

The Kingdom has Come: Jesus is Now Lord

By Orlando Mostert
Kingdomvision.co.za

With the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in 33 AD the Kingdom of God has come and it is destined to grow and grow till it fills all the earth. The New Covenant that Jesus inaugurated replaced the Old Covenant with Israel to create a new Israel, a new Promised Land, a New Jerusalem, a new Priesthood, a new Temple.

The old dispensation passed away and a new dispensation began....the Kingdom Age has already come. It means that all power in heaven and earth has been given to Christ and He in turn has given authority to His church to defeat Satan, preach the good news and grow the Kingdom till it fills all the earth.

In this article I want to teach you three things:

- You hear a lot about how we are living in the “end times”, but in actual fact all the writers of the New Testament wrote and believed they were living in the last days, the end times!
- We are now living in the Millennial reign of Christ, not one day in the future. Why? Because Rev.20 says it starts with the 1st resurrection and ends with the 2nd resurrection and the 1st resurrection has already happened!
- And because all power and all authority has already been given to Christ and He has passed that authority over to His church. He now reigns...not one day in the future!

All the above is supported by the previous fulfilled prophecies which we have presented:

- The Kingdom of God would come during the 4th empire, the Roman Empire...done!
- The prophecy of the coming of the Messiah and finishing the work of redemption in 70 weeks or 490 yearsdone in 33 AD. (no future 7 year Great Tribulation)
- The return of Israel to the land and restoration of Israel as a nation....done in 141-143 BC.
- The invasion of Israel by Gog/Magog in 37 BC....done.
- The battle of Armageddon...done in 66 AD-70 AD.

The build up to the battle of Armageddon in 70 AD and the destruction of the Old Covenant and the beginning of the New Covenant is that period between 33 AD and 70 AD. Those were the “end times”, the “last days” so vividly prophesied by Jesus in Matthew 24 and Luke 21. That generation did see all those things as He said they would. Jerusalem surrounded by armies, the temple destroyed., the signs in the sky, the tumult of nations, false Christ’s, persecution of the saints.

But I also want to give you the exciting description of what happened in heaven between the time of the Sunday morning resurrection from the dead when Jesus told Mary Magdalene “I am now ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God”....and that evening when He returned from heaven to meet with His disciples with exciting news.

You must understand what happened in heaven in those hours....and fortunately others scriptures and prophets saw what happened. The Kingdom of God was given to the saints of the most high.... And all power in heaven and on earth was given to Jesus Christ.

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The Mystery of Resurrection Morning

Something critical happened between the time Jesus rose from the grave Sunday morning and told Mary Magdalene 'Don't touch me...' and Sunday night when He met His disciples and said touch me...it is the central key to all prophecy.

If you want the central key to many prophecies of scripture then it is critical to understand what happened between the hours of Sunday morning when Mary Magdalene met the risen Christ in the garden and that evening when Jesus appeared for the first time to His disciples. This will clear up a lot of prophetic confusion.

There is a lot of mystery here that if we look closer and compare with other scriptures will reveal the secrets behind the scenes in the spirit realms during those hours. The mystery starts with the setting....

Jesus has been crucified and dead for 3 days. Mary Magdalene is coming to the grave to anoint the body. He is dead and gone. No expectation of the resurrection. She meets who she thinks is the gardener. She does not recognize it is Jesus. He speaks to her..."Mary"...she is shocked to see it is the resurrected Jesus...she rushes to embrace Him with joy. And now the critical statement by Jesus.

John 20:17 *"And Jesus said to her: Touch me not for I am not yet ascended unto the Father: but go to my brethren and say unto them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father and to my God and your God."*

Here is Jesus newly coming out of the grave dead for three days and not yet in heaven but on His way to heaven..."don't touch me, I am not yet ascended to the Father." Now a few verses later it is Sunday evening, Mary had told the disciples what had happened...

John 20:19 *"When therefore it was evening on that day, the first day of the week...Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them "peace be unto you" ...and He showed them His hands*

and His side..." So that night they could touch Him and hug and eat together.

What happened between Sunday morning "don't touch me" and Sunday night "touch me and see.." What happened was that He ascended to the Father in heaven and descended back to His disciples on earth. Now here is the critical thing...John does not tell us what happened in heaven...but other scriptures do tell us what happened in those hours and what happened there. A number of critical things happened that are key to understanding prophecy. I am going to take you behind the scenes for some real revelation but first must give a further background briefing.

The first thing to understand is that from the death of Jesus Christ right to the Sunday night appearance to His disciple Jesus was in two places doing two very critical things

- First He went into hell...to "sheol". After He died on the cross His body went into the tomb, His Spirit was committed to the Father ("Father into your hands I commit my Spirit"), His soul went into hell (or in Hebrew "Sheol: the place of the dead").

Then He rose from out of Sheol but before ascending to the Father He stopped off at His grave site to give Mary this critical piece of information, I am alive but I am first going to ascend to heaven to the Father and then I am coming back to see my disciples...tell them I am coming back.

- Then He ascends to heaven where He once again is united to His glory. At that point during those earth hours something amazing happened in heaven that Jesus could report back to His disciples when He met them again hours later returning from heaven back to earth.

Both in Sheol and in heaven several critical things happened that we must understand if we are to understand the prophetic agenda of the Kingdom of God.

Now lets go back a few days in the narrative to a

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very important conversation Jesus was having with His disciples to prepare them for what is about to happen.

