

**"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"**

**Part 42**

**"The Conclusion"**

**Introduction:** Tonight, in our study of the Kingdom we will wrap this study up. In our study we have traced the Kingdom and its promise from Genesis 2 the entire way through the Bible into the eternal state found in Revelation 22. God established the Kingdom in Genesis 2 and it was lost when Adam sinned, and after the tribulation Jesus (the last Adam) will set up His Kingdom on the earth and He will rule and reign on this earth for one thousand years.

**Revelation 20:1-7**

*And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

*<sup>2</sup> And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.*

*<sup>3</sup> And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

*<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

*<sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

*<sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

*<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

After the one-thousand-year earthly Kingdom and the destruction of the unsaved who rebel at the end of the Kingdom, the earth will be destroyed and the Great White Throne judgment of all the unsaved will take place and then there will be the creation of a new

heaven and a new earth. This will be the eternal state where we will live for all eternity. In the eternal state the Universal Kingdom of God which exists right now will merge with the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15:21-28**

<sup>21</sup> For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

<sup>23</sup> But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

<sup>24</sup> Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

<sup>25</sup> For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

<sup>26</sup> The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

<sup>27</sup> For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

<sup>28</sup> And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

**Revelation 22:3**

<sup>3</sup> And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

All of this basically sums up our study of the coming Kingdom. Tonight, in our study I want to consider why it is so important to grasp this Truth of the coming Kingdom. We shall consider a question this evening;

**“What happens when a church adopts the teaching that says it is the Kingdom and the Kingdom exists right now?”**

**I. Purpose of the Church**

The church which started in Acts 2 has three appointed purposes.

**1. The church exists to glorify God.**

**Ephesians 3:21**

<sup>21</sup> Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

**2. The church exists to edify its members.**

Each of us as members of the body of Jesus Christ are given at least one spiritual gift and the gifts are for the purpose of edification.

**Ephesians 4:11-16**

<sup>11</sup> And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

<sup>12</sup> For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

<sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

<sup>14</sup> That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

<sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

<sup>16</sup> From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

**3. The church exists to evangelize the world.**

**Matthew 28:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

<sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

<sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

When the church sees itself as the Kingdom these purposes become distorted and this is seen in several ways.

**1. The sharing of the Gospel is abandoned.**

When the church believes it is the Kingdom (and many believers believe this) the church takes on a mission to change the government instead of reaching lost souls. This theology causes the church to desire political power and to rule by the sword. This is not what God appointed the church to do. We are to evangelize and disciple people. It is for Jesus to change the political structure of the world when He sets up His earthly Kingdom. We do have a part in being a positive influence on the world.

**Matthew 5:13-16**

*<sup>13</sup> Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

*<sup>14</sup> Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

*<sup>15</sup> Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

*<sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

We are to set the example for others but we are not called to change the world or politics. That is what our Lord will do.

**Psalm 2:7-9**

*<sup>7</sup> I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.*

*<sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.*

*<sup>9</sup> Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*

**Revelation 12:5**

<sup>5</sup> And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

## 2. The church loses its power.

When the church adopts a mission, it was never intended to be a part of, the power departs from the church.

### Romans 1:16

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

God's power is seen when we preach the gospel not when we try to change the political arena.

### Ephesians 3:20

<sup>20</sup> Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

This is the power that is available to us but not when we are outside the will of the Lord. We must walk in His will to see His power.

### Romans 12:1-2

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

<sup>2</sup> *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

### 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

<sup>6</sup> *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>7</sup> *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

Notice the words of Hal Lindsey.

*"The last days of the church on the earth may be largely wasted seeking to accomplish a task that only the Lord Himself can and will do directly."*

### 3. The church loses sight of its pilgrimage.

When the church sees itself as the Kingdom it begins to see this world as its home but the Bible makes it very clear that this world is not our home but we are only passing through.

#### 1 Peter 2:11

<sup>11</sup> *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

#### Hebrews 11:8-10, 13

<sup>8</sup> *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*

<sup>9</sup> *By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:*

<sup>10</sup> *For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

<sup>13</sup> *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

#### Philippians 3:20

<sup>20</sup> *For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

### 4. The church turns to a social gospel.

When the church sees itself as the Kingdom it begins to focus upon cleaning up all the problems that are here. Problems such as poverty, hunger, justice, illnesses, etc. Notice the words of a Kingdom now theologian named McLaren.

*"The church has been preoccupied with the question, "What happens to your soul after you die?" As if the reason for Jesus coming can be summed up in "Jesus is trying to get more souls into heaven as opposed to hell, after they die." I think a fair reading of the Gospels blows that out of the water."*

#### Conclusion:

There will be an earthly Kingdom just as the Bible predicts and Jesus will rule in that Kingdom as promised, but the Kingdom is not the church.