

THE TWO
KINGDOMS
Of the Lord Jesus Christ



A Bible Study Comparing
The Kingdom of Heaven
and
The Kingdom of God

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PREFACE

This Bible study of the Two Kingdoms is the result of a series of lessons that I taught years ago here at First Bible Church in Staten Island, New York. I gratefully acknowledge my debt to Dr. Peter Ruckman from whose books and tapes I first learned the differences between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God. Dr. Ruckman's material is still the best on the subject. The books of many other men have also been a great help to my understanding of this subject. It is unavoidable that their teachings will be apparent in this study; however, to my knowledge, nothing in this work has been copied, even in part, from any other source. This work is my own effort to show how the two kingdoms relate to other important subjects such as the dispensations, the gospel, salvation, the millennial reign of Christ, etc. The format is that of an outline. The charts are my own design. All scripture verses are from the King James Bible. Any misquotes of the Bible are unintentional.

- Pastor Michael Veach

THE TWO KINGDOMS

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THE TWO KINGDOMS

Comparing the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God

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I. The great theme of the Bible is “the King” and His Kingdom. (Psalm 47:6-8; 48:2; Matt. 5:35)

A. The word “KINGDOM” is prominent throughout the Bible. (Mentioned 369 times)

Psalms 103:19 *The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and **his kingdom** ruleth over all.*

Psalms 45:6 *Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of **thy kingdom** is a right sceptre.*

Psalms 145:10-11, 13 *All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy **kingdom**, and talk of thy power. Thy **kingdom** is an everlasting **kingdom**, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.*

Colossians 1:13 *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into **the kingdom of his dear Son**.*

2 Timothy 4:18 *And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his **heavenly kingdom**: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

2 Peter 1:11 *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into **the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**.*

B. The subject of a THRONE is also prominent throughout the Bible. (Mentioned 166 times)

Isaiah 14:13 *For thou [Lucifer] hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my **throne** above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. (Compare this to Revelation 2:13; 13:2)*

Revelation 22:1-3 *And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of **the throne of God and of the Lamb**...And there shall be no more curse: but **the throne of God and of the Lamb** shall be in it...*

C. A THRONE OF GLORY belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ, “*who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords.*” (1Tim. 6:14-15)

Matthew 25:31 *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon **the throne of his glory**:*

Hebrews 1:8 *But unto the **Son** he saith, **Thy throne, O God**, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.*

Hebrews 1:3 *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, **sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high**;*

Hebrews 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is **set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*** (See Ephesians 1:19-22; Colossians 3:1; Rom. 8:34)

Note: The phrase “*the right hand of the throne of God*” signifies a position of **PREEMINENCE!** (See: Exodus 15:6; Deut.33:2; Psalm 16:8,11; 17:7; 18:35; 48:10; 80:15,17; 98:1; 118:15,16; 138:7; Isaiah 41:10; 1Peter 3:22; Song of Solomon 2:6 and 8:3.)

D. Jesus Christ will “establish” His THRONES and KINGDOMS and reign forever on earth.

Matthew 25:31-34 *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon **the throne of his glory:** And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another... Then shall the **King** say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit **the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:***

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.*

Revelation 19:11,16 *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.***

Revelation 11:15 *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord,** and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

II. There are TWO eternal Kingdoms spoken of in the Bible.

A. These two kingdoms are SIMILAR in some ways.

1. God established both kingdoms and they will endure forever! (Psalm 145:13; 2Peter 1:11)
2. God has absolute power over both kingdoms. (Psalm 103:19; Daniel 4:35)
3. God rules over each kingdom through a man of His choosing. (1Chron. 28:4, 5; Eph 1:20-22)

Psalm 2:6 *Yet have **I set my king** upon my holy hill of Zion.*

1Samuel 10:24; 12:13 *...See ye **him whom the LORD hath chosen,** that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king...**behold, the Lord hath set a king over you.***

1Samuel 15:1 *...**The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king** over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the **LORD.***

4. God's Word is the final authority in both kingdoms. (Deut. 17:14-20).

Ecclesiastes 8:4 *Where the **word** of a **king** is, there is **power**: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?* (It is no accident that God has preserved His Word in the English language in the only translation authorized by a **King**, the **King James Bibles**!)

B. These two kingdoms are very DIFFERENT in some ways. Knowing the differences between them is one of the most important keys to rightly dividing the Word of truth.

1. The Kingdom of Heaven.

- (a) The Kingdom of Heaven is a **physical, material** kingdom. Heaven is a **physical** place, a created part of the **material** universe (Gen. 1:1). In the kingdom of heaven, God rules over "people, nations, and languages" **in the earth**.

Matthew 6:10 *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done **in earth**, as it is in heaven.*

Daniel 7:13-14 *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.*

Psalms 72:11 *Yea, **all kings** shall fall down before him: **all nations** shall serve him.*

Zech. 9:9-10 *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: ...and **his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.***

- (b) The Kingdom of Heaven primarily relates to **Israel**. The expression "kingdom of heaven" is found **only** in the gospel of Matthew, a book written to the Jews. Israel is at the center of the Kingdom of Heaven and one day will dominate all the other nations of the earth.

