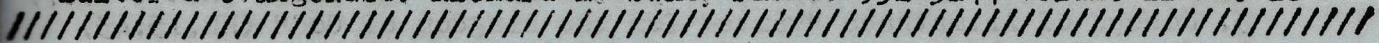


THE CONTENDER

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)
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WHEN DID THE KINGDOM COME?

There is much confusion in the denominational world concerning just when the kingdom of Christ did come. The Jehovah Witnesses teach that the kingdom came in this century (about 1914) while the Baptists believe it was established during the personal ministry of Christ, and some even mistakenly feel that the kingdom of God will be established at the second coming of Christ. Please study the following facts:

I. The Kingdom And The Church Of Christ Are The Same

A. Have same:

1. Head--Christ (Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 1:12-18)
2. Memorial Service--Lord's Supper (Lk. 22:29,30; I Cor. 11:23-29)
3. Same Plan Of Salvation (Jn. 3:1-5; Acts 2:38)
4. Same Entrance Requirements (Matt. 16:18,19)
5. Members (Col. 1:2, 13)
6. Place Of Beginning--Jerusalem (Matt. 16:18, Acts 2:47; Isa. 2:2,3)

II. If The Church Was Established Before The Cross It...

1. Was without a head (Eph. 1:19-23)
2. Was without blood (Blood shed in death) (Jn. 19:30-37)
3. Without remission of sins (Heb. 9:22)
4. Could not belong to Christ (Acts 20:28)
5. Could not have Christ as a high priest (Heb. 7:14, 8:4)
6. Would be a dead body (Jas. 2:26) Spirit given at Pentecost.
7. Was built on unbelieving apostles (Mk. 16:14, Eph. 2:20)
8. Was unknown to the apostles (Acts 1:6)
9. Was without the N.T. (Heb. 9:16,17)
10. Was without a gospel preached as a fact (I Cor. 15)
11. Not opened to the Gentiles (Matt. 10:5)
12. It would be an Old Testament institution (Heb. 10:1-4)
13. Would have been governed by a law that was taken away at cross (Col.2)

It the Church of Christ was established before the cross in the personal ministry of Christ it would be a headless, lawless, bloodless, spiritualess, husbandless, dead widow!

III. Harmful Consequences

ATTENTION PLEASE: If you will be travelling through this area this summer please remember that there is no faithful congregation meeting in Load Ky. That church has disbanded with agreement of all of the faithful male members and now has united with the South Shore and Carter City congregations.

Let's note some harmful consequences of denying the present existence of the kingdom.
(1) Jn. 3:5 teaches that the new birth puts one into the kingdom. But if the kingdom is not in existence, than none are in it, and if none are in it than none are "born again".

(2) Matt. 18:3 teaches that conversion puts one into the kingdom. But if the kingdom is not yet in existence, then none are in it, and if none are in it, then none are now converted, nor can they be. The purpose of preaching to "persuade me" would thus be nullified.

(3) Col. 1:13 teaches that those outside the kingdom are under the power of darkness (including every premillennialist) and therefore lost. If the kingdom is not in existence there is no Church that could contain the saved of the Earth and all is hopeless until the so-called millennium.

WHY NOT BE A CHRISTIAN AND WORSHIP AND WORK WHERE IT IS WRITTEN?

IV. The Kingdom (Church) Was Established In Acts 2.

A. Before Acts 2

1. John preached it "at hand" (Matt. 3:2)
2. Jesus taught his disciples to preach it was "at hand" (Matt. 10:7)
3. Joseph of Arimathaea "waited for the kingdom of God" (Mk.15:43)
4. Jesus Himself preached it "at hand" (Matt. 4:17)
5. It was to come in the lifetime of some yet living (Mk. 9:1)
6. Jesus taught His apostles to pray for it to come (Matt. 6:10)
7. The disciples ask for it. (Acts 1:6)

B. After Acts 2

1. Philip preached it. (Acts 8:12)
2. Paul preached it. (Acts 20:25; 28:31)
3. The Colossian Christians were in it. (Col. 1:13)
4. The Hebrew Christians received it. (Heb. 12:28)
5. The apostle John was in it. (Rev. 1:6 ASV)
6. The kingdom will be delivered to God not established when Christ returns a second time. (I Cor. 15:24)

DAVID'S THRONE

Acts 2:29-36 clearly teaches that Christ was raised to sit on David's throne and that He is now reigning from that position. We must remember that when the Bible speaks of Christ occupying David's throne it means He would occupy a place of authority as did David, and not a literal throne.

1. Christ was to sit upon David's throne. (Zech 6:13)
2. He is now sitting. (Acts 2:30; Col. 3:1)
3. Therefore, He is now on His throne

1. He was to rule upon His throne. (Zech 6:13)
2. He is now ruling. (Rom. 15:12,13)
3. Therefore, He is now on his throne.

1. He was to be a priest on His throne. (Zech. 6:13)
2. He is now a priest. (Heb. 4:14)
3. Therefore, He is now on his throne.

1. He was to reign as King. (Jer. 23:5)
2. He is now reigning. (I Cor. 15:24,25)

3. Therefore, He is now King reigning upon His throne.

FOUR THINGS NECESSARY TO CONSTITUTE A KINGDOM!

<u>TERRITORY</u>	<u>SUBJECTS</u>	<u>KING</u>	<u>LAW</u>
(All The World)	(All Nations)	(Christ The Lord)	(The Word Of God)
Matt. 28:18-20 Mark 16:15,16	Isa. 2:23 Acts 10:34,35	Jer. 23:5,6 Matt. 2:2 Luke 1:31,32	Psa. 19:7 Jas. 2:12
Every Nation	Every Creature	On His Throne	Perfect Law
Isa. 2:23 Rom. 16:25,26	Mark 16:15,16 Who-so-ever-will Rom. 10:13 Rev. 22:17	Isa. 9:6,7 Acts 2:22-36 Now Reigning Acts 2:30-33 I Cor. 15:24-26	Jas. 1:25 John 12:48 All Sufficient II Tim. 3:16,17 II Pet. 1:3 Eph. 3:1-4

"And when thy days be fulfilled thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee... and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of His forever." (II Sam. 7:12-16)

Friend, the kingdom of Christ has come! You need to obey the gospel in order to be in it! Have you?

ORDER OF SERVICES

- * Lord's Day: 10:00 a.m. Worship **
- * 7:30 p.m. Worship *
- * Thursday: 7:30 p.m. Bible Study *