In John 12:31 He started to warn His disciples a momentous thing as about to take place... ***"Now is the judgment of this world now shall the prince of this world be cast out."*** An enormous battle for the future of the world is about to take place. Satan tried to forestall this battle by offering the world to Jesus....

Luke 4:5 ***"And Satan led him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time and the devil said him, To you I will give all this authority and the glory of them for it has been delivered unto me and to whomsoever I will give it..."***

Adam when he sinned transferred his authority over the earth that the Lord had given to him to Satan. But God prophesied to Satan, someone is coming to take it away from you, someone of Adam's seed and you will bruise His heel but He will crush your head and you will be cast down to the ground from out of the heavens.

Jesus refused Satan's offer....because He was intent on taking back all authority over the nations from Satan and at the same time crushing his head and casting him out of the heavens for judgment. And now it was time for the battle to fulfill that prophecy.

Now after this declaration of war on Satan Jesus begins to prepare His disciples for the anguish and weeping that was to come shortly. Read how he approaches this sensitive subject....

John 14:30 ***"I will no more speak much with you for the prince of the world comes and he has nothing in me."*** The battle is here....don't be afraid....***"I go to prepare a place for you...and if I go to prepare a place for you I will come again...I will not leave you desolate...I will come unto you"***

John 16:16...***"A little while and you will behold me no more and gain a little while and you shall see me..."*** Meaning He is going to heaven and coming back!

Can you see that Jesus is not talking about what we call the "Second Coming of Christ" here. He is talking about His death in few days time when they will not see Him and then very shortly thereafter His resurrection and return.

His disciples did not really understand, John 16:17 ***"Some of his disciples therefore said one to another What is this that He says unto us, A little while and behold me not and again a little while you shall see me Because I go to the Father!"***

Jesus explained further John 16:20 ***"Verily I say unto you that you shall weep and lament but the world shall rejoice you shall be sorrowful but your sorrow shall be turned to joy."***

And of course this is exactly what happened....sorrow when He died and for a while they did not see Him and joy when He returned from the Father....and that is important...He went to the Father to make a place for them, an access into heaven and into the family of God....and came back with the good news...but with more interesting news.

The First Resurrection

So what happened after He died? Well the first thing is he went into hell to pay for our sins and then to release all those waiting for the redemption of their sins, the Old Testament saints...this is how scripture relates it to us...

Eph 4:8-10 ***" Wherefore he saith, When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, And gave gifts unto men. (Now this, He ascended, what is it but that he also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)"***

So Jesus went first to defeat the enemy, pay for our sins and release those held captive....and resurrect them into heaven. How do we know this apart from the scripture above?

The Ascension to Heaven: What happened there?

Then after clearing out Sheol and leading the captives out of captivity of death what did Jesus do? "He ascended on high...." Here we turn to the prophet Daniel, to Hebrews and Revelation to get the picture of what happened next in heaven. And this is critical again to understand a lot of prophetic scripture in proper context....remember we are asking and answering the question: When did the Kingdom of God come? Has it come? Is it still to come in the future?

The first important scripture to set the stage is found in Hebrews 9:12

"Nor yet through the blood of goats and calves but through his own blood He entered in once and for all into the Holy Place having obtained eternal redemption."

Now keep that picture in mind of Jesus the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world as we see what Daniel sees in heaven and also what is shown to John in Revelation 5.

Daniel gives us this incredible vision of Jesus entering heaven upon His ascension. From Dan. 7: 9-14

I beheld till thrones were placed, and one that was ancient of days did sit: his raiment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and the wheels thereof burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousands of thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, there came with the clouds of heaven one like unto a son of man, and he came even to the ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and

glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; until the ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High, and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. And the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High: his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Please note that His Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom....not a 1000 year Kingdom!

Here is what is happening:

- Jesus is the one "like unto a son of man." He comes with the "clouds of heaven". Hebrews 12;1 after describing all the Old Testament saints in Heb 11 as being persecuted and afflicted and not obtaining all the promises of God describes them in verse 12;1 as a "great cloud of witnesses."

- This great cloud of witnesses are the saints of old upon whom the great beast made war on and prevailed against them...until the time came that judgment was given against the great beast (Satan) and he was defeated and the saints of the most high were given the authority they lost over all the earth in Adam.

- This authority was won for the saints by the "one like unto a son of man" who defeated the great beast. And unto Him was given all power and glory and dominion that all peoples and nations should serve Him.

- This great courtroom drama of the transfer of authority and power from Satan to the Prince of Peace and the Lord of Lords occurred during the time that Jesus ascended after His meeting with Mary and His return to His disciples that night. He ascended to the Father with His blood to pre-

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sent Himself as the lamb of God slain from the foundations of the earth...He entered the most Holy of Holies with His own blood and made atonement for our sins once and for all.

This same picture of the transfer of authority to the lamb of God is seen by John and recorded in Rev. 5:9 "***...and they sang a new song saying Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof for you were slain and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every nation, kindred and tribe....and I heard loud voices....Worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and honour and glory and blessing....***

Then something important happened....the lamb of God, after entering the most Holy Place with His blood in heaven and receiving all power and authority over all creation from the Father, then returned to earth to meet with His disciples with this great revelation and injunction....

Math. 28:18-19 "***And Jesus came to them and spake to them saying, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations....***"

Here is the deception of modern prophecy teachers and writers that this revelation from scripture negates. I have been taught in the past and have taught in the past...

