

EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH – May 2026

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CHRIST ALONE BRINGS THE KINGDOM

Ever since the days of Origin and then Augustine, the Church has been plagued with a HUGE amount of errant KINGDOM teaching. Two truths would go a long way in bringing about much-needed correction: 1) The Messianic Kingdom is yet future, 2) Christ alone will bring in the Kingdom at His Second Coming. Yes God is always sovereign, and His sovereign reign is always in place (cf. Ps. 103:19; Dan. 4:17, 25, 26, 34). But for the most part, when the Gospels or the epistles speak about the Kingdom, it is speaking about the future Kingdom reign of Christ, when He will literally sit on David's Throne in Jerusalem and rule the world. Yes, saved people are "kingdom people" whose destiny is ultimately the Kingdom, and we should therefore live accordingly (Rom. 14:17; 1 Thess. 2:12). Yes, positionally we are there, but NOT YET ACTUALLY (cf. Col. 1:13). Right now Christ is building His Church (Matt. 16:18), NOT the Kingdom, other than in the sense of the conversion of souls who will eventually occupy the Kingdom (cf. Isa. 40:10; Acts 1:6-8). The KINGDOM proper awaits to be inaugurated by Christ at His Second Coming (Rev. 11:15). It is Christ ALONE Who ushers in the Kingdom!

John the Baptist, as the forerunner of Christ, did NO sign-miracles (Jn. 10:41). He called for repentance because the Kingdom was being presented as "at hand" on that condition (Mt. 3:2; Acts 3:19-21). He did no SIGN-miracles because he was NOT the King. In contrast, when Jesus came preaching "the kingdom of heaven is at hand," it was consistently followed by verifying sign-miracles (kingdom-miracles – Heb. 6:5) showing that Jesus was indeed the KING offering the Kingdom on the condition of repentance (Mt. 4:17, 23). The whole point of the SIGN-MIRACLES was to show that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, in keeping with what the Old Testament had prophesied about the coming Messiah (Jn. 20:30-31). When the Jews "officially" rejected Jesus, He no longer proclaimed the Kingdom as being "at hand" (Matt. 12). The emphasis then shifted to going to the cross and that the Kingdom was being delayed (Matt. 13). As we move into the Church Age the emphasis is not on the "gospel of the kingdom" but rather "the gospel of Christ" (Rom. 1:16). In the Tribulation, "the gospel of the kingdom" will again go forth and reach the whole world, but this Gospel of the Kingdom is not our emphasis today (Matt. 24:14).

Yet today we have people like the "Apostle Bill Johnson" (so-called) of Bethel Church in Redding, California, who believes the Kingdom is NOW and that we are helping God to bring in the Kingdom, as evidenced by kingdom-miracles and new kingdom revelation. His entire theology revolves around this errant teaching! The result is a super huge dose of errant kingdom teaching! It doesn't ring true to Scripture, and it doesn't resonate with reality!

Bill constantly emphasizes that we are "co-workers" with God and that our assignment is to bring in the Kingdom. When Jesus taught us to pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," (Mt. 6:10), Bill takes this not merely as a prayer to God to make it happen, but rather as a commission for us to make it happen. In his book *"Dreaming with God,"* he has a chapter titled *"Pulling Tomorrow into Today"* with the premise that through faith we can bring in the Kingdom now. In his book *"The Way of Life,"* Bill says, *"Simply put, there is no sickness there [in heaven], so there is to be none here."* (p. 21) He goes on to say, *"We know that God lives in the realm where nothing is impossible. He is God. He is infinite, while everything else is finite. There is one beautiful exception to this rule – He made it possible for those who believe Him to experience the same reality He does."* (p. 40). WOW! Since we are bringing in the Kingdom, Bill "prophesies" that we *"are in the beginning of a one-billion-soul harvest"* and that we are *"going to see masses of people come into the Kingdom."* (p. 178). Bill absolutely detests the biblical idea that things are going to get worse and worse (2 Tim. 3) and that the Church is going to be rescued (1 Thess. 1:10, 5:9) as seen in *"Dreaming with God"* (p. 175).

Believers are to give God "no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth." (Isa. 62:7. Note HE (God) will do it. In the book of Revelation, the KEY point is that Jesus ALONE has the right to take the title deed of the earth and take it back for mankind (Rev. 5:4-5). He does this through a series of judgments (Rev. 6-18) and emerges as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS to reign forever (Rev. 11:15; 19:16). It is to the Son that God the Father gives the nations as an inheritance, and He will break them with a rod of iron (Ps. 2:8-9). Jesus ALONE treads the winepress of judgment, subduing the world and bringing in the Kingdom (Isa. 63:3-6). It is the height of arrogance and error to think we are tasked with or have the ability to bring in the Kingdom. We PRAY! God ALONE does it! This is God's doing, and the glory is His alone. This is the stuff of the book of Revelation, which is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 1:1). It's all about Jesus! He ALONE is Lord! He ALONE brings in the Kingdom! Yes, we are empowered to be His witnesses, but even so, God ALONE gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:7).

Thot: The early Church "tasted" the powers of the age to come, but the Kingdom SIGN-MIRACLES done by Jesus and His apostles were never meant to be normative. Properly speaking, they belong to the KINGDOM AGE to come (Heb. 6:5).

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