

# PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path"  
Psalm 119:104*

January 28, 2018

## How Long Will Jesus Reign?

by Frank Himmel

The Bible affirms that Jesus now reigns as King (Acts 2:29-36; Colossians 1:13-14). Jesus Himself testified, "I sat down with My Father on His throne" (Revelation 3:21).



How long will Jesus reign? The Bible answers that question in two different ways.

### Forever

The angel Gabriel promised Mary:

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end (Luke 1:31-33).

That is consistent with the prophecy of Daniel 2. In a dream, King Nebuchadnezzar saw an image which, according to Daniel's interpretation, represented four successive kingdoms: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. Daniel then prophesied:

In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever (v. 44).

### Until He Comes

1 Corinthians 15 clearly identifies the end of Jesus' reign. It says of the time of Jesus' second coming, "Then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power" (v. 24). Jesus must reign until all enemies are subjected to Him (v. 25), and the last enemy is death (v. 26). When death is subjected to Him, "then the Son Himself will also be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all" (v. 28). Jesus' victory over death will be complete when He raises the dead at His second coming (cf. John 5:28-29).

### No Contradiction

Are these two answers contradictory? Not at all! In contrast to human kingdoms, which come and go during the span of time, Jesus' kingdom will have no end. This was the contrast of Daniel 2. But when Jesus returns, the world as we know it, including time, will be no more (2 Peter 3:10-12). His rule will be then returned to the Father—a rule, however, in which both Jesus (Revelation 11:15) and His followers (Revelation 22:5) are in some sense said to share.

The real question we need to be asking ourselves is, Does Jesus reign now in my life? ■

# Finish the Job

by Frank Himmel

One of Paul’s purposes in writing 2 Corinthians was to encourage the church at Corinth to complete the financial commitment they had made a year earlier to help needy brethren in Judea. The Apostle urged, “But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability” (8:11).

Finish the job. That is sound advice, applicable in many situations.

Let’s begin where Paul did. Finish the job of **giving**. Good intentions do not supply the need, either of the poor among us, the local church, or preachers abroad. “Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth” (1 John 3:18).



Finish the job of **studying**. Of course, we are never finished with this one. I am thinking about those New Year’s resolutions to spend so much time a day reading and studying God’s word—you know, the ones we keep a few weeks, then neglect, then finally abandon altogether. “O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day” (Psalm 119:97).

Finish the job of **teaching**. Good example is a starting place (Matthew 5:16). You cannot teach without it. But more than example is needed if you are going to convert people to Christ. You must speak to them about their souls. “If the name of the Savior is precious to you . . . will you not tell it today?”

Finish the job of **repenting**. Repentance is not just acknowledging that you are wrong. It involves sorrow for sin, but it is more than that. Repentance is a change of heart and a corresponding change of life. Don’t stop part way through the process. “. . . unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3).

Finish the job of **obeying the gospel**. Faith is essential, but faith alone does not justify (James 2:24). You must repent (Acts 3:19). You must confess Christ before men (Romans 10:9-10). You must be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). And you must “finish the course” by keeping the faith (2 Timothy 4:7). Don’t meet the Lord in judgment having met only *some* of His conditions for salvation.

Finish this article. Think about other things in the Lord’s service that you have started and need to complete. ■

## Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday	Wednesday
GREETER	Bruce Hollander	David Gray
SONG LEADER	Gary Hagler	Frank Himmel
OPENING PRAYER	Mike Zachry	
LORD’S SUPPER		
BREAD	Howard Moore	
CUP	John Baucom	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Adam Gibson	
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Bruce Hollander
CLOSING PRAYER	J B Williams	Daven Daniel