- That the kingdom of God is only one day coming when Jesus returns.
- The resurrection of the saints will one day happen when Jesus comes.
- Satan will one day in the future be bound and judged.
- That one day in the Millennium all this will take place for a thousand years. Only then can we disciple the nations. Only then will the saints possess the kingdom. Until then Satan is the prince of this world. Oh and of course the saints that will possess the Kingdom is not the church it is the Jews who will restore the Kingdom of God as we the church will be taken out of the world to protect us from the power of Satan and the Antichrist.

All the above is deception. All designed to lie us into inactivity and helpless powerlessness.

Strangely enough all this reality of the Kingdom authority became more real to me when I realized something powerful happened between when Jesus spoke with Mary Magdalene on Sunday morning on His way to heaven and when He returned from heaven that evening and could announce to His disciples...."all power in heaven and on earth has been given unto me" and by extension He transferred that power and authority to we His church when He sent the Holy Spirit to empower us.

The first resurrection has taken place and all who die in Christ are now alive in Christ and we who were dead in our trespasses and sins are now seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Satan was judged, bound and defeated 2000 years ago. Power and authority over all of creation was regained to us from our Second Adam who won what we lost from our first Adam. And that happened 2000 years ago. There is no future Millennium simply because Christ is now reigning already. The Millennium when Christ reigns started 2000 years ago. Yes there are still some "beasts" around as Daniel tells us that need to be conquered, but they no longer have any authority...Jesus defeated and bound "the strong man of the house" so that we can spoil him of all his goods.

- Do you really believe that Jesus is Lord now? If so why do you insist that He must physically be present in Jerusalem for 1000 years before He can rule His Kingdom on earth?
 - Do you believe that you are presently seated with Christ in heavenly places ruling in this life with His authority or do you think only one day in the Millennium you are going to rule with Christ?
 - Do you believe that upon His resurrection from the dead He triumphed over Satan, death and hell and that all power in heaven and earth have been given unto Him? If so, why do you think He will only exercise that power one day in the Millennium and not now?
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- Do you believe that Christ has delegated His authority to the Church to trample on Satan and destroy his works? If so why do you then think that the Church does not have the authority to bring in the Kingdom and only 144,000 Jews in the tribulation are going to do that?

The truth of the matter is that you in your spirit already believe the Kingdom message. What you need to do is to get your mind in tune with your spirit! Your mind has been fed defeatist false teaching coming out of the popular prophecy books telling you, “relax, it isn’t time for the Kingdom, that is only going to be in the future, this is not your job in any case, the Jews will bring in the Kingdom, you can’t expect to disciple nations, the Antichrist is taking over the world, you’re ok, you’re getting Raptured out of here so don’t sweat it!”

This is not the end-times! This is the Kingdom Age!

The “end times” or “last days” referred to by so many writers in the New Testament was the period from the resurrection of Jesus in 33 AD to the end of the Old Covenant period that terminated in 70 AD with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. It was time for a New Covenant and a New Jerusalem (His Bride the church) and a New Temple where God was to dwell (the Church).

When New Testament writers were referring to “the last days” they realized that the end of an era had come. The time of the Temple and the sacrifices were over.

Jesus made sure that everyone understood this new reality by destroying both the Temple and Jerusalem. The Church got the message.

What does the Bible say about the End Times?

But let’s look and see what the New Testament writers have to say about “last days”, “latter days” or end times. And after reading these

scriptures see if you don’t agree with me that all the New Testament writers believed that they were living in the end times. But understand this...they were not wrong or mistaken! They were living in the “last days” of the Jewish era but the beginning of the Kingdom Age!

Peter the Apostle...

Peter on the day of Pentecost, when the 120 were gathered in the upper room and the power of the Holy Spirit was poured out and everyone started speaking in tongues, clearly under the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit preaches to the gathering crowds and says: *“this is that spoken of by the prophet Joel, and it shall come to pass in the last days, sayeth the Lord, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh...”* (Acts 2: 16, 17)

Peter, speaking under the anointing of the Holy Spirit declares that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit taking place right there before their eyes, in the upper room in Jerusalem in 33 AD was a direct fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel which was to take place **“in the last days”**.

That Peter clearly believed they were living in the last days is further confirmed in his epistle (! Peter 1:19,20) “Christ...who was verily foreordained before the foundations of the world but was **manifest in these last days** for you.” Jesus made His appearance on earth in the **“last days”** i.e. about 33 AD!

The Writer of Hebrews.....

The writer of **Hebrews (probably either James or Paul)** says, *“God who at sundry times and divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..”* (Hebrews 1:1,2)

And he repeats very emphatically in Hebrews 9:26, *“...but now once in the end of the world has He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself”*.

Very clearly the writer of Hebrews is saying that Jesus’ appearance and sacrifice happened at “the

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end of the world” and that when God spoke to them through Jesus it was during “the last days”. The word “world” is from the Greek word “eon” meaning age. What he means is that Jesus appeared at the end of the Jewish age of Temple sacrifice to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself!

John the Apostle....

John writes in his epistle to the church (1 John 2:18), “*Little children it is the last time; and as you have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists, whereby we know that it is the last time.*”

Can it get any clearer? John clearly believed that he was living in the end times because the prophesied antichrist had come...in their time, 2000 years ago! No John, surely you’re wrong, why I’ve got 8 great prophecy books that says that the end times are upon us 40 years after the founding of the state of Israel in 1948 and the Antichrist is still going to come! Who am I supposed to believe? John or modern day prophecy writers?

Paul the Apostle....

