
This is the Kingdom Age...Not the End Times

This is the Kingdom Age: Jesus is Lord Now

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INTRODUCTION

There is no future 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ...Jesus is Lord now reigning with all power in heaven and earth. Mistaken translations and interpretations of Rev.20 have led people to believe Jesus only rules one day in the future for 1000 years. Scripture tells us that Jesus is now Lord! And what that means is that this is in fact "The Kingdom Age" and not "the end-times". 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).

One of the most widely held views among evangelical Christians is that we are now living in "the end times". This is so commonly held to be true that nobody bothers to question whether this is actually so. Numerous books and articles are written to expound on the "end times". Cataclysmic prophecies are hauled out at every disaster to show all these earthly travails are merely fulfillment of what can be expected in "the end times". More prophecy books have been sold than any other genre of writing. Whole publishing and broadcasting industries have been created around these prophets and their prophecies.

This is not merely idle speculation – a lot depends upon the correct answer. For instance, suppose this is not the end times and the entire Israeli state and the American war in the Middle East turn out to be a disaster? What if there is no Russian invasion of Israel as predicted by the preachers of the end times? What if there is no great Antichrist to rise up over the European Union and make a pact with Israel? In fact what if there is no Rapture in the next 20 years and we are facing not the Great Tribulation but the great world economic depression as the oil starts running out, economies contract, empires of debt implode, Baby Boomers retire with no savings, pension funds collapse from collapsed world stock markets...etc etc. Are you ready for this kind of disaster scenario? Is the church ready to

deal with the onrushing crises of the 21st Century?

If we are indeed in the end times then we don't have much to concern ourselves with. The coming world collapse and the demise of billions will not be our concern as the Rapture will have taken us safely out of harms way. But if these are not the end times then we must ask ourselves, where are we in God's timeline and are we and the church ready to face the tumultuous times of the 21st Century?

If you are to understand what the Lord is calling the church to do in the 21st Century then you urgently need to know what time we are living in. The time we live in determines our strategy. Our vision of the task in hand determines our strategy. If you or your ministry leader believes that we are living in the "end times" and that the Rapture will take place at any moment then this really affects how your local church operates, how you do financial planning, what the emphasis of teaching and ministry is in your fellowship group and how you grow and mature spiritually.

If you believe the Antichrist is going to take over the world then what is the point of even planning practical strategies for discipling nations into the Kingdom? If the Antichrist is taking over the world what is the point of long

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term financial planning? If you believe that you are going to escape the tribulation then why do disaster planning?

The End Times for Babylon the Great

But I do believe in the end times, I just don't believe it's the end of the world. We are however coming to the end of the Babylon New World Order prophesied in Revelation 18. We are in the midst of an economic collapse that will lead to the collapse of corporations and nation states. We are also entering the oil collapse that will lead to the collapse of the ability for planet earth to keep supporting 7 billion people. This in turn will lead to the collapse of civilization as we know it. And then? And then "when the judgments of the Lord are in the earth, the people will learn righteousness" and the Kingdom of our Lord will spread to cover the earth!

So the signs that we are looking for are not when does Jesus return to take us out of here but how and where is the world system collapsing and what must we do to get out of Babylon that we be not partakers of her judgment!

Rapture preachers on TV have their audiences enthralled looking at Israel for signs of a new Temple and a Russian invasion. I am looking for different signs: economic indicators, debt levels, oil shortages, solar flares, revivals in Africa, China, South America, food shortages, UFO's (the Abyss has opened!), return of the Nephilim, outpourings of the Holy Spirit and power, restoration of gift ministries!

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 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....

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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? What is the point of warning him what is going to happen in 2000 years time?

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. 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

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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?

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!

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

Kingdom Present or Kingdom Postponed?

You must be careful of people who try to push their pet theories on their interpretation of one scripture! Proper expository teaching takes the Bible from Genesis to Revelation to get the

mind of Christ. So if you take away the wrong translation of “thousand” from Rev. 20 and instead put in “thousands of years”, what other scriptures are you going to use to prove that Jesus rules one day in the future for a thousand years? There are none! Instead lets look to see what both the Old Testament as well as the New Testament teaches about when is the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Daniel's Timing of the Coming Kingdom

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...

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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 inaugurate 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***

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believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). (see also Matt. 3:1-2 and Matt 4:17).

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 says that Jesus is now the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Math 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 Millennium. And if He is Lord now then His

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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” (Ironsides, 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.

The other gospel for them is the gospel of grace that is to be preached by the church. Get born again, go to church, hang in there, the Rapture is any moment and then we are out of here and the Jews can then carry on with their gospel of the Kingdom.

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

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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?

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!.

This is the real gospel preached by Jesus and the apostles... there is no other.

The Kingdom of God has come (not one day), Jesus is now Lord (not one day). This Kingdom will last forever (not just a thousand years). We are now reigning with Christ bringing in His Kingdom (not one day).

Before looking closer at the scriptures that clearly show us that the Kingdom has indeed come and that Jesus is now Lord let me first pose some questions to you. This is not just a minor theological debate about whether you are a "pre-mill" or "post-mill" or "a-mill" or do you believe in a "pre-trib" Rapture etc. This issue goes to the fundamental issue of who is Jesus and are His claims true!

- 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?
- 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

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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!"

In our Principles of the Kingdom section we are going to answer all those questions but let's start with the first issue:

What about the Millennium?

Let's get to the immediate objection: How can this be the Kingdom Age if the Millennium has not arrived yet? Revelation 20 clearly says that Christ will come and rule for a thousand years and then the end will come, does it not? Christ has not returned yet, He is not ruling yet and therefore the thousand year millennial reign of Christ has not started yet and therefore it cannot be the Kingdom Age. And if I am claiming in this teaching that the Kingdom Age started at the triumphant resurrection of Jesus Christ then in fact the Kingdom Age should have finished a thousand years later in 1033 AD! It's obvious that nothing great happened in 1033 AD so where are you going to put the Millennium if not in the future?

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 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

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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!

What modern day prophecy writers want is the same kind of Messiah that the Jews wanted in Jesus day. Someone who would physically sit in Jerusalem and kill their enemies with God's power. Someone that will make a Jewish Kingdom that rules the world a reality.

Like Thomas after the resurrection who would not believe that Jesus was risen until he could touch him, today's prophecy writers cannot believe that Jesus is ruling as King of Kings until they can literally see him physically sitting on a throne in Jerusalem. I ask you this: What makes you think Jesus can only rule this earth more effectively if He is physically present in Jerusalem? If Jesus is truly living in us His church then surely He is physically on earth touching the lives of millions? Is Jesus not able to make His will done on earth seated on the throne of heaven commanding the armies of heaven?

The Kingdom of God has come and Jesus is now Lord over all and He will remain seated at the right hand of power in the heavenlies until all His enemies have been made His footstool!

It is the job of the Church to spread His Kingdom over all the earth and to trample Satan underfoot until every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus is Lord!