

The Kingdom Established

The Kingdom of Old Testament promise and prophecy is a subject of great interest to most people. The TV and radio preachers have made it so by their fascinating interpretations of prophecy that “explain” the unrest and uncertainty of the political situations in the Middle East. All of their speculations rest on the assumption that the Kingdom of Christ is an unfulfilled aspect of OT prophecy. In traveling this route, we will establish that the Kingdom of Christ is not a yet future and unfulfilled promise, but a present reality.

[As an aid in this study you may want to employ the use of a legal pad and pencil. We will draw a conventional Bible timeline. On the left hand side indicate by an uppercase “C” the creation of all things. This is about 4,000 B.C. On the right hand side of the page draw an arrowhead and write 2,000 A.D. Divide the line by hash marks into six equal sections, each of which represents about 1,000 years. Just to the right of the fourth hash mark draw a cross. Mark it “33A.D.” to indicate the time of the death of Jesus on Calvary. Now our chart is ready for use.]

The Kingdom Established (Route 11)

Psalm 2 This text indicates that God would establish an eternal kingdom in which the King (v. 2) that reigns forever would be His Son (vv. 6 & 7). The “heathen,” the Gentile nations, and the “the people,” the Jews, would try to kill Him. However, God’s Son would be victorious over His enemies, even in death (cf. Acts 13:33). David cannot be speaking about himself since there is no time during his reign that would correspond to the promise of v. 8 (note: Acts 2:30,31; Acts 13:33-37).

Isaiah 2:1-4 Here the prophet identifies the time of the establishment of the Kingdom as the “last days.” Specific events associated with the “last days” include: (1) the going forth of the law (2) from Jerusalem (3) to Jews and (4) Gentiles (cf. Micah 4:1-2).

Joel 2:28-32 Joel announces the sign of the “last days” (cf. Acts 2:17) as the outpouring of the Spirit upon the Jews and Gentiles. They will prophesy and see visions. In those days whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. *[Put these passages on the timeline ca. 750 B.C.]*

Daniel 2:28-45 Daniel prophesies that the Kingdom will be established during the “latter days” and will embrace all the nations of the earth. These days are those of the fourth worldwide empire. (The first empire is Babylon (2:38), the second is Persia (5:25-31), the third is Greece (8:19-22) and the fourth is Rome (7:4-7,17-18; Revelation 13:1-3).)

Luke 3:1-3 According to Matthew Jesus was born in the days of Herodian kings. According to Luke those were the days of the Roman Caesars as well, which according to Daniel (2:44-45) was the time Messiah would come and establish His Kingdom.

Luke 3:15 Notice how Luke describes the people. They are “in expectation.” In expectation of what? In expectation of the Messiah and His Kingdom. Why are they in expectation? Because they know what the prophets have said. It is time for the Kingdom to be established.

Matthew 3:1-2 John preached that the Kingdom of Old Testament promise and prophecy was “at hand,” meaning near or coming soon. Observe here for your student that the Kingdom cannot be near now, if it was near then.

Matthew 4:17 Jesus began His personal ministry by preaching that the Kingdom was “at hand.” Did the Son of God not know when the Kingdom was going to be established? Would you describe something 2,000 years yet into the future as being “at hand”?

Matthew 6:10 Jesus taught the Disciples to pray for the Kingdom to come. So it was not established during his ministry. Still future, but near.

Matthew 16:18-19 Jesus promised to build his Church and give Peter the keys to the Kingdom. What the Lord called “Church” in v. 18, He called “kingdom” in v. 19. Why build one thing and give Peter the keys to something else? It is important that you make this point clear. The Kingdom was still future and Jesus said it was the church.

Mark 9:1 Just before Jesus was transfigured He told his Disciples that some of them would live until they actually saw the Kingdom established. This verse makes it certain that Jesus expected the Kingdom to be established soon, not 2,000 years into the future (cf. Matthew 16:28).

