

Lesson #31
“ THE KINGDOM IS NOW”

TEXTS: Mark 9:1; Colossians 1:13; I Corinthians 15:25,26

INTRODUCTION:

The future kingdom theory, together with the literal reign of Christ upon the earth for a literal thousands years, has disturbed many people.

It is called premillennialism: the theory that at the second coming of Christ man’s earthly state will not be terminated but that a new age or dispensation of one thousand years will begin, during which time Christ will reign over His kingdom.

I. IT CANNOT BE TRUE BECAUSE THE KINGDOM HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED.

a. You recall that Jesus said in (Mark 9:1) the kingdom was to come with power. You recall further that this power was to come upon the apostles in Jerusalem. (Luke 24:49)

This power did come on the apostles in Jerusalem on the Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ. (Acts 2:1-4)

Peter had been given the keys to the kingdom (Matthew 16:19) thus Peter had been given the authority to open the door of the kingdom or preach the terms of admission into it.

This truth is reinforced by Paul’s declaration that there is just one body (Eph.4:4) and that he earlier identified that the body as the church (Eph.1:22,23).

Paul and the members of the church at Colossae were in the kingdom (Col.1:13) and so were John and those who received the Revelation letter (Rev. 1:9).

We might also note that among those with John in the Kingdom were members of the seven different congregations of the church. Indeed there is one body, the church.

That church is the kingdom that Jesus promised to build and it came into being nearly 2,000 years ago in Acts 2 in the last days. It, therefore, is and cannot be some future event.

2 Peter 3: 9-11	There will be no earth.
2 Thessalonians 4:13,14	There will be no righteous.

FULFILLMENT OF THE DIVINE KINGDOM

Luke 1:30-32	Gabriel heralded the conception of the King.
Matthew 2: 1,2	Wise men anticipated the birth of a King.
Matthew 3:1,2	John announced that the kingdom was at hand.
Matthew 4:17,23	Jesus preached that the kingdom was at hand.
Matthew 10:5-7	The apostles preached that the kingdom was at hand.
Luke 10:11	They announced the nearness of the kingdom.
Mark 9:1	The kingdom was to come during the lifetime of Jesus hearers.
John 18:36	The kingdom was not to be of this world.
Acts 1:8	The kingdom was to come with power within a few days.
Acts 2	The kingdom came on Pentecost with power.
Acts 2:29-36	Jesus was declared to be both Lord and Christ.
1 Timothy 6:15	Jesus declared to be the only Potentate, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.
2 Thessalonians 1:5	The Thessalonians were suffering for the kingdom.
Colossians 1:13	The Colossians had been translated into the kingdom.
Hebrews 12:28	The Hebrew Christians had received a kingdom.
Revelation 1:8	John and the seven churches were in the kingdom.
1 Corinthians 15:25,26	Christ is now reigning in His kingdom.

(Luke 2:49) And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

(John 17:4) I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.