

## God's Promises to David – The Kingdom of God

When Jesus Christ came to earth, the *Kingdom of God* was the main subject of His Preaching. For example, in Matthew's Gospel alone which emphasises for us the words Christ spoke the term "kingdom" is used 56 times, the equivalent of twice every single chapter!

### 1) WHO is the King of the Kingdom?

In 2 Samuel 7:12-13 the LORD said to David, "*when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever*".

- In Psalm 89:3 the LORD declares, "*I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever*"

Notice with me the Seed of David will have a throne and a kingdom that will be established for ever! Who is this Seed?

- The Seed cannot be Solomon for he died and as a result of his sin the LORD divided the kingdom from him (1 Kings 11:28-40)

The Bible explains who this seed is!

#### ❖ This Seed is One who is God

Zechariah 14:9, "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one."

#### ❖ This Seed is One who is Human

Isaiah 9:6+7, "*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*"

You will be pleased to hear tonight that all evangelical Christians agree that the LORD Jesus Christ is the promised Seed of David:

#### - The Gospel Genealogies document it

- o Matthew 1:1, "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." V17, "So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon *are* fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ *are* fourteen generations."
- o Luke 3:31, Luke gives the genealogy of Christ back to David and then to Adam

#### - The Angel announced it

- o Luke 1:30-33, "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

#### - The People hoped for it

- o Matthew 15:22, "And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil."
- o Luke 18:35-39, "And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

#### - The Gospel requires it

- o Romans 1:1-6, "...his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name"

#### - The Apostles proclaimed it

- Acts 13:22+23, 34, The apostle Paul speaking in the synagogue at Psidiean Antioch, declares, of David's "seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus... And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, *now* no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David"
  - *Interesting thought - v34 links Christ's resurrection with the receiving of the mercies promised to David*

#### - The Lord Jesus Christ declared it

- Revelation 22:16, "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star"
  - Jesus Christ is the Davidic King and all the promises of God find their fulfillment in Him. "All the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us", 2 Corinthians 1:21.

So when you and I read of the Kingdom of God, have no doubt – it is referring to Jesus Christ as the King!

Knowing who the King is, let us now answer...

### 2) WHERE will this King reign? After all, every Kingdom has not only a Ruler but a Realm

According to the OT...

#### ❖ The Realm will be the lives of people

- Daniel 7:14, "And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him"

#### ❖ The Realm will be people from all over the world – Jews and Gentiles

- Isaiah 49:6, the LORD says to His Messiah, "It is a light thing that thou shouldst be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."
- Isaiah 19:23-25, the LORD says that not only will He smite Egypt – that rebellious nation, but that He will heal it, and in v25 the LORD calls, "Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance."
- Haggai 2:7, Christ is called "the desire of all nations"

### 3) WHAT will the Kingdom be like? After all, a Kingdom not only has a Ruler and a Realm but an active Reign of authority!

According to the OT, two realities are made clear:

#### ❖ Christ's Reign is Righteous

- In Isaiah 9, after being told of the King to come, "unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder"; we read regarding His kingdom in the very next verse that Christ will "establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever"
- In Isaiah 11:9 we are told that under Christ's reign "...the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD". The context of Isaiah 11 (v6-8) makes it clear this is not a mere academic knowledge but a personal knowledge where there is hatred or hurt but holiness! People knowing the LORD will love the LORD!

#### ❖ Christ's Reign is Eternal

- Daniel 7:14, "And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, 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"
- Daniel 4:3, "his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation."
- Psalm 145:13, "Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations."

Again, you will be glad to hear that all evangelical Christians agree on what the kingdom will be like!

But notice one final characteristic...

#### 4) When will the Kingdom be? After all, a King's reign must commence at some point in time!

This is where people begin to disagree.

#### A) *There are those who believe the Kingdom is primarily NOW before Christ's return*

To them...

#### ❖ Jesus Christ came to earth to be King as well as prophet and priest and Jesus Christ clearly taught that His kingdom was already present during his earthly ministry...

- In Matthew 5:3, Jesus Christ preached, "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
  - He did not say, theirs will be the kingdom of heaven – but theirs is the kingdom of heaven!
  - This is further seen in Matthew 5:5, "Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" – the inheriting of eternity is still future!
- In Matthew 6:13, after teaching His disciples various petitions, He gives them this assurance, "*lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is (right here and right now) the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*"
- In Matthew 12:12 a man is brought to Christ who is possessed by the devil.
  - Christ heals the man and the Jewish leaders say in v24, "*This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.*"
  - Look at Christ's response: v28, "*if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*"
    - Christ said a sign of His Kingdom was His casting out of devils – a work Christ began to do when He was on this earth in the first century!