Luke 23:50-52 After the death of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathaea is described as a saint “waiting for the Kingdom of God.” So the Disciples understood Jesus’ promise to indicate the soon appearance of the Kingdom. *[Arrange these texts on the timeline just left of the crucifixion]*

Luke 24:44-48 During the forty day interim between the resurrection and the ascension Jesus taught the Disciples concerning the Kingdom of Heaven from the prophets. In this text Jesus identifies three markers of the Kingdom: (1) repentance and remission of sins, (2) beginning at Jerusalem, (3) to all nations. This would be in fulfillment of **Genesis 9**, **Genesis 12**, **Isaiah 2**, **Isaiah 9**, **Joel 2** and **Daniel 2**.

Acts 1:4-8 The last time the Twelve saw Jesus they asked Him if it was time for the Kingdom to be established. Jesus instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the “power” he had promised earlier would attend the Kingdom’s arrival (**Mark 9:1**). It would have been cruel and mean to depart from His Disciples with the expectation of the Kingdom’s soon appearance, if in reality it was 2,000 plus years in the future. *[Place this text just right of the cross and 33 AD.]*

Revelation 1:9 (At this point we go to the end of the New Testament in chronology, some sixty years beyond the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Observe that up until now the prophets, Apostles and Disciples have spoken of the Kingdom as a future expectation. From this point backward they will consider it an established reality. By this means we will pinpoint the exact moment at which the kingdom of Heaven was established.) The Apostle John was suffering for the Kingdom on the Isle of Patmos in about 90 AD. How could this be if it did not exist? *[Indicate this text on your timeline.]*

Colossians 1:13 The Colossians are in the Kingdom. This letter was written about 62 AD.

Acts 28:23 Paul is preaching the Kingdom in 62 AD. The Apostles did not believe that the Kingdom was put on hold or postponed.

1Thessalonians 2:12 The Thessalonians were in the Kingdom during the year 52 AD

Acts 14:22 Paul and Barnabas are inviting Gentiles to enter the Kingdom in 45 AD

Acts 8:12 After Pentecost Christians are preaching the Kingdom wherever they go. However, that which they are doing is establishing the Church.

Acts 2:1-4 The Twelve Apostles have the Holy Spirit miraculously come upon them so that they are enabled to speak in other languages. Jesus had said the Spirit would come to them in Jerusalem (**Acts 1:8**) and from there the Gospel of Salvation would be preached (**Luke 24:45-49**).

Acts 2:16 Peter by the Spirit attributes what happens to the fulfillment of **Joel 2:28-32**. This is the miracle that would occur in “the last days” when the Kingdom came.

Acts 2:25-31 Peter by the Holy Spirit quotes **Psalms 16:8-10** attributing it to Jesus’ resurrection and ascension into heaven to sit on David’s throne (the antecedent of “his” in verse 30 is “prophet”). This is the fulfillment of **Psalms 89:34-37**. Peter believes he has lived to see the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven. This also fulfills the prophecy of **Daniel 7:13-14** in Jesus ascending to the Ancient of Days to receive a Kingdom.

Acts 2:33-35 Peter quotes **Psalms 110:1** indicating that Jesus is the Savior/King that rules as a priest also fulfilling **Zechariah 6:9-13**.

Acts 2:37-38 The audience asks what to do to be saved (v. 21). The promise of the Kingdom was, “Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Peter tells them to call by (1) repentance and (2) baptism for the remission of sins fulfilling **Isaiah 2**, **Joel 2** and **Luke 24:47**.

Acts 2:41,47 Now that to which these 3,000 Jewish believers were added was the Church of Christ. It is the Church that was established on Pentecost 33 A.D., and the Church that spread throughout the whole world with the message of salvation. *[Add these verses to the right of the cross. Put a “P” on the chart.]* Tie these verses back in with **Matthew 16:18-19**. Jesus promised to build the church and called it Kingdom. Peter preached the Kingdom and established the church.