Paul warns his disciple Timothy that they are living in the last days and therefore he must watch out for certain things:

“Now the Spirit speaks expressly saying that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith...(1 Tim.4:1)

“For know also that in the last days perilous times will come...” (2 Tim. 3:1)

Paul was warning Timothy that because they were in “the latter times” or “the last days” these things were going to happen and this is what he must do to guard against these deceptions. So why warn Timothy about what is going to happen in “the last days” if he did not believe that Timothy is living in the last days?

To the Corinthian church he writes “*Now these thingswere written for our example upon whom the ends of the ages have come*” 1 Cor. 10:11)

Jesus our Lord....

In Matthew 24 we find Jesus and the disciples viewing the great temple in Jerusalem. It was a monumental piece of construction by King Herod the Great that took decades to build at enormous cost. As the disciples stood admiring the great building Jesus made the remarkable prophecy: “*for verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*” The startled disciples then asked Him “tell us when shall these things be and what shall be the sign of thy coming and the end of the world?” (meaning “eon” or the end of the age). His incredible time prediction in verse 34 says, “Verily I say unto you, **this generation shall not pass away until all these things shall be fulfilled.**”

These clear scriptures of the New Testament leave you with only one of three options:

Option 1...

Yes, Jesus, Peter, John, James and Paul did believe they were living in the last days but they were just flat out mistaken. Obviously they were not living in the end times or last days because the world has gone on for another 2000 years.

Option 2...

Yes they were living in the “last days” or “end times”, but this is actually a period of time that stretches for thousands of years because they were living in the end times and we are also living in the end times.

Option 3...

The New Testament writers were in fact correct that they were living in the end times but we are not correct in thinking we are living in the end times.

Option 1 is not an option for any Christian who believes that the Bible is the inspired word of God. In fact if you were to read any of the many skeptics who try to point out supposed mistakes in the Bible, one of their primary attacks always is to point out that the writers of the New Testament all believed that they were living in the “end times”, “last days” or end of the world.

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That the world has gone on for another 2000 years is proof to them that these early Christians were deluded and the Bible a fallible document.

Option 2 is just plain avoiding the issue. It's a fudge. You can't seriously think that when the Bible talks about the end times it is talking about a period of 2000 years.

Option 3 is the only realistic, scriptural option for Christians of the 21st Century. But it leaves us unfortunately with some major unavoidable problems and it is time we confront these issues head on and get the mind of Christ for our time. The clear indication from scriptures is that the writers of the New Testament believed they were living in the "end-times". And since scripture does not lie the only right conclusion we can therefore make is that we in the 21st Century are not living in the "end-times". This also means that anyone preaching to you that these are the "end-times" and the world is about to end and we are shortly about to be Raptured out of here does not have the mind of Christ, does not understand scripture and does not know that in actual fact we are already in the Kingdom Age!

Are we in the Kingdom Age now? Or is it still some future time called the Millennium?

The clear teaching of all scripture is that Jesus Christ is now the risen Lord! His Kingdom has come and His will is being done. He has all power in heaven and on earth. He will continue to reign for as long as it takes until every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus is Lord! His Kingdom began on earth on the day of Pentecost when He poured out His Spirit on 120 in the upper room in 33 AD and that Kingdom will grow and grow until it fills the earth... and don't be surprised that it takes thousands of years because that is exactly what Revelations said it would take! God rules eternity and He has lots of time!

Now let's see if scriptures support this wonderful vision of Kingdom Now or the Dispensationist idea of Kingdom Postponed.

Daniel's Timing of the Coming Kingdom

In "Kingdom Prophecies" I showed you an accurate 490 year countdown in the book of Daniel to the appearance of the Messiah. But equally remarkable was that Daniel also actually prophesied when the Kingdom of God was to appear on the earth!

In Daniel chapter 2 we have the prophecy of the great statue of 4 metals and in Chapter 7 the prophecy of 4 beasts. These signify that four kingdoms were to come after each other. All prophecy writers agree that these four successive kingdoms were, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. But note the wonderful declaration made by Daniel 2:44:

But in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people but shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall last forever.

Daniel prophesied that during the time of the Roman Empire the Lord would set up his Kingdom here on earth and that it would last forever. That means the Kingdom would not be set up 2000 years later nor would it last only a thousand years...it would last forever!

Daniel chapter seven repeats this amazing prophecy using four beasts to signify the four coming world empires. But once again during the time of the fourth beast empire the Lord would set up His kingdom.

Incredibly Daniel accurately predicted not only the exact time for the appearance of Messiah the King but also how many world kingdoms would rise and fall during this time until Messiah came to set up His Kingdom on the earth! But the Kingdom postponed teachers don't believe Daniel!

The Kingdom Postponed Doctrine...

The Kingdom Postponed theory that is taught in most prophecy books says that, yes Jesus did come to proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom at His first coming and yes He did intend to inau-

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gurate the Kingdom of God on earth but the Jews who were supposed to be inheritors of this Kingdom rejected the King and His Kingdom. Then after this rejection of the Kingdom by the Jews, the Lord then turned to the gentiles with the gospel of grace and the launching of the Church Age. This Church Age dispensation however is only a “parenthesis” period until the church is Raptured out of the earth. Then the Lord will once again offer the Kingdom to the Jews who will then accept and a 144,000 Jews will proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom during the 7 year Great Tribulation period. This will then lead to the thousand year Millennial reign of Christ on earth ruling from Jerusalem.

Let me quote from two of the favorite writers of the Kingdom Postponed doctrine and then show you the enormous problems this false teaching creates for the church and the believer:

“God...made the attempt to set up His Kingdom on earth, but the Jews rejected it, so the Kingdom has been withdrawn until the second coming.” (Larkin, Dispensational Truths, p.85)

“Messiah’s Kingdom on earth was offered by John and Jesus. It was rejected so was postponed until Christ comes to set up the Kingdom” (Dake, Annotated Bible, p.3) I can quote many more but these two writers are among the most widely quoted.