#### ❖ Jesus Christ taught that His Kingdom is a reign in the lives of His people

- As Luke 17:20-21 says, "when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."
- As Christ told Pilate when Pilate asked Him, "Art thou the King of the Jews (God's people)". We read in John 18:36, "*Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence*"

#### ❖ Paul also makes statements describing the kingdom as being existing when he was writing:

- Romans 14:15-17 speaking on not causing your brother to stumble, the apostle says, "But if thy brother be grieved with *thy* meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost". For Paul the argument for the believers not to cause another brother to stumble is
- Colossians 1:13, Paul speaks of God the Father "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son"
  - How can we be in the kingdom of God now if it is not present now?

#### ❖ The Theology of the NT seems to support it

- In Matthew 28:18 Jesus Christ after rising from the dead said, "All power (literally all authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

- In Hebrews 10:12-13 we read, “this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.”
- This language is similar to that of Christ’s reign in Psalm 110: *“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power.”*
  - It is on this basis of Christ’s authority that thus commands His disciples to “Go ye therefore (as a result of my authority) and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”
- 1 Corinthians 15
  - In v22 we are told, “as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” – because of Christ’s work on the cross and because of His authoritative intercession for His people.
  - Then in v25 we are told “For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.”
    - and empowering the church in its mission ([Matt. 28:20](#)).

According to this view...

- Jesus Christ is King now – He ascended to His Father’s right side with all authority;
- He is reigning in the lives of His people – ever conforming them into His image of righteousness;
- He will build and complete His work of salvation before His return (2 Peter 3:4-9) until there is no one left to be saved;
- And then, He will come again – commencing eternity – wherein He will perfect His people and reign with them for all eternity in perfect righteousness throughout the entirety of the new heaven and the new earth.

**Now within this view there are two subdivisions:**

**a) One subdivision holds that in Christ’s reign NOW the world will get better and Christ’s power is seen in transforming the world**

Because Christ is King the Gospel will triumph, and while not every person will be saved on the earth, yet more and more men and women will be saved until the born-again believers will grow more numerous than the ungodly. Christian principles will be the rule in many nations of the world and when Jesus Christ returns He will return to a beautiful, blossoming Bride.

After all we are told regarding Christ’s reign...

- In Isaiah 11:9 “...the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD”
- Haggai 2:7, Christ is called “the desire of all nations” – not just people within those nations, but the nations and governments themselves!
- Mark 4:30-32, “Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.”

**b) One subdivision holds that in Christ’s reign NOW the world will get worse but Christ’s power is seen in upholding His people**

While it is true Christ will save “a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues” (Revelation 7:9) and is rightly called the Desire of all nations, yet the world itself will not become more and more Christian instead it will become more and more anti-Christian.

- 2 Peter 2:1-2. Speaking to believers Peter says, “*there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of”.*
- Also 2 Timothy 3:1-4, “*in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”.*

What then is the success of the Gospel if it is not a triumph over the world? The success of the Gospel is Christ keeping His people in the midst of great darkness and persecution:

- Romans 8:36-39, “*As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

But not only is Christ’s reign BEFORE He comes back, Scripture makes it clear Christ’s reign is also AFTER He comes back and it therefore advances into eternity.

- Matthew 7:21-23, “*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day [the day of judgment], Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*
- Matthew 8:11, “*And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven”*

So while Christ is reigning from Heaven now over the lives of His people yet His reign will be fully and perfectly established when He comes again and eternity begins. Here His people will be glorified with perfect hearts and in a new heaven and earth where sin and its corruption is destroyed once and for all, His people will reign with Christ, not merely for a period of time, or for 1,000 years, but forever and forever in perfect righteousness and knowledge.

### **B) There are those who believe the Kingdom is either solely or primarily FUTURE**

The reason they disagree with the above is because of Abraham!

- In Genesis God promised Abraham a land: an inheritance!
- In Joshua God brought the children of Israel into that land
- In 2 Kings God raises up David as a king in that land and God promises David that he will have a seed over that land!
- Then in Matthew 8:11, Jesus Christ, speaks of Abraham living in that land and He calls it the kingdom of heaven!
  - o 8:11, Christ says “*I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven*”

Men and women, your understanding of God’s promise to Abraham will have significant ramifications on the kingdom of God!

Believing God’s promise to Abraham to have never been fulfilled...

- Joshua never to have conquered it all; and
- David never to have reigned over it all
- David’s future seed must reign over it all! He must conquer it in the future and reign over it in the future!

Moreover, because the promise is separate from eternity, the land must be conquered and reigned over before eternity.

So according to this view...

- Before the end of time and eternity commences...
- Christ MUST return to earth;

- Christ MUST set-up a throne in Jerusalem and reign from the river Euphrates to the river of Egypt; and
- Christ will do a work of righteousness far greater than ever before

**From here there are two subdivisions.**

You will remember that among those who believe the land must still be won there were two different understandings as to who God's promise to Abraham of the people were...