Jeremiah 23:5, 6 *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise **unto David a righteous Branch**, and **a King shall reign and prosper**, and shall execute judgment and justice **in the earth**. In his days **Judah** shall be saved, and **Israel** shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**.*

Zechariah 2:11 *And **many nations shall be joined to the LORD** in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.*

Revelation 12:5 *And she [Israel] brought forth a man child, who was **to rule all nations with a rod of iron**: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his **throne**.*

2. The Kingdom of God.

- (a) The Kingdom of God is a **spiritual, invisible** kingdom. Its workings cannot be observed with human eyes because it is like God, who is a spirit (John 4:24). It is God ruling from **WITHIN** the believer, where the Holy Ghost dwells.

Romans 14:17 *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy **in the Holy Ghost**.*

Luke 17:20,21 *And 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.***

1Corinthians 15:50 *Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the **kingdom of God**; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*

- (b) The Kingdom of God relates primarily to the **sons of God** (John 1:12), those who have received Jesus Christ and in whom the **Spirit of God** dwells (1Cor. 3:16; John 14:17).

John 3:3,6,7 *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see **the kingdom of God**...**That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be **born again.***

Matthew 12:28 *But if I cast out devils by the **Spirit of God**, then **the kingdom of God** is come unto you. (When one is saved, God casts out the evil spirits and the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the believer. See Eph. 2:1-2; Mark 5:15).*

Colossians 1:12-13 *Giving thanks unto the Father ...Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and **hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.***

III. The history of the two kingdoms traced through the Bible.

A. God established both kingdoms at the beginning of creation and they existed together in perfect harmony.

1. Before Adam was made, God created the “**host of heaven**” (cherubim, angels, teraphim, etc.). These heavenly creatures were **spiritual** in nature (Hebrews 1:14, Psalm 104:4) and were called the “**sons of God**” (Genesis 6:2, 4 and Job 1:6; 2:1 and 38:7).

Nehemiah 9:6 *Thou, even thou, art **LORD** alone; thou hast **made heaven**, the **heaven** of heavens, with all their **host**, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the **host of heaven** worshippeth thee.*

2. The heavenly creatures were given specific dominions and powers.

Colossians 1:16,17 *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be **thrones**, or **dominions**, or **principalities**, or **powers**: all things were created by him, and for him...*

3. God also created the earth. The angels rejoiced as they watched God do this.

Job 38:4-7 *Where wast thou **when I laid the foundations of the earth**? declare, if thou hast understanding. (5) Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? (6) Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; (7) When the **morning stars sang together**, and all **the sons of God shouted for joy**?*

4. Lucifer, a cherub, was anointed to rule over the kingdom of God (the angelic sons of God) **and** over the kingdom of Heaven (the material universe). Lucifer was given his own **throne** along with great **glory** (wisdom, beauty, brightness) and **honour** (power, authority).

Ezekiel 28:12-17:

*thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty...
thou **has been in Eden** the garden of God...
every precious stone was thy covering...
the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee ...
thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so...
thou wast upon the holy mountain of God...
thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire...
thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created...
thy beauty...thy wisdom...thy brightness*

- B. Lucifer's pride (1Tim. 3:6) and self-will caused his downfall.** His rebellion spread throughout heaven. He and "his angels" (Matt. 25:41) were judged.

Isaiah 14:12-15 *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.***

Ezekiel 28:14-18 *Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth... Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till **iniquity was found in thee.** By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore **I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ...I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.***

Luke 10:18 *And he [Jesus] said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*

- C. The rebellion of Lucifer and his angels violently affected the whole creation!** The original earth was flooded and the universe was darkened. (See a full study of this watery judgment in: "The Five Worlds", available from FBC.)

Genesis 1:2 *And the earth was **without form, and void**; and darkness was upon the face of **the deep.** And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of **the waters.***

- D. In Genesis 1:3-25, God RESTORES creation and brings the original earth, ruined in the flood, back to life!** In Lucifer's place, God put a new kind of creature over His two kingdoms. (Gen. 1:26-2:25)

1. Adam, the first man, was made the new king. He was a unique being made in **the image and likeness of God.** He was a living soul, with a physical body inhabited by the Spirit of God. As such, he is the only human in the Old Testament called "*the son of God*" (Luke 3:38).