The Kingdom Now Doctrine...

The Kingdom now doctrine states that the Kingdom of God on earth was inaugurated by Jesus Christ at His first coming. The reign of Christ began at His resurrection when He triumphed over all the power of the enemy and He is now ruling being seated at the right hand of God with all power in heaven and earth given unto Him. He will continue to rule until all His enemies are made His footstool. The last enemy to be conquered is death. His Kingdom began small, in the hearts of His disciples but as prophesied by all the prophets it will grow and grow till it fills the earth. Daniel’s prophecy says that His Kingdom will be like a rock that strikes the fourth

world empire (Rome) and then grow and grows till it fills the earth. Isaiah and Habakkuk says His glory will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

His second coming will be at the consummation of the ages when He has subjected all under Him and He then presents the Kingdom to the Father and the dead are resurrected and all are presented for judgment before God. (1 Cor. 15). This reign of Christ is manifested through His Church here on earth who are tasked with spreading His Kingdom everywhere. The gates of hell will not prevail against the all conquering Church of Jesus Christ who is His body, His bride and His temple in whom He dwells.

Do we see everything yet under the dominion of Christ the King? No...

That is why scripture says...***“He must reign till he has put all enemies under his feet”*** (1 Cor. 15:25) That means the reign of Jesus as King is the process of Him subduing through history and through His Church all who are not submitted to Him.

So what does the scripture teach us about the coming of the Kingdom?

- The Kingdom has come.
- The Kingdom is coming now.
- The Kingdom will come!

So you have a choice to believe either...

The Kingdom has come and Jesus is now Lord and now ruling....

or

The Kingdom will one day come and Jesus will one day rule for a thousand years.

The first obvious starting point is not what does Dake, Larkin, John Hagee or TBN or 700 Club believe but what did Jesus teach and believe about the Kingdom?

Jesus said ***“..the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent ye and believe the gospel”*** (Mark 1:15). (see also Matt. 3:1-2 and Matt 4:17).

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Now I want you to read this next paragraph very carefully and what it implies:

If Jesus came to set up the Kingdom but had to postpone it because the Jews had the ability to postpone the Kingdom by rejecting it; then it means Jesus did not know they would reject it...otherwise why proclaim it was at hand? But if He knew they would reject it and He would have to postpone it for 2000 years then why say it is at hand? That would be a lie! Can you see that those who hold this Kingdom Postponed view make Christ out to be either ignorant or a liar!

Did Jesus believe the Kingdom of God had come?

“But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, then know the kingdom of God is come upon you.” (Luke 11:20)

What do you think Jesus believed about the coming of the Kingdom of God? And can you see why the devils don't want you to believe that the Kingdom has come? Because we now have authority to cast out devils and they know it! The devils know that the Kingdom has come even if the theologians don't.

Did Jesus believe the time had come for the Kingdom to appear?

Mark 9:1: *“For verily I say unto you, there be some standing here that shall not taste of death till they have seen the Kingdom of God come with power”.*

When did the Kingdom of God come? Jesus said it would come while some of those listening to His words almost 2000 years ago were still alive!

What did Paul believe and teach? Kingdom Now or Kingdom Postponed?

Paul states we are now in the Kingdom, because God has *“delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son”* (Col.1:13).

What did John believe? Kingdom Now or Kingdom Postponed?

John writing in his introduction to the Churches of Asia in the beginning of Revelations says, *“...Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first begotten from the dead and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood and made us kings and priests unto God...”* (Rev. 1:5-6).

What do you think John believed? Jesus is one day in the future a king for a thousand years or is He King now over all the rulers of the earth and we are now kings and priests in that Kingdom?

But is Jesus Christ now King or must we wait for the Second Coming for Him to be crowned King of Kings?

According to the Dispensational-Kingdom Postponed teachers, Jesus is savior now but only at His second coming is He King of Kings when He comes to sit on David's throne in Jerusalem as the King of Israel during the Millennium. But this is not what scripture says:

I Tim 6:15-16 Jesus is now the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. *“The Lord Jesus Christ...who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings and Lord of lords, who only has immortality dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, whom no man has seen nor can see to whom be honor and power everlasting”*

Matth 28:19 Jesus says that all power in heaven and earth had now been given unto him.

Heb. 10:12,13 says that He is now seated at the right hand of God until all His enemies are made His footstool.

1 Cor. 15: 25 says that *“he must reign until he has put all enemies under his feet”.*

There are so many more scriptures but the point is clear: Jesus is now both Lord and Savior. He is ruling now not just one day in the supposed

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Millennium. And if He is Lord now then His Kingdom has come!

The two gospel theory..

