

THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

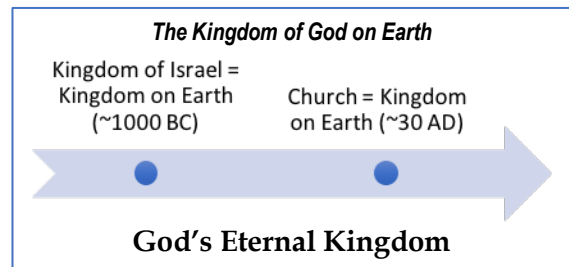
Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Throughout history, God established his kingdom to be his reign over his creation. In the Old Testament (OT), he established Israel as the kingdom of God on earth. Through dozens of specific OT prophecies, God revealed even greater plans to establish an eternal kingdom. Jesus arrived, proclaiming “the good news of the kingdom of God.” The Book of Acts begins with Jesus teaching about the kingdom of God followed by the fulfilment of prophecies regarding the coming of the kingdom (*Acts 1:3ff*). God established his church as the fellowship of those in the kingdom of God on earth. However, the NT describes the kingdom as “now and not yet” – an even greater age is coming (*Mark 10:30, Hebrews 6:5*), fulfilled in heaven. The unique and specific way the Scriptures reveal God’s eternal kingdom plan produces faith in the continuity of the entire Word of God. Prepare to be blown away by his masterplan and his amazing love for his people!

OPENING QUESTION: *What is your picture of the Kingdom of God?*

1. God’s Kingdom in the Old Testament

1) ISRAEL: The Kingdom of the Lord

- God established his “kingdom of priests” on earth through Moses. (*Exodus 19:6*)
- God established “the kingdom of the Lord” (*1 Chronicles 28:5*) under David and Solomon (*2 Samuel 7:12-16*) reaching the height of glory about 1000 B.C.
- Israel’s unfaithfulness led to the destruction of their kingdom. (*2 Kings 17:7-23*)



2) PROPHECY: The OT Prophecies of Coming of the New Kingdom

Through the prophets (especially Isaiah and Daniel), God revealed his plan for his re-establishing his kingdom on earth.

- **Isaiah 2:1-4 (750 BC)**
 - **When?** *In the last days*
 - **What?** *the mountain of the Lord's temple* [symbol for God’s kingdom]
 - **Whom?** *all nations will stream to it*
 - **Where?** *The word of the Lord from Jerusalem*
- **Isaiah 9:6-7 (750 BC)**
 - **Who?** *He (the Messiah) will reign on David's throne*
 - **What?** *over his kingdom... forever*
- **Daniel 2:1-44 (550 BC)**
 - **What?** Four kingdoms: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome
 - **When?** *God will establish his kingdom in the time of the Roman kings*

Kingdoms of Daniel 2	
Head of Gold	Babylon (to 539 BC)
Chest of Silver	Medo-Persia (to 330 BC)
Bronz	Greece (331-31 BC)
Iron / Clay	Rome (31 BC - 325 AD)
Rock	Church (30 AD)

2. NEAR: The Kingdom Proclaimed by The Messiah

1) **John the Baptist (30 AD): When?** *Kingdom of heaven is near* (Matthew 3:1-6)

2) **Jesus (30 AD)**

- **When?** *Kingdom is near* (Matthew 4:17)
- **How/When?** *Kingdom to come with power in the lifetime of some disciples* (Mark 9:1)
- **How?** *Must be born again of water and spirit to enter the kingdom* (John 3:1-7)
- **What?** *Kingdom is within you* (Luke 17:20-21)
- **How?** *Peter has the keys of the kingdom* (Matthew 16:13-19)
- **How, Where, and to Whom?** *Repentance and forgiveness of sins preached first in Jerusalem and to all nations* (Luke 24:44-49)

3. FULFILLMENT: The Kingdom Come (Acts 1:1-8, 2:1-47)

1) **Who?** The *Messiah* now rules *on David's throne* (Isaiah 9:6-7 | Acts 2:30,38)

2) **What?** God established an *eternal kingdom* (Isaiah 9:6-7 | Acts 2:37-42)

- *Spiritual* not physical (Luke 17:20-21 | Acts 2:37-42)

3) **When?** *In the last days* (Isaiah 2:2 | Acts 2:17)

- *In the time of the Roman kings* (Daniel 2 | Acts 2:1)
- *In the lifetime of the disciples* (Mark 9:1 | Acts 2:14)

4) **Where?** Established in *Jerusalem* (Isaiah 2:4 | Luke 24:49 | Acts 2:3)

5) **Whom?** Proclaimed to *all nations* (Isaiah 2:4 | Luke 24:49 | Acts 2:3)

6) **How?** The kingdom came with *power* (Mark 9:1 | Acts 1:8, 2:4)

Peter preached *repentance + forgiveness of sins* (Luke 24:44-49 | Acts 2:38)

Peter shared the *keys of the kingdom* (Matthew 16:13-19 | Acts 2:38)

Enter by *new birth: born again of water + spirit* (John 3:3-5 | Acts 2:38,41)

4. CONCLUSION: The Kingdom and You

1) **God uses his kingdom on earth to pursue a relationship with people**

- His plan from the beginning was for us to be with him in his kingdom for eternity.
- He established the kingdom of Israel through Moses and the line of David.
- He sent his son as the Messiah to bring the good news of the kingdom.
- He established the church as the fellowship of those on earth who serve him as King.
- We await a greater fulfillment of the kingdom in the age to come! (Mk. 10:30, Heb. 6:5)

2) **The servants of the kingdom on earth, the church, are devoted to (Acts 2:42):**

- *The Apostles' teaching* - which we now have as the New Testament.
- *The Fellowship* - living out the "one another" passages on a relationship level.
- *Breaking Bread* - participating in communion and remembering Jesus.
- *Prayer* - communicating directly with the King to draw close to him.

3) **"Seek first the kingdom and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33)**

- How can you prioritize your commitment to the church?
 - One another relationships, Sunday/midweek services, Bible Study, etc.
- How can you improve your commitment to "his righteousness"?
 - Prayer, Bible Study, confession, repentance, be born again, etc.