Gen. 1:26-27 *And God said, Let us make man **in our image, after our likeness**...So God created man **in his own image, in the image of God** created he him; male and female created he them.*

Genesis 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground [body], and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life [Spirit]; and man became a living soul [soul].*

(The only other place in the Bible where it says that God “breathed” is John 20:22. Jesus Christ breathed upon His disciples and they received the Holy Ghost. See also Job 33:4, Psalm 33:6, and John 6:63)

2. Adam was crowned with **glory** (wisdom, beauty, brightness) and **honor** (power).

Psalm 8:4, 5 *What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.*

The “majesty” of Jesus Christ, “the last Adam” (1Cor. 15:45), may be an indication of the majesty that the first Adam possessed before he fell! Jesus Christ was “**crowned with glory and honor.**” (Heb. 2:9). Three of his disciples were eyewitnesses of his glory and honor. (Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:1-10; Luke 9:28-36) “*For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” (2Peter 1:16, 17) “*Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment.” (Psalm 104:1, 2)*

3. Adam, as the ruler over the Kingdom of God, was to replenish the earth with spiritual creatures of his own kind (“sons of God”). As the ruler over the Kingdom of Heaven, he was told to have dominion over all the physical things that God had made and was told to subdue the earth. (Genesis 1:28)

Psalm 8:6 *Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.*

E. The fall of Adam brought immediate and tragic consequences!

1. Adam lost his **glory and honour** and was left with **shame, fear, nakedness, sorrow, thorns, and enmity with God** (Gen. 3:10;16-18; Job 19:8-11).
2. Adam lost **the image of God** and was left with **an earthy, fallen image.** (compare Genesis 1:27,28 with Genesis 5:3; 1Cor. 15:49) As a result, he failed to replenish the earth with “sons of God” as the Lord had intended him to do.
3. Adam lost **eternal life** and brought **death** into the world – both spiritually and physically (Gen. 2:17). Death was passed down upon all his descendents (Romans 5:12; John 3:18).

F. The Kingdom of God was taken away from mankind.

1. Adam’s descendents were born in his fallen image, NOT in God’s image. (Gen. 5:3 cf. Gen. 1:26, 27). In the Old Testament, the descendants of Adam are called the “**sons of men**” (Psalm 4:2; Psalm 33:13; Ecc. 9:3) NOT the sons of God. Without a true king to rule over it and without true “sons of God” to inhabit it, the Kingdom of God was taken away. **From the fall of Adam until the time of Christ the Kingdom of God was not present on the earth.**

2. The Old Testament makes no mention of **regeneration**, the **new birth**, or **eternal life**. It is the “*book of the generations of Adam*” (Genesis 5:1) and through Adam all men receive **death**. However, the New Testament begins with these words “*The book of the generation of Jesus Christ*” (Mat. 1:1). **His** “book” is a “*book of life*”. (Romans 5:18-19) “*In Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*” (1Corinthians 15:22)
3. Only through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ could the Kingdom of God be reopened to man. Those who receive Him as their Saviour are **RE-generated in His image**, receive **eternal life** and become “**the sons of God**”. (John 1:12; Rom. 8:14, 19; 1John 3:1-2)

1Cor. 15:47, 49 *The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. ...And as we have borne the image of the earthy [Adam], we shall also bear the image of the heavenly [Jesus Christ].*

Col. 3:10 *And have put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. (As seen in 1Thess. 5:23: “spirit, soul, and body”)*

Titus 3:5-7 *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

G. The Kingdom of Heaven had a succession of God-ordained “kings” after Adam fell:

1. **Adam** was driven out of the Garden, leaving the earth without a ruler. Satan immediately began bringing in his angels (Genesis 6:1-4, Jude 1:6). The wickedness of those days was great but God continued to preserve the seed of His true King (Genesis 3:15), the One who would be obedient to God and deliver mankind from its bondage (Hebrews 2:14, 15). Until the promised Seed should come, certain men chosen of God were given the chance to govern in the kingdom of Heaven but there would be **violence** (Matt. 11:12) as Satan struggled for control generation after generation. Some of God’s chosen rulers succeeded but most failed.
2. **Noah** was God’s next choice to have authority on the earth: Before the flood (Gen. 6-9) Satan’s plan to prevent the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15 by corrupting the seed of mankind was progressing at full speed. But it was stopped with a flood! Noah was then appointed to rule over the earth (Gen.9:1-7). Noah resembles Adam in many ways: (a) he was given authority on the earth following a judgment on wicked angels; (b) he had three sons, one of whom God cursed (Ham) like Cain; (c) he committed a sin (Gen. 9:20-25) that involved the fruit of the vine; (d) he, like Adam, proved unfit to govern the earth for God.

After Noah, Satan gained power over the kingdom of Heaven again, this time through a man named Nimrod, a descendant of Noah’s son Ham (Gen. 6:4; 10:8-9, Psalm 82:1; 89:6; Joel 3:11). Nimrod built the first world kingdom, named Babel (Gen. 10:10). According to Genesis 11:1-4, Satan’s plan was twofold: **earthly dominion** (Kingdom of Heaven), pictured by the building of a “city” from which to rule men, and **spiritual dominion** (Kingdom of God), pictured in the building of a “tower” from which to reach heaven. Nimrod established not only the first **world government**, but the first **world religion**; one devoted to the worship of the fallen “sons of God”, the angels who had walked the earth BEFORE the flood. (2Kings 17:16; Zeph. 1:5).