But the Dispensational Rapture – Kingdom Postponed preachers don't believe this. They believe there are two different gospels; the Gospel of the Kingdom and the Gospel of Grace. The Gospel of the Kingdom was preached by Christ but because the Jews rejected Him the Kingdom message was withdrawn and will only be preached again during the tribulation by 144,000 Jews. In the interim the Gospel of Grace is to be preached by the Church. I know this is difficult to believe in the face of such overwhelming Kingdom scriptures I have given you above but let me quote from some of their teachers;

“In the gospels, the Lord proclaims the gospel of the Kingdom. After the church is taken out (in the Rapture) the gospel of the kingdom will again be proclaimed” (Ironside, The Lamp of Prophecy, p.62)

“The gospel of the kingdom is to be preached again after the Rapture of the Church for a witness unto all nations...” (Larkin, Rightly Dividing the Word, p.53)

“A remnant of the Jews will preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. Today we preach the Gospel of grace.” (Ford, Seven Simple sermons on the Second Coming, p.48)

“The gospel of the kingdom is not preached now...God called another man, Paul, and revealed to him the gospel of grace. When God will have completed the body of Christ and will have taken them to be with Himself in the rapture...then the gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world.” (Pentecost, Judgments, p.49)

That's right...two Gospels! One preached by the Jews one day for the Jews to re-establish a Jewish kingdom where Jesus will be crowned king. This is their gospel of the Kingdom! That is why they are obsessed with anything to do with Israel. Watch Israel, watch for the new temple to

be rebuilt. Watch for Russia to invade Israel. Its almost all over, the end times are upon us! This is what the American televangelists believe, this is what all the popular prophecy books teach, this what the major Pentecostal Churches teach.

Remember, according to this theory Jesus came to the Jews to be their king and set up His kingdom but they rejected Him and so Jesus withdrew the Kingdom but after the Rapture they will accept the Kingdom offer. Now let me state the real shocking truth:

Jesus was offered the Jewish Kingdom by the Jews but He rejected it!

The Jews of Jesus day wanted a political, military Kingdom that would destroy the hated Roman occupiers. They perceived this Jesus son of David was indeed that prophesied Messiah that would come and contrary to the Kingdom Postponed theorists they not only offered Him the crown they wanted to force Him to be King:

“Then those men when they had seen the miracles that Jesus did, said This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force to make him a king, He departed again into a mountain, Himself alone.” (John 6: 14,15)

And still today the modern “Judaizers” in the evangelical movement want a physical King Jesus sitting in Jerusalem, organizing a vast global bureaucracy overseeing sewage works, tax collections, train connections, trade relationships and with a vast army of angels standing ready to bash anyone who would dare not obey His directives

And then after a thousand years of this rule by Christ and His followers the world is so disgusted with a thousand years of Christ and His rulership that Satan is able to organize an international revolt of the oppressed masses against Christ and His Kingdom! Folk's, Jesus rejected this kind of Kingdom the first time the Jews offered it to Him, what makes you think He is going to accept it the second time?

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But what about Luke 22: 29-30 where Jesus promises His disciples that He appoints them a Kingdom and they would eat and drink at His table and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel? When is this supposed to take place if not in the Millennium?

In the parallel verse in Matthew 19:28, Jesus explains that they would sit on thrones “in the regeneration”. When is the “regeneration”? Is it the Millennium? Paul tells us in Titus 3:5-6 *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of **regeneration** and renewing of the Holy Spirit..”* . “Regeneration” means to be born again. Jesus said you must be born again to enter the Kingdom of Heaven (John 3: 1-8). And the moment we are born again we are raised up in Christ and seated with him in heavenly places.

The Bible says, *“and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”* (Eph. 1:3; 2:1-6).

Rev. 1: 5-6 says *“Jesus Christ who is...the prince of the Kings of the earth ...that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood and has made us Kings”*

Folks, the Kingdom is now! We are now Kings seated in heavenly places ruling with Christ! Not one day in the supposed Millennium! When we sit at the communion table to eat and drink we are now eating and drinking in His Kingdom! This is not something that is going to happen for just a thousand years sometime in the future! It is now a present reality and has been since the day of Pentecost when the church was founded and given the keys to the Kingdom to let the multitudes into the Kingdom!.

What About the Millennium?

In chapter 20 of Revelation there is the famous chapter on the 1000 year reign of Christ. It says three very important things:

This 1000 year reign of Christ starts with the “first resurrection”, the saints reign with Christ at the time and the devil is bound.

This is what Rev. 20:6 says...

“Blessed and holy is he that part in the first resurrection : On such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

But when did the first resurrection take place?

That is easy to answer, we already saw from scriptures about the resurrection of Christ that He resurrected those in “sheol” along with Himself. In fact we know there was a resurrection of all the Old Testament saints at that time because this was witnessed in the streets of Jerusalem”

Mat. 27:52-52 *“And the graves were opened and many bodies of the saints which slept arose and came out of the graves after his resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared unto many.”*

So we have a problem here. If the first resurrection took place in 33 AD with the resurrection of Christ and the Old Testament saints then where was the Kingdom of God for the next 1000 years till 1033 AD?

Most prophecy writers will say no you have it wrong, the 1000 year Millennium kingdom is still some time in the future. But that also presents a problem because scripture says there was already a resurrection of the saints with Jesus when He rose from the dead and Paul clearly indicates we are now also resurrected in Christ who were once dead in our sins He has made us alive in Christ seated with Christ now in heavenly places and we are now made priests unto God and reign now with Christ?

Can you see you can’t have a “first resurrection” some time in the future! The answer is that there is a problem with our interpretation of the phrase “a thousand years”.

The only reference in the Bible that states that Christ reigns for “a thousand years” is found in Revelation 20. The argument around these verses among Bible students was; should we take this phrase “a thousand years” literally or

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figuratively? Does Jesus literally reign for an exact period of a thousand years or is this meant in a figurative way like Psalm 50 says that “the cattle on a thousand hills” belong to the Lord. Surely the cattle on hill 1001 also belong to the Lord? Traditional interpretation has always been to see it as figurative, not literal since Revelations is so full of other figurative narratives like beasts and dragons etc.

