

THE KINGDOM HOPE

The hope of God's people down through the ages has been the coming KINGDOM. John the Baptist, Jesus, and His disciples proclaimed the kingdom was at hand on the condition of repentance. But Israel did not repent, and so the coming of the kingdom was put on hold.

But the HOPE remains. After His resurrection, the disciples asked Jesus:

Acts 1:6 (NKJV)

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "**Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?**"

Note that the disciples were still thinking of a future kingdom, in keeping with what the OT Scriptures taught. Jesus did not correct them. He did not say, "Oh, you guys have the wrong idea; it is a spiritual kingdom that is in your hearts." He did not say, "The kingdom is already here, and it's up to you guys to further develop it". No, He simply told them it was not for them to know the timing of it. They were right to expect a LITERAL kingdom in the future, but they could not know the timing of its coming.

When Paul uses the term "***kingdom***", he does not define it; thus indicating that he was building on previous revelation of which his audience was already aware.

In Phil. 3:20, Paul says believers are already citizens of heaven, although we are not there yet. In the same way, we as believers have already been positionally transferred into the kingdom, as seen in Col. 1:13.

Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and **conveyed us into the kingdom** of the Son of His love,

In Eph. 2:6, Paul says we have been made to sit with Christ in heavenly places in Christ, but we are not there yet. These are POSITIONAL realities that are POSITIONALLY true, but their complete realization yet awaits a future fulfillment. In other words, we, as believers, are positionally identified with the kingdom, but we are not yet physically in the kingdom. The actuality of the kingdom is yet future. In 1 Cor. 4:8, Paul criticizes the Corinthians for acting like they were already functionally in the kingdom when, in fact, they were not.

As citizens of the future kingdom, members of the Church are to exhibit kingdom righteousness in their lives. Those whose lives are characterized

by evil deeds give evidence that they are not part of the kingdom family (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 5:5-6). Paul exhorts believers to walk worthy of God Who calls us into His kingdom (cf. 1 Thess. 2:12). In Romans 14:17, Paul emphasizes that what characterizes the kingdom is righteousness, joy, and peace (cf. 1 Cor. 4:20). It is these kingdom characteristics that are now to define the lives of believers.

As kingdom citizens, we now have the power of the New Covenant ministry involving the Holy Spirit working in our lives to bring forth righteous behavior. The Scripture emphasizes the connection of the New Covenant and the Holy Spirit in relation to Israel in the kingdom (cf. Jer. 31:31-37, Ezek. 36:25-27). Thus in a very real sense, *“the fruit of the Spirit”* is *“the fruit of the kingdom”*. As Christians, we already partake of this fruit as a foreshadowing of kingdom realities. The power of “kingdom living” is the power of the Holy Spirit (cf. Sermon on the Mount living standards [cf. Mt. 5-7]).

For Paul, the heart of God’s kingdom program is the resurrected Christ Who is the **“descendant of David”** (cf. Rom. 1:3, 2 Tim. 2:8, also cf. Rev. 5:5). It is Jesus Who ultimately brings about the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant, and He does this by sitting on David’s throne in Jerusalem and ruling over the entire world (cf. Ps. 2:6-8, 89; Ps. 132:11; Jer. 23:5-8; 33:17, Dan. 7:14; Lk. 1:32-33). Jesus Christ is right now seated at the right hand of God the Father, but He is not yet seated on David’s throne in Jerusalem (cf. Ps. 110:1, Lk. 1:32, Heb. 10:12-13).

In the NT, there is not a single reference connecting Christ’s present position in heaven with the Davidic Throne. This is yet a future reality. We must not confuse the Father’s throne which Jesus now shares in (cf. Rev. 3:21) with the throne of David. Christ is currently seated on the Father’s throne, but not yet on the Davidic Throne. So, Jesus currently possesses all authority at the Father’s right hand (cf. Mt. 28:18), but His reign from David’s throne awaits His Second Coming and His kingdom reign on earth. The book of Revelation takes all the strands of prophetic kingdom truth and brings them to full culmination in Christ.

In Revelation 4 & 5, John was transported to heaven and given an overview of redemptive history. In Revelation 5, John wept much because no one was found worthy to take the title deed of the earth and thus take back dominion of the earth for mankind as God intended.

But then John is told not to weep because the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David has prevailed to open the seven-sealed scroll, which in effect is the title deed of the earth (cf. Rev. 5:5). Jesus then takes the scroll

out of the Father's hand, indicating that He has authority to unleash the judgments in the book of Revelation and to take back the earth for mankind. And all of heaven worships!

In Revelation 11, the seventh angel sounds, which ushers in the climactic bowl judgments, bringing to a conclusion the Day of the Lord judgments that will usher in the kingdom. And when this happens, Rev. 11:15 says:

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, **“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”**

As the climactic judgments fall on the earth and this world's system of rebellion crumbles before the Messiah, heaven goes into LOUD and HIGH PRAISE.

Revelation 19:1 (NKJV)

1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, **“Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!”**

A whole new era is about to be ushered in. The time of the Gentiles is being shut down and the KINGDOM AGE is about to unfold. It's time for HEAVEN to celebrate! This is what all of history has been moving toward! This is what the OT kingdom prophecies looked forward to. This is what Jesus taught us to pray for: “Thy kingdom come”. This is the climax of the Book of Revelation: This is the fall of the world's system, as seen in Babylon, and the coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The word **“Hallelujah”** is the HIGH praise Word. It does not occur in the NT until right here in Rev. 19. It is the climactic praise word. It was not fitting till right NOW! But, now it is time to use this HIGH CLIMACTIC PRAISE WORD! It occurs four times in Rev. 19:1-6 (cf. 1,3, 4, 6). This is high-intensity praise to God. Heaven is excited! They are praising God with all their might because the time for the kingdom to come has finally arrived!

EVEN SO, COME LORD JESUS!