God’s response to Satan was to “confuse” the speech of the people and scatter Nimrod’s religion. It spread to every corner of the earth where it took root in every culture. (See *any* mythology of *any* ancient civilization). Thus, the **spirit** of Babylon lives on today! (Rev. 17:1-6)

3. **Abraham** was God's next choice to have authority on the earth. "[He] *raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings.*" (Isaiah 41:2). God made an unconditional covenant with him. He promised him a royal lineage and an earthly inheritance (Gen. 13:14-17; 15:18; 17:4-6; Rom. 4:13). Abraham, like a king, waged war against other kings (Gen.14:14-16).
4. **Isaac** became heir to the Kingdom of Heaven (Genesis 26:2-4, 24), and after him, **Jacob** (Gen. 28:13-15, 35:10-12, Num. 23:21; 24:19).
5. **Judah**, the son of Jacob, was the next heir. "*The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and to him shall the gathering of the people be.*" (Genesis 49:10) "*Judah is my lawgiver.*" (Psalm 60:7).
6. **Moses** was God's next lawgiver and ruled like a king in the eyes of God. "*Moses commanded us a law, even the inheritance of the congregation of Jacob. And he was king in Jeshurun, when the heads of the people and the tribes of Israel were gathered together.*" (Deut. 33:4,5)
7. **Joshua** (Joshua 1:2-5) was next, and the judges who followed him (Ruth 1:1): from Othniel to Samuel. They continued to govern in the place of Joshua as they judged Israel.
8. **Saul, David, and Solomon were the first true kings of Israel.** They ruled a unified nation and when viewed together they picture Adamic authority over the kingdom of heaven. In the Garden of Eden, Adam was first **flesh** (dust), then **spirit** (the breath of God) and became a living **soul** (the eternal part of every person). Israel's first three kings follow that pattern:

Saul is a picture of the "*natural man*" (1Cor. 2:14) who walks after the **flesh** and ultimately is a failure! Saul's failure gave way to David's success. God intended the **natural** to give way to the **spiritual**: "*Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.*" (1Cor. 15:46)

David, the next king, was very much the spiritual man, a man after God's own heart. Although he was an Old Testament saint, David is a picture of the New Testament believer in his **love** for the Word of God, his **repentance** when God reproved him, his **receiving undeserved mercy**, and his **reigning forever**. (Psalm 89:1-4, 19-37)

Solomon, the son of David, is a picture of the human **soul**. The soul can be influenced by both the spirit and the flesh. When Solomon was obedient and followed after David's example, the kingdom was full of light. But his last days, when he followed his flesh, ended in disobedience and compromise!

1Kings 11:4-6 "*For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives **turned away his heart after other gods**: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father...And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father."*

9. **Rehoboam**, Solomon's son, caused the nation to be DIVIDED. He reigned over two tribes only: Judah and Benjamin. **Jeroboam** took the other ten tribes and made a separate kingdom in the north, which was thereafter called Israel, with Samaria as their capitol.

10. **The DIVIDED kingdom: Israel**, the northern kingdom, was separated from Judah for many years. Israel had **nineteen** kings from **Jeroboam to Hoshea**, **none** of whom acknowledged God's authority over their kingdom. Israel remained a rebellious and unrepentant kingdom until the end, when it was destroyed by Assyria in 721 BC. (2Kings 18:11, 12) **Judah**, the southern kingdom, had **nineteen** kings from **Rehoboam to Zedekiah** (and one wicked queen, Athaliah). Only **eight** of Judah's kings were godly men. Nevertheless, the "**scepter**" remained with Judah (1Kings 12:16-24). Judah gradually went into apostasy and **into Babylonian captivity under king Jeconiah**, whom God had cursed. (Jer. 22:24-30) His successor, Zedekiah, was a puppet of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. He rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and brought swift destruction upon Judah. This was followed by seventy years of captivity. (See 2Chron. 36:9-21) **Thus the Kingdom of Heaven came to an END!**
11. Ezekiel records the END of **Jeconiah's reign**: *And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come [Genesis 49:10] whose right it is; and I will give it him.*** (Ezekiel 21:25-27)
12. Jeremiah records the END of the **kingdom of Heaven**: *Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and we have borne their iniquities. Servants have ruled over us: there is none that doth deliver us out of their hand. ...Princes are hanged up by their hand: the faces of elders were not honoured. They took the young men to grind, and the children fell under the wood. The elders have ceased from the gate, the young men from their musick. The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning. **The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!*** (Lamentations 5:1-16)
13. Jerusalem was destroyed, the Jews went into captivity and the Kingdom of Heaven ended and the "TIMES OF THE GENTILES" began.

IV. THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES *in relation to the two kingdoms.*

- A. The "times of the Gentiles" began with Israel's fall as a nation. During the Jews' captivity in Babylon, God revealed to his prophet, Daniel, that He was changing the "*times and seasons*" (Daniel 2:21). Daniel was told that four Gentile nations would rule over the earth, one after the other, until the Kingdom of Heaven returned. Babylon was the first of those kingdoms, followed by Media-Persia. Both nations ruled over the Jews during Daniel's lifetime.