The Dispensationalists, however, responded and said, No way, Revelation 20 clearly states that the saints are to reign with Christ for “a thousand years” and demanded a literal interpretation of those verses and not a figurative interpretation.

Well, here’s the problem... if you want a literal translation of what really is stated in Rev. 20 then you need to go to the original Greek manuscript to see what is actually written there... which I did and found an amazing surprise there! Now I had enough semesters of basic and advanced Koine Greek (ancient Greek) in College, not to be an expert in ancient Greek, but enough to use a good concordance like Strong’s. I also remember from my Greek classes that while there is a definite article like “the” in Greek, there is no indefinite article like “a”, which is added by translators. Then looking up the word “thousand” in Strong’s concordance (Strong’s G5507) I find that the Greek word used for “thousand” in Revelation 20 is “Chilioi”. Now here is the amazing thing about that word. (Look this up yourself in your Strong’s Concordance!) “Chilioi” is in fact a plural noun meaning “thousands”!

The singular noun “thousand” is spelled “Chilias” and is used in Rev.7 for describing “twelve thousand” from each tribe. To describe exactly 12,000 John uses the Greek word for 12 and then the singular for “thousand” which is “chilias”. If he wanted to say Christ rules for exactly one thousand years he would have done the same. The Greek word for “one” and then the singular “thousand” “chilias”. He did not because he wrote exactly what the Holy Spirit intended for him to write: Jesus rules for “thousands of years”! So in actual fact a literal

translation from the original Greek used in Rev. 20 says that Christ reigns for “thousands of years” and not “a thousand years”.

Now when the translators of the Bible came across this “thousands of years” in the Greek they decided to interpret it as meaning that Christ reigns for an indeterminate long period of time much like “cattle on a thousand hills” are many hills or Peter saying that “a day with the Lord is as thousand years” (he did not mean exactly a thousand years) and so they wrote He reigns “a thousand years”. They assumed it would be taken figuratively that Christ reigns for a long time. Unfortunately the early Fundamentalists and Dispensationalists were not Greek scholars and did not realize that a literal translation from the original Greek said Christ reigns “thousands of years” and instead demanded a literal interpretation of what the beloved King James translation clearly stated, that Jesus will reign for only what they thought was a literal thousand years. Folks, this is both a wrong translation as well as a wrong interpretation!

So let me say this clearly:

There is no scripture in the Bible that says that Jesus Christ will reign for 1000 years in the future!

Instead the clear teaching of all scripture is that Jesus Christ is now the risen Lord! His Kingdom has come and His will is being done. He has all power in heaven and on earth. He will continue to reign for as long as it takes until every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus is Lord! His Kingdom began on earth on the day of Pentecost when He poured out His Spirit on 120 in the upper room in 33 AD and that Kingdom will grow and grow until it fills the earth...and don’t be surprised that it takes thousands of years because that is exactly what Revelations said it would take! God rules eternity and He has lots of time!

But the other great truth of the Millennial reign of Christ is that we have the authority to bind Satan and reign with Christ!

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The Defeat of Satan and the Victory of the Saints

The coming of the Kingdom of God on earth also means the end of Satan and his demonic infestation of the earth and the people and nations of the earth. Jesus boldly declared (Math.12:28) “But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God then the Kingdom of God is come unto you.” John declared (1 John 3:8), “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil”. Jesus gave this power and authority over all the power of Satan to His church to liberate people and planet earth of this malicious presence and to execute judgment on these evil entities (Psalm 149).

But a majority of evangelical believers do not really believe this is going to happen. They believe the church will not defeat Satan because the church will be Raptured out of the earth so that Satan can take control of the world. Our Kingdom vision states boldly: The time for Satan’s defeat is now, not in a thousand years time and the Lord has empowered His church with the Holy Spirit and the authority of His Word to do the job.

Paul tells Timothy (1 Tim.4:1) that the time will come that many in the church will depart from the faith and give heed to the seducing doctrines of devils. If devils could preach doctrine to the church what do you think they would try to make the church believe? They know their time of judgment for them to be cast in the pit has come...so what is their desperate doctrine to the church? Here is what I think they would try to convince us of: It isn’t the time yet for Satan’s defeat (that will only happen a thousand years later at the end of the Millennium) and it isn’t the job of the church (Jesus and the angels will do that).

From the beginning of the great Azusa street revival that spread all over the world with millions of reborn Christians speaking in “new tongues” the devils knew the game was up...Jesus said (Mark 16:17), “***And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.***” These new Spirit filled believers speaking in “new tongues” have the power to cast out demons and send them to the pit where they belong. But a new “doctrine” was taught to this great army of God: Dispensational Rapturism. This new doctrine taught the new Pentecostal believers this:

It is not the time for Satan’s defeat because the Antichrist will take over the world and it is not the job of the church to defeat Satan because the church must be Raptured out of the earth. The

defeat of Satan will only happen in the distant future...at the end of the thousand years Millennium...and Jesus and the angels will do it!

Central to this idea are the following beliefs firmly held by the majority of evangelical preachers and taught by them to the church:

- Satan is the prince or ruler of this world and rules over the nations and appoints who he wills to rule.
- Satan will only be cast out of the heavenlies and down to the earth during the coming Great Tribulation when he knows that his time is now short.
- At the end of the Great Tribulation period Satan and his armies will be defeated at the battle of Armageddon by the return of Jesus and His saints and Satan will then be bound for a thousand years during the coming Millennial reign of Christ so that he cannot deceive the nations anymore.

