

## **6. God Has Spoken of the Nature and Coming of His Kingdom**

The answers to six question establish the nature and coming of the Kingdom of God. Through his prophets and his son (Heb 1:1), God has described when, where and how his kingdom would come. However, many of the modern premillennialists reject his plain revelation. These modern false teachers ignore his plain teaching in favor of unfounded speculations

### ***The Nature of the Kingdom of God: Is It Spiritual or Material?***

All millennial groups have at their philosophic base the idea that Christ will return to establish an earthly kingdom and reign in that physical kingdom from Zion and Jerusalem. Even though there is not one word in the Bible about Christ ever stepping foot on the earth again; and even though it is clear in the Bible that he now reigns King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The overwhelming evidence is that God was going to and did establish a spiritual kingdom, and that Christ is reigning over it now.

From Isa 2:4, it is clear that the kingdom will be spiritual one where its citizens will not follow the carnal ways of materialism:

**4** He will judge between the nations  
and will settle disputes for many peoples.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.

When Jesus came he, confirmed the same principle—his kingdom was a spiritual kingdom. In John 18:36-37, Jesus taught that his kingdom was not of this place but from another place, and further that he was already a king:

**36** Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

**37** "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Jesus kingdom is a spiritual kingdom and one not of this world. When someone says that there is going to be a Kingdom of God on this earth where Jesus' soldiers will fight, they are teaching false doctrine and saying false prophecies.

### ***When Did the Kingdom Come?***

Daniel placed the coming of the kingdom in the days of the Roman kings, the fourth kingdom from the Babylonian Empire in Dan 2:44-45:

**44** "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. **45** This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands — a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

Not only was this kingdom of God established in the days of the Roman kings, once

established it would remain forever. From the days of these Roman kings on, the kingdom of God has been in existence.

Jesus, the Lord, who came in the days of the Roman kings, confirmed this very principle in Luke 2:1: "2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world." Further, he said that the kingdom would come in the time of those living in Mark 9:1: "9 And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

After his death and resurrection, he told the apostles that they would receive this power to come with the kingdom in Acts 1:8: "8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. In Acts 2:1-4, the power came in Jerusalem in the days of who had lived with Jesus, and so the kingdom had to come then too:

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

In Acts 2:47, those that were saved were added to those in this kingdom: "47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

From this point on in the Biblical record, the kingdom is always spoken of as being in existence and the saved are spoken of as the citizens of this kingdom:

Col 1:12-14: 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Heb 12:28-29: 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."

Rev 1:5-6: To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Rev 12:10: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ.

Rev 12:10 raises several provocative questions: When did Christ authority come, when did salvation come, and when did power come? That is when the kingdom came. The great commission answers all these questions. Matt 28:18 records: Matt 28:17-20 records:

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The kingdom came on the day of Pentecost after Jesus resurrection from the dead. There is no future kingdom coming. Those who teach that there is one coming are false teachers!

## ***Where Is Jesus Now?***

Jesus now is in heaven above all rule, authority, power, and dominion. He is there now and will be in the age to come. According to Paul in Eph 1:19-23 he fills everything in every way:

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, **not only in the present age but also in the one to come.** 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Jesus himself asserted his everlasting triumph in Rev 1:12-18:

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Jesus reigns in heaven at the right hand of God, according to Rev 3:21-22:

21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

## ***On Whose Throne Does Jesus Now Sit?***

When Jesus died and was raised to sit on his throne at the right hand of God, he sat on David's throne, fulfilling all the prophecies of the Old Testament of an eternal kingdom. Peter explained it fully on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:29-35:

29 "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place **one of his descendants on his throne.** 31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand

35 until I make your enemies

a footstool for your feet." '

The angel Gabriel also spoke to Mary:

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God

shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end (Luke 1:32-33)."

He was upon his throne in Acts 2, and he will be upon his throne for ever, and there will be no end to his kingdom. Anyone teaching that Christ has yet to reign over his kingdom is a false teacher. Anyone who teaches that Christ came and failed to establish his kingdom is a false teacher. Anyone who claims that the church was a substitute for the kingdom is a false teacher.

### ***Where Is Zion?***

Millennialists make much about their future kingdom going forth from Zion, the historical fortress of David. It is from this earthly kingdom that they teach the Lord will reign. Isa 2:2-4 is one of their proof texts:

2 In the last days  
the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established  
as chief among the mountains;  
it will be raised above the hills,  
and all nations will stream to it.  
3 Many peoples will come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob.  
He will teach us his ways,  
so that we may walk in his paths."  
The law will go out from Zion,  
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

This passage is offered along with Joel 2:1-2

2 Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm on my holy hill.  
Let all who live in the land tremble,  
for the day of the Lord is coming.  
It is close at hand –  
2 a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and blackness.  
Like dawn spreading across the mountains  
a large and mighty army comes,  
such as never was of old  
nor ever will be in ages to come.

Of course these things are all true of the kingdom of the Lord going forth from the day of Pentecost. Reading further in Joel one finds a long quotation from Joel 2 where Peter says that Joel was talking about what happened on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:16-21: reads as an exact quotation of Joel:

16 No, **this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:**

17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and

daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

"No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel" cannot be misunderstood. If we go to Joel, we find in next verses that this is the meaning of going forth from Zion. Joel 2:32 completes the evidence:

32 And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved;  
for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem  
there will be deliverance,  
as the Lord has said,  
among the survivors  
whom the Lord calls.

Peter said what happened on the day of Pentecost was what Joel said. Joel said that what he said it was "for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem will be deliverance. Isaiah and Joel were fulfilled in Acts 2. The kingdom of God went forth from Zion and in Jerusalem. Anyone who says this is yet to happen is a false teacher.

### ***Where Is the New Jerusalem?***

The New Jerusalem will not be some city of the future on this earth. It is with us now on earth and in heaven and it will continue after we go to the Lord. The Hebrew writer explains in Heb 12:22-24:

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

When we come to the church, we come to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. This is called the church of the firstborn (Christ). The members of this church have names written in heaven. The verb form here is present tense, not future. All of these come to Christians now and they remain after we go to the Lord.

In the last day, the heaven and the earth will pass away, and only the city of God will remain: Rev 21:1-4

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."