Babylon: *Thou, O king [Nebuchadnezzar], art a king of kings: for **the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.** And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all.* (Daniel 2:37-38)

Media-Persia: *Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, **All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me;** and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all **his people?** The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.* (2Chronicles 36:22-23; John 19:11; Romans 13:1; Proverbs 8:15-16)

- B. After 70 years of captivity, Cyrus made a decree allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and the walls of Jerusalem.** Under their leaders, Ezra and Nehemiah, the Jews enjoyed a short-lived spiritual revival! However, a few hundred years later, when the promised King (Jesus Christ) appeared and offered to establish His kingdom (which would have ended the times of the Gentiles), Israel rejected His offer and killed their King (John 1:11). **As a result, the kingdom of Heaven was further postponed and the “times of the Gentiles” was extended into our present day.** Forty years after the death of Christ (70 AD) the judgment of God came upon the Jews! Jerusalem was destroyed and the Jewish people were scattered among the nations.

Luke 21:24 *Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until **the times of the Gentiles** be fulfilled.*

Romans 11:25 *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that **blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles** be come in.*

Hosea 3:4-5 *For the children of **Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.***

- C. During the extended “times of the Gentiles”, Satan maintains his power over the world** (2Corinthians 4:4). He works through an army of unclean spirits to influence men and nations (Eph. 6:12). This is part of God’s ultimate plan, and it will glorify Him in the end. *“The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.”* (Proverbs 16:4)

Luke 4:5-6 *And the devil, taking him [Jesus] up into an high mountain, **shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world** in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, **All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.*** (See also 2Cor. 4:3-4)

- D. Four world kingdoms rule the earth during the “times of the Gentiles”:** (Dan. 2:31-43). Nebuchadnezzar saw in a dream **an image of a man** with a head of **gold**, arms and chest of **silver**, a belly and thighs of **brass**, and two legs of **iron** that had feet and toes of **iron mixed with clay**. God revealed to Daniel that this figure represented the four kingdoms that would be given dominion over the earth until the return of the Kingdom of Heaven. (Daniel 2:44).

1. History has proven that Daniel’s prophecy was completely accurate. **Babylon**, the golden head, was conquered by the **Medes and Persians** (silver), who were later conquered by **Greece** (brass), which was conquered by **Rome** (iron).
2. When Jesus Christ came to earth, Babylon, Persia and Greece had already risen and fallen and **Rome, the fourth kingdom**, was firmly in power. **Rome** dominated the world during all the events of the New Testament. King Herod, with authority from **Rome**, tried to kill Jesus at His birth and slaughtered all the infants in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16-18). **Rome** killed John the Baptist, **Rome** crucified Jesus Christ on the cross, **Rome** killed the apostle James, **Rome** beheaded the apostle Paul, **Rome** destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D., **Rome** exiled the Apostle John and **Rome** viciously persecuted Christians for more than 200 years after the death of John. Daniel’s prophecy indicates and the Messiah’s promise implied that, if Israel had received Jesus Christ as her King, Rome would have been destroyed and the Kingdom of Heaven and its spiritual twin, the Kingdom of God, would have been established forever!

3. Daniel's prophecies concerning the end of "the times of the Gentiles" were not fulfilled at the First Advent of Jesus Christ. It remains, therefore, that Rome, the fourth kingdom, must continue **in some other form** until the Second Advent. After the death of the apostles, the Roman Empire began to decline and eventually collapsed. However it was slowly and mysteriously transformed into another form: a formidable religious empire.
 - a. In 312 AD, just before a critical battle, the soon-to-be Emperor, Constantine, claimed to have seen a vision in the sky: a "cross" with the words, "*In this sign, conquer*". He supposedly placed that symbol on the shields of his army and won a decisive victory. He later "converted" to Christianity and ended the long persecution of the Christian church, which had lasted for almost 200 years! He also became a great benefactor of the church and began to suppress other less popular religions.

Under Constantine, the Christian "clergy" were given great privileges. They were given the status of Roman senators and the Bishop of Rome slowly gained preeminence over all the other bishops in the Empire. The "church" took possession of pagan temples and by 380 AD "Christianity" was declared the state religion.

Most books today on "Church History" consider Constantine's conversion and the actions he took as a "Christian" emperor as a glorious turning point in the history of Christianity. However, it was actually a **great tragedy!** It brought about the MARRIAGE of the church to a world power and the RENEWAL of Nimrod's kingdom of Babylon – only now in a much more subtle and dangerous form. The "mystery" doctrines of Babylon were slowly mixed into the doctrines of Christianity. Constantine came to view himself as the head of the church and as "Pontifex Maximus" (his pagan title as high priest of the Babylonian mysteries) presided over the first "Church Council" in Nicaea in 325 AD. The "church" continued to maintain an appearance of godliness but the power of the gospel was gone! For more about this period in church history see God's warning to the church of Pergamos in Revelation 2:12-17. ("Pergamos" means "much marriage").