The clear impression created by these false teaching is that during this “Dispensation of the Church Age” Satan is in fact triumphant to such an extent that he ends up with a world government presided over by his Antichrist. The church is unable to stand against this satanic onslaught and must in fact be rescued out of the earth in the Rapture as a measure of protection.

Let me give you scripture to counter these lies..

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So let's answer the following questions from scripture:

- Who rules on earth God or Satan?

When will Satan be judged and cast out of the heavenlies...past or future?

When will Satan be bound ...past or future?

Who executes Satan's sentence of judgment... the Church now or angels in the future?

Who rules on earth, God or Satan?

How many times have you heard "faith preachers" (who ought to know better!) proclaim, "When Adam sinned he handed over the title deeds of the earth to Satan". And to substantiate this lie they actually quote Satan from Luke 4:6 "And the devil said unto him All this power I will give you and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me and to whomsoever I will I give it." As if Satan can utter one sentence without lying!

What does the Word of God say? Daniel the prophet (read Daniel 4) interpreted a dream that King Nebuchadnezzar had from God, a message from God that the prophet interpreted to him. The message from God was this: God is going to punish you for your pride until you learn the following lesson **"...till you know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomsoever he will."** (Daniel 4:25)

But Daniel gives us further great insight into who the Lord has assigned rulership over the earth. In Daniel 7 we have a great dream vision that he has. God reveals to him that the Lord will give rulership to four "beast empires" one after the other but during the time of the fourth empire (the Roman Empire)...**"the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever"** (Daniel 7:18)

So here is what the Word of God declares: The Lord God rules over the kingdom of men and he gives it to whosoever He wills (not Satan!). He gave rulership over Israel to certain gentile nations to punish Israel for their disobedience. He gave rulership to certain earthly rulers for a time being over His saints until His saints are ready

for possessing the kingdom. When the saints are ready to possess the kingdom they will do so forever and ever and not just for a thousand years. The handover of earthly rulership started during the Roman Empire (the fourth beast empire) and it continues today and will continue forever and ever (and not just a thousand years!) ...until every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord!

So who rules on earth, Satan or the Lord and His saints?

When will Satan be judged and cast out of the heavenlies?

There is a prevailing view among evangelicals that only one day in the distant future will Satan be judged and cast out of the heavenlies and onto the earth during the Great Tribulation. They read Rev.12:7-10 ***"And there was war in heaven... and the great dragon was cast out...Satan which deceives the whole world and he was cast into the earth and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven Now is come salvation and strength and the kingdom of our God and the power of his Christ..."***

So when was this great war in heaven when Satan and his angels cast out and salvation come and the kingdom of our God come and the power of His Christ? Sometime in the future still?

Here is what Jesus said just before His crucifixion:

John 12:23-32, ***"...The hour is come that the Son of Man should be glorified...Now is the judgment of this world: Now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I if I be lifted up shall draw all men unto me."*** Jesus again states in John 16:11 ***"...the ruler of this world has been judged."***

When the 70 disciples went out preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and returned victorious the bible tells us:(Luke 10:18) ***"And the seventy returned again with joy saying Lord even the devils are subject to us through thy name. And***

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he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightening fall from heaven. Behold I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy..."

So here is what the Word says: Satan has already been judged and cast out of the heavens, he is on the earth and knows his time is short, the Kingdom of God has already come and we have all power over the power of the enemy!

When will Satan be bound?

Again people read Rev. 20:2-3 and think this is some time in the future during the Millennium: "*And he laid hold of the dragon, the old serpent who is the devil and Satan and bound him for a thousand years...that he should not deceive the nations any longer*".

Remember what I said about "thousand" in Rev. 20 in Principle 1? It actually is in the plural "thousands" in the original Greek. So when did Jesus bind Satan **for thousands of years**? This is what Jesus says about binding Satan...

"How can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house." So has Jesus bound and spoiled the enemy?

Here is what Paul says...

Col.2:15, "*And having spoiled principalities and powers he made a show of them openly triumphing over them..*"

Church rejoice, Satan is cast out of the heavens, he is bound and defeated and we can proceed with plundering his house filled with lost souls!

Who executes the judgment on Satan...the church now or the angels in the future?

Paul writes to the Ephesians (6:12) and says "*For we (the church) wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities against powers against the rulers of the darkness of this world against spiritual wickedness in high*

places."

Is this wrestling going to be successful? Yes! "*and the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.*" (Rom. 16:20) "*and they (the church) overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony.*" (Rev. 12:11)

Read what the Lord tells us in Psalm 149: 4-9... "*For the Lord takes pleasure in his people, he will beautify the meek with salvation. Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praise of God be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand; to execute vengeance upon the heathen and punishments upon the people; to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all the saints. Praise ye the Lord*"

What honour does all the saints have? To bind the rulers of this world (Satan and his demons) and execute upon them the judgment handed down at Calvary. So who executes God's judgment on Satan and his demons? The saints of God, the church. When is this to happen? Now!

To recap:

We are now living in Revelation 20...the age of the Millennial reign of Christ.

It is not "a thousand years" it is thousands of years, in fact already 2000 years.

Jesus is now ruling because all power in heaven and on earth has been given unto Him...please note, all power on earth is now in His control!

Now! Not some time in the future.

The first resurrection has already happened. The dead in Christ were raised to heaven at His resurrection out of Sheol when He took the keys to death and hell and let the captives free.

And we who were dead in our trespasses and sins are now alive and resurrected to be seated with Christ in heavenly places while ruling on earth.

Satan has been bound by Christ and he has given us authority to bind and cast out demons and bring judgment on them.
