

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM

I. A king has a dream.

- A. In Daniel 2, we have a record of King Nebuchadnezzar waking up from a dream that was very startling and real to him.
 - 1. He could not recall the details of the dream.
 - 2. He called in all his advisors and demanded they tell him the dream and the interpretation (2:10).
- B. Thankfully, God gave the dream and its interpretation to Daniel (2:19), and he came to the king with the information (2:28).
- C. Daniel told him what the dream was (2:31-35) and then told him what the dream meant (2:37-43).
- D. We know the first kingdom is Babylon because inspiration revealed this to Daniel and he revealed it to the king.
- E. The other three are easily identified through history.
 - 1. Babylon fell to the Medo-Persian Empire in 539 BC.
 - 2. The Medo-Persian Empire was conquered by Greeks, led by Alexander the Great in 330 BC.
 - 3. The Roman Empire defeated the Greeks in 63 BC and this empire ruled until about 476 AD.
- F. Now notice what Daniel said would happen during the days of the 4th great kingdom (2:44).
 - 1. God promised to establish His kingdom during the days of the Roman Empire.
 - 2. If God is true to His word, we can look between 63 BC and 476 AD for its establishment.

II. The kingdom is at hand.

- A. When John began to prepare the way for the Messiah, his message was ...(Matthew 3:1-2).
 - 1. Notice Luke 3:1-3.
 - 2. Daniel had prophesied that the kingdom would be established during the days of the Roman Empire.
 - 3. Luke identifies the Roman emperor who was reigning when John preached this message.
- B. Jesus preached the same message (Matthew 4:17).
- C. Jesus instructed His disciples to preach the same message (Matthew 10:7).
- D. They all preached that the kingdom was near.
- E. If we truly respect the truthfulness of God's word, how can anyone believe all of these people, including Jesus were wrong?
 - 1. Premillennialism teaches that Jesus planned to establish His kingdom on earth and reign over it from a literal throne in Jerusalem but the Jews rejected Jesus.
 - 2. The truth is, a large number of Jews tried to force Jesus to become an earthly king, which He refused (John 6:15).
 - 3. The reason for His refusal is that His kingdom was never intended

to be a worldly kingdom (John 18:36).

III. The kingdom was still not here before the resurrection.

- A. Jesus had taught His disciples to pray for the kingdom to come (Matthew 6:10).
- B. Before His entrance into Jerusalem it had not come (Luke 19:11).
- C. It was in the future the night before the death of Jesus (Luke 22:18).
- D. It had not come while Jesus was on the cross (Luke 23:42-43).
- E. There were faithful people waiting for the kingdom to come when Jesus died (Mark 15:43).
- F. It was still in the future at His ascension (Acts 1:6).

IV. Jesus gave some signs for when the kingdom could be realized.

- A. Luke 17:20-21.
 - 1. The kingdom, when it came would not be realized with the naked eye, but it could be realized or discerned.
 - 2. The kingdom is within you tells us that it is not a physical kingdom and never intended to be such.
 - 3. Since it was not to be seen with the eye, it had to be of a spiritual nature.
- B. Mark 9:1.
 - 1. Jesus plainly stated the kingdom would come during the lifetime of some of those present at that time.
 - 2. He also stated it would come with power.
 - 3. Because of that, we need to look to find the establishment of the Lord's coming prior to the death of those present and when power was demonstrated.
- C. There are only three possibilities when considering this verse:
 - 1. Christ was wrong about the promise, thus erring which would make Him not deity.
 - 2. Jesus was right about the promise but some members of that generation are still alive today.
 - 3. Jesus was right about the promise and the kingdom came with power before the death of all that generation.
- D. Luke 24:47-49.
 - 1. The apostles were to stay in Jerusalem until clothed with power from heaven, at which time they could then preach repentance and remission of sins in Jesus name.
 - 2. If we can identify when this happened, we can see when the kingdom was established.
- E. Acts 1:5-8.
 - 1. Jesus promised the apostles they would receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit soon.
 - 2. They would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them.
- F. If you tie Mark 9:1 to Acts 1:5-8 and Luke 24:47-49 we learn the kingdom was to come when the apostles received power with which the Holy Spirit would clothe them.

V. God was true to His word.

- A. He had promised to set up the kingdom after the ascension of Jesus (Daniel 7:13-14).
 - 1. We get a view of the Lord's ascension (Acts 1:9-11).
 - 2. We even get a prophetic view of His return to heaven (Psalms 24:7-10).
 - 3. Daniel 7 plainly tells us Jesus received the kingdom after His ascension into heaven, which is another key.
- B. The Holy Spirit gave power to the apostles on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4; 29-36).
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 4:20 - this verse tells us that the kingdom of God does not rest on words only but also miraculous power.
 - 2. The kingdom came in close connection with supernatural demonstrations, proving to those who saw them, and we who read of them, that the kingdom is now with men.
- C. Those who believed, repented and were baptized were added by the Lord to His church for the first time on Pentecost.
 - 1. Acts 2:41, 47.
 - 2. Jesus used the word "church" and "kingdom" interchangeably (Matthew 16:18-19).
 - 3. When Christ built His church, He established His kingdom.
- D. Prior to Acts 2, the kingdom was still future; after Acts 2 it is spoken of as being present (Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 1:6, 9).

From an sermon outline by Bob Winton.