- b. In 330 AD, Constantine moved his capitol from the city of Rome to Constantinople, 1,000 miles to the East. This created a schism in the Empire between East and West! With Constantine gone, the Bishop of Rome and the Catholic Church consolidated their power. **When the Western Empire finally fell in 476 AD, the Roman Catholic Church declared itself the rightful heir to the Roman Empire and the Pope began to "rule" over the kings of the earth** (Rev. 17:2:18). He soon became the chief adversary and persecutor of the true saints of God! (Rev. 17:6). According to Daniel, this "mystery" form of the Roman Empire would continue in power until the coming of a "*stone ...cut out without hands*" (Daniel 2:34) that will "*break in pieces*" and consume the Gentile world powers and bring in an everlasting kingdom that will fill the earth (Daniel 2:44).
- c. The final form of the fourth kingdom is described in Daniel and Revelation as being like two feet of IRON mixed with CLAY (partly strong and partly weak), from which ten toes arise. The ten toes (also called ten "horns") are ten "kings" who have great power in the last days of Rome and who give their power to the antichrist:

*Revelation 13:1; 17:12-13 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and **ten horns**, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy...**And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings**, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*

Daniel 2:42, 44 *And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. In the days of **these kings** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...*

The future alliance of ten “kings” has a strange and sinister component. Daniel described it this way: “...**they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave to one another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.**” (Dan. 2:43) This brings to mind the days of Noah, when the fallen “sons of God” (angels) mingled themselves with the seed of men in their attempt to rule the earth (Gen. 6:1-4, Jude 1:6). “**And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.**” (Luke 17:26)

But any alliance of the kings of the earth will come to naught: “**Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. ...and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.**” (Daniel 2:34-35)

4. Jesus Christ is the STONE “*cut out without hands.*”

a. Israel stumbled over that STONE.

Isaiah 8:13-15 *Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for **a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence** to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken. (See 1Peter 2:6-8)*

b. The church is built upon that STONE.

1Corinthians 3:10,11 *According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the **foundation**, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For **other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.***

Ephesians 2:20 *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets [they gave us the Scriptures], **Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.***

c. The Gentile nations will be crushed under that STONE at His return. The “great whore” and her “daughters” and all the other parts of Satan’s “New World Order” will be ground to dust by the Stone that was rejected.

Luke 20:17-18 *...**The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?** Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, **it will grind him to powder.***

E. The times of the Gentiles will end suddenly and violently - just as the kingdom of heaven had ended suddenly for Israel in the Old Testament:

Ezekiel 21:25-27 *And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Remove the diadem, and take off the crown:** this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, **until he come** (Gen. 49:10) **whose right it is; and I will give it him.** (Rev. 11:15)*

V. THE FIRST ADVENT OF JESUS CHRIST *in relation to the two kingdoms.*

A. God had promised that “Shiloh”, the rightful King, would come.

Genesis 49:10 *The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, **until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.***

Jeremiah 23:5 *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and **a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.***

Ezekiel 21:27 *I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, **until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.***

B. The OT scriptures gave Israel many details about the coming of her King.

Micah 5:2 *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet **out of thee shall he come forth unto me** that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, **a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.***

Daniel 9:24-25 *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that **from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks*** (See End Notes); the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

C. John the Baptist was sent before Him to prepare the way for Israel to receive her King.

Isaiah 40:2-3 *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, **Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.***

Luke 1:17, 76 *And **he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias**, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; **to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.** ...And thou, child, [John] shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;*

Mark 1:3-6 *As it is written in the prophets, **Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.** The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.*

John 1:29-34 *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he** of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but **that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.** ...he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. **And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.***

D. Jesus Christ began His public ministry by announcing that the kingdom of Heaven and the kingdom of God were both “at hand” (God was ready and willing to re-establish them).

Matthew 4:12, 17, 23 *Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; ...From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven** (a physical, earthly kingdom in which men acknowledge God's chosen King and his right to govern them.) **is at hand.** ...And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*

Mark 1:14, 15 *Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God** (a spiritual kingdom in which men must be born again and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit!), And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.***

E. Jesus Christ was the only man qualified to rule both kingdoms.

1. Jesus was called “**the Son of man**”, a title that relates to the **Kingdom of heaven**. When used of him, this title emphasizes either his **humanity** (as the descendant of David and the son of Mary) or His **role as Israel’s Messiah and King** (his miracles, his betrayal, suffering and death, his return to earth in power and glory, etc.).

Luke 9:58 *And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the **Son of man** hath not where to lay his head.*

Matthew 20:18 *Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the **Son of man** shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,*

Mark 13:26 *And then shall they see the **Son of man** coming in the clouds with great power and glory.*

Matthew 25:31,32 *When the **Son of man** shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

Matthew 13:41 *The **Son of man** shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;*

Acts 7:56 *But he [Stephen], being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the **Son of man** standing on the right hand of God. (“**The Son of man standing**” has special significance for Israel. See section VI, paragraph E.)*

2. He was also called the “**Son of God**”. This title relates to the **Kingdom of God**. When used of Him, it emphasizes his **Deity** (1Tim. 3:16; John 1:1, 2, 14; Acts 20:28; Col. 2:9) and his **role as mankind’s Redeemer and Saviour**.

