold – continual fellowship?
 - 2. Worshiping before the throne of God?
 - 3. Doing His bidding?
- B. For Further Consideration:
 - 1. Heaven will probably be far different than our expectations.
 - 2. Heaven will be greater than our expectations – its beauty indescribable.
- C. The Kingdom of God – the Church?
 - 1. Prophesied in the Old Testament and early books of the New Testament.
 - 2. Presented as a reality on earth [Acts 2] and throughout the remainder of the N.T.

I. ITS POLITICAL USE.

- A. Kingdom.
 - 1. Reference to one who is supreme.
 - 2. First reference, Genesis 10:8-10 (Nimrod).
 - a. Babel was one of 4 locations of his kingdom in Shinar.
 - 3. The extent of dominion –
 - a. Limited to a city, Adoni-bezek [*city of Bezek*], Judges 1:4-7.
 - b. Others with unlimited control.
 - i. Nebuchadnezzar, Babylonian Empire, book of Daniel.
 - ii. Ahasuerus [Persian Empire from India to Ethiopia], Esther 3.
- B. The Nation of Israel.
 - 1. God is king.
 - a. The nation was ruled by God, Exodus 15:18.
 - b. God was the giver of the law, Ex. 19:5-6.
 - c. God fought Israel's battles, Numbers 21:21-35.
 - i. Sihon, king of the Amorites.
 - ii. Og, king of Bashan.
 - 2. Israel's rebellion.
 - a. They wanted a king like all the others, 1 Sam. 8:5.
 - b. A king would be responsible to Jehovah.
 - c. His authority would be limited by law.
 - d. He would be a servant to Jehovah.
 - 3. The dominant thought – a kingdom is ruled by a king.
 - a. The word "*kingdom*" – lit., "*hath a kingdom*".

II. ITS PROPHETIC USE.

- A. Old Testament Prophecy.
 - 1. Daniel 2:44.
 - a. A special kingdom set up by God.
 - b. A kingdom eternal and unending.
 - c. It would transcend all other kingdoms in power and endurance.

- B. New Testament Prophecy.
 - 1. Preached by John the Baptist, Matthew 3:1-2.
 - 2. Preached by Jesus, Matthew 4:17.
 - a. It was the Gospel of the Kingdom, Matthew 9:35.
 - 3. The 12 and the 70 announced the kingdom, Mt. 10:7; Lk. 10:9.
 - 4. A third of the parables unfold truths about the kingdom, Matthew 6:10.
 - a. Examples in Matthew 13, 20, 22.
- C. Conclusions to Consider:
 - 1. The coming of the kingdom was of great significance in God's plan.
 - 2. The kingdom coming was in fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy.
 - 3. The coming of the kingdom was near [at hand].
 - 4. The arrival of the kingdom was God's work, not man.
 - 5. When it arrived, it could only be entered by man in accordance with God's conditions.
 - 6. The word "kingdom" refers to the spiritual reign of God over those submitting to His will, Luke 17:20-21.

III. ITS PRESENT-DAY USE.

- A. To be used in the sense of prophetic fulfillment.
 - 1. The kingdom as prophesied has come.
 - a. Daniel 2:44; Matthew 16:18; Acts 2.
 - 2. Those who bow to the will of God have come under His kingly rule.
- B. To use the word "kingdom" in the sense of present-day reality.
 - 1. No longer something which is to come.
 - 2. Christ reigns now over those who have come into His church with obedient faith.
 - 3. Ephesians 1:22-23
- C. Reference to an earthly expression of God's heavenly rule.
 - 1. The chosen people [church] the earthly expression of His kingdom.
 - 2. Submission to a king creates a citizenship – a kingdom.
 - 3. Acts 2:41-47 (last week study)
- D. See "kingdom" in the context of a spiritual rule.
 - 1. Faithful Christians under the spiritual rule of Christ.
 - 2. We are the kingdom now, anticipating the eternal kingdom to come, Mt. 7:21-23.

CLOSING

- A. Have we become God's kingdom?
 - 1. Submitting to His authority in all things?
 - 2. Living our lives as citizens of His kingdom?
 - 3. Looking toward the eternal kingdom to come?