**a) View Three of last week – the seed is Christ and all those who believe in Him – the spiritual descendants of Abraham**

This means that when Christ returns to reign, **He will reign over all those who believe in Him:**

- Christ will bring back all those believers who have died in the OT and NT age (including Abraham) – Jew and Gentile. Their souls will be resurrected with their bodies and they will enter the reign of Christ on earth – never more to die.
- All those believers already on earth and who did not die, Christ will also glorify them and they will enter the reign of Christ on earth

Please note:

- The kingdom will also include millions of unsaved people (who have not bowed the knee to the beast).
- Many of these people will come to know the LORD so much so that more people will be saved at this time than any other in the history of the world and the saved will far outnumber the unsaved!
- Those who do not believe and refuse to believe will eventually rebel against Christ at the end of a period of time and will be judged by Christ

So...

- The Ruler is Christ
- The Realm is the unfulfilled promised land of Canaan – over saved and unsaved
- The Reign is one where righteousness will multiply in a greater way than ever before.
  - o Oh yes Christ may be working now but it is nothing to when Christ will come and work!

**b) In View One of last week – the people are the ethnic Jewish people – the physical descendants of Abraham**

This means that those who enter the kingdom of Christ are not the church – those who believe in Christ – but those who are Jews primarily for the promise is to the Jews.

- This view sees the Jews and the church to be completely different with no relationship to each other at all.
- In order to fulfil the theology of this view...
  - o Before Christ returns, the church (made up primarily of Gentile believers) are taken out from the earth and will dwell in a city which hovers over the earth while Christ reigns on the earth. This rapture leaves not one single saved soul on earth.
  - o The majority of the Jewish unbelievers coming to their senses at this event they will believe in Christ along with a few Gentiles
  - o Christ will return...
    - Set up His throne in Jerusalem
    - Bring in those who now believe in Him – primarily Jews; and
    - Judge and condemn all those who do not believe in Him – Jew or Gentile.
- Please note – the saved do not have glorified bodies and they will reproduce. Many of these children will believe in the LORD. But some will not.
- Those who do not believe will rebel against Christ at the end of time and Christ will crush them.

So in Christ's kingdom...

- The Ruler is Christ
- The Realm is the unfulfilled promised land of Canaan – primarily over ethnic Jews
- The Reign is one where righteousness will multiply –

So to pray, "Thy kingdom come"; it is to pray primarily for the reign of Christ in Jerusalem and to do a work on earth that is greater than has ever been done before. This reign is either...

- A) Primarily over those who are saved and will be saved; OR

- B) Primarily over those who are Jewish – the church having been taken away

Furthermore, when you read about the parables concerning the kingdom of God they are primarily concerned about this literal reign...

- E.g. Those who receive the well-done of God, the good and faithful servants in Matthew 25 – their inheritance is not eternal it is temporal. It is the receiving of cities in the land Canaan.

What is the basis of this view? It is the fact that God's promise to Abraham refers to a temporal land and has never been fulfilled!

If you believe the land has been fulfilled I do not believe you will hold to this teaching.

### Decision

Your end-time view will be determined according to how you believe the Bible answers the following questions:

- Does Christ need to reign over a literal Canaan?
  - o Has God already given the land to the physical descendants of Abraham?
  - o And was the land of Canaan not just a picture pointing forward to the great reality of the New heaven and earth?

If you believe Christ does need to reign, then ask yourself

- o Are the people promised to Abraham those who are in Christ?
- o Are the people promised to Abraham those who are his physical descendants?

If you do not believe Christ needs to reign then ask yourself...

- o Is Christ's victory primarily seen in numbers? OR
- o Is Christ's victory primarily seen in faithfulness?

### Application

The Kingdom of God has huge consequences!

#### **A) It will bring Truth**

- How can you understand the abundant teaching of Christ in the book of Matthew, including many parables, not to mention the teaching of the apostles in the NT without knowing what is meant by the kingdom of God?
- How can you know what to pray when Christ teaches and commands you to pray to our Father, "Thy kingdom come"
  - o Is it primarily a prayer for Christ to reign from Jerusalem at some point in the future?
  - o Is it primarily a prayer for Christ to reign now in the hearts and lives of God's people? Salvation of the lost and sanctification of the saved!

#### **B) It will bring Hope in a world of darkness**

##### ❖ Christ still has a work to do in saving souls!

- Christ has not finished saving souls
- Christ is not finished using you as His servant!
  - o Why? Because whatever view you believe, the fact eternity has not yet begun shows us Christ still has a work to do!

❖ Christ has power to save souls!

- No matter what view you hold to, we are brought to a Christ who has power and authority to save the lost – to free them from the bondage of Satan and bring them unto Him!
  - That loved one is bound in sin and the wicked one!
  - Christ has the power to save them!

**C) It will bring Love in a world of Hate**

Love for one another as you can understand where another person comes from.

Love for the lost as we see they need a King to reign over them!

Love for Christ as we see His reign over us!