Luke 1:35 *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the **Son of God.***

John 20:31 *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the **Son of God**; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

Acts 8:37 *And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the **Son of God**.*

John 11:27 *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the **Son of God**, which should come into the world.*

Galatians 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the **Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

1John 5:5-20 *Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the **Son of God**? (10) He that believeth on the **Son of God** hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. (12) He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the **Son of God** hath not life. (13) These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the **Son of God**; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the **Son of God**. (20) And we know that the **Son of God** is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*

3. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be **both** the **Son of man** (emphasizing his humanity) and **Son of God** (emphasizing his deity).

Isaiah 9:6 *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.*

Only Jesus Christ could fulfill this amazing prophecy. He was the “**child**” that was **born** as the “seed of the woman” (Gen. 3:15) and the seed of David (Romans 1:3; Jeremiah 23:5; Psalm 89:34-37; 2Samuel 7:12-13; Psalm 132:11; Isaiah 11:1). He was also the “**son**” that was **given** by the Father. The wording of Isaiah 9:6 in the King James Bible is very specific. It speaks of the deity of the Lord Jesus because it says the “**son**” was given and NOT born. The Son always was and always will be. He is the eternal God!

4. As the Son of man, Jesus Christ will reign as **King** over the **earthly house** of Jacob (*And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*” Luke 1:33) As the Son of God he shall reign as **Lord** over the **spiritual house** of God, his church (1Peter 2:5; Eph. 2:19-22; 1Timothy 3:15).
5. He is called the “*King of kings and Lord of lords*” (1Timothy 6:15, Rev. 17:14, Rev. 19:16) indicating his **dominion over both kingdoms**.

VI. THE BOOK OF MATTHEW *in relation to the two kingdoms.*

- A. **The Gospel of Matthew emphasizes the Kingdom of Heaven.** In fact, the phrase is found ONLY in Matthew. Matthew is written to a Jewish audience and portrays Jesus Christ as the King of the Jews. The book opens with the genealogy of the King and in the first verse declares that Jesus is descended from Abraham and David, two of the most important men to the Jews.

Matthew 1:1 *The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

The Gospel of Matthew tells how both Kingdoms were offered to Israel and how Israel, through unbelief, lost both Kingdoms.

- B. **Matthew is a book of transition – bridging the Old Testament and the New Testament.**

1. The Old Testament is the story of God's dealings with one people, the Jews, and one NATION, Israel. In the book of Matthew, Israel is STILL the primary focus of God's attention.
2. DOCTRINALLY, Matthew is still an "Old Testament" book because New Testament doctrine does not come into effect until AFTER the death and resurrection of Christ!

Hebrews 9:16-17 *For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.*

3. The Messiah and his disciples lived under the Law of Moses. They abstained from pork, worshipped in the temple, observed the feast days, etc. Jesus said, "*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*" (Matt. 5:17).
4. The Messiah's ministry was exclusively to Israel even though Gentiles benefited by it.

Matthew 10:5-7 *These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to **the lost sheep of the house of Israel**. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. (See also Luke 19:10)*

Matthew 15:22-24, 26 *And, behold, a woman of Canaan [a Gentile] 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. But he answered her not a word... [To his disciples he said:] **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel**.... [Then, to the woman he said:] *It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.* (See: Rom. 15:8; Psalm 98:2-3 and Luke 1:70-75)*

- C. **The book of Matthew gives the chronology of the King's arrival, his offer to Israel of the Kingdom of Heaven, and Israel's rejection of Him.**

1. **The Genealogy and Birth of the King (Chapter 1 and 2)**

1:1 - The coming of Shiloh (Gen. 49:10), "whose right it is" (Ezek. 21:27);
1:22-23 - A virgin birth, (Isaiah 7:14; in Bethlehem, 2:6; Micah 5:2)
2:2 - Gentiles asked, "where is he, that is born **King** of the Jews?"

2. The King is revealed to Israel and baptized by John (Chapter 3)

- 3:1-2 - John the Baptist; Luke 1:17, 26; Matt.17:11-13; Malachi 4:5-6
- 3:7 - The elders, being warned, reject John's message, Luke 7:29-30
- 3:13-17 - John's ministry was "the baptism of repentance" which required the confession of sin (Matthew 3:6, 11). Jesus had no need of repentance or confession of sin. **His** baptism was done to show: **1.** He was the true Messiah (John 1:29-34), **2.** He was a godly Jew, **3.** He was consecrated to His priestly office (Ex. 29:4, Lev. 8:6), **4.** His baptism was a picture of "believer's baptism", and **5.** Daniel's sixty-nine "weeks" were fulfilled and the seventieth week had begun.

3. The King is tested by the Devil and begins His public ministry (Chapter 4)

- 4:1-16 - Temptation and Testing of the King
- 4:17-25 - The Public ministry of the King commences

4. The King reveals His Constitution for the Kingdom of Heaven (Chapter 5 - 7)

- 5:3-12, 20 - The basis of righteousness in the Kingdom of Heaven
- 6:33 - **Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness**
- 7:21 - Not everyone that saith, Lord, Lord...shall enter in
- 7:28-29 - He taught with authority (Ecc. 8:4)

5. The King reveals His power (Chapters 8 and 9)

- 8:2-3 - Leper healed. A centurion believes, daughter raised
- 8:11-12 - **Gentiles in the kingdom of Heaven!**
- 8:16 - He healed everyone (not just those who had faith)
- 8:24-25 - He rebuked the storm (v. 27)!
- 8:28 - He cast out demons
- 9:20-22 - He healed the woman who touched his garment
- 9:25 - He raised a girl from the dead
- 9:27, 30 - He healed the blind men
- 9:33 - He cast out the dumb spirit
- 9:35 - **The gospel of the kingdom** included healing sickness and disease

6. The King preaches the gospel of the kingdom (Chapters 10 and 11)

- 10:1-15 - Disciples preaching only to Israel: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand".
- 10:16-42 - A prophecy ultimately fulfilled in the tribulation
- 11:1 - His preaching & His invitation to the nation
- 11:2-6 - He reassures John the Baptist that He is the Messiah
- 11:7-15 - He questions the multitude, "Why didn't you believe John?"
- 11:20-27 - He upbraids certain cities for not repenting
- 11:28-30 - He gives His invitation to the nation, "**come unto me.**"

7. The King and His kingdom are rejected (Chapter 12)

- 12:2 - Criticism turns to...
- 12:14-24 - Hostility, then rejection and envy
- 12:31-32 - The unpardonable sin!
- 12:38-41 - No more signs - He knew there would be no repentance!
- 12:46-50 - He declares the true basis of a relationship with him

8. The King begins to teach in parables (Chapter 13)

- 13:1 - Jesus went “out of the house”
- 13:3-58 - Hidden truth for disciples only; kingdom of heaven in mystery form, Seven parables related to seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3.

9. The King prepares His disciples in private (Chapters 14 – 20)

- 17:1-9 - His glory and honor manifested. Compare to Heb. 2:9; 2Peter 1:16-18.

10. The King reproves the nation publicly (Chapters 21 – 23)

- 21:12 - Rebuking the Pharisees in the temple
- 21:23 - Questioned by the chief priests, Of what authority
- 21:33-43 - The kingdom of God taken from you. (Mt. 6:33)
- 23:13-14 - Woe unto thee! (Isaiah 3:11; 5:20; 29:15; 30:1; etc.)
- 23:16-33 - Hypocrites! blind guides!, fools!, serpents!, vipers!
- 23:34-37 - A condemned generation (compare Acts 2:40)
- 23:38-39 - Your house is left unto you desolate.

11. The King prophesies concerning His return to Israel (Chapters 24 - 25)

- 24 - The tribulation and the day of the Lord
- 25 - The second advent of Christ and judgment of the nations

12. The King suffers, dies and is resurrected! (Chapter 26 - 28)

- 26:1-46 - The plot, the Passover, the prayer meeting in the garden
- 26:47-75 - The King betrayed, tried and forsaken
- 27:1-28 - The King rejected (John 1:11, Luke 7:29-30); “his blood be upon us”
- 27:29-66 - The King crucified and buried
- 28:1-20 - The King risen from the dead!

The book of Matthew continues historically in the book of Acts. It continues doctrinally in the book of Hebrews. The book of Hebrews urges Jews in the tribulation to enter into the “rest” that their forefathers in the wilderness, and their ancestors during the time of Christ’s earthly ministry failed to enter into. In the book of Matthew, Jesus Christ was the **messenger** of the covenant (Malachi 3:1-3). In Hebrews, He is the **mediator** of the covenant. (Heb. 8:6-13; 12:24; Jeremiah 31:31-34)

VII. THE GOSPEL *in relation to the two kingdoms.*

A. What is the “gospel”? The word gospel means good news.

Isaiah 52:7 *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! (Quoted in Romans 10:15... as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!)*

Isaiah 61:1 *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meet... (Quoted in Luke 4:17-18... And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor...).*

B. There is more than one “gospel” spoken of in the Bible. There have been four “gospels” given to man up until this present time. Each of these gospels was given (“dispensed”) to a specific people for a specific time and was “good news” concerning a specific subject.

1. **The gospel to Abraham - in the land of his sojourn: The good news of the promised seed.**

(READ: Gal. 3:8; Rom. 4:13, 18; Gen. 18:17-18; 22:16-18; Heb. 11:17-19; James 2:21-24)

Galatians 3:8 *And the scripture, foreseeing that God would [in the future] justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, SAYING, [Here is the message of that gospel:] In thee shall all nations be blessed. (Quoting: Gen. 18:17-18 and 22:16-18)*

Genesis 22:16-18 *By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

Galatians 3:16 *Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*

2. **The gospel to Israel - in the wilderness: The good news of the promised rest.**

(READ: Exodus 33:12-14; 6:6-8; Hebrews 4:2-9; 3:17-18; Psalm 95:7-11; Deut. 1:6-8, 21, 26-38; 12:6-12; Num. 14:6-9; 14:33-34; 32:13)

Hebrews 4:2-9 *For unto us was the gospel preached [to the Jews in the time of Jesus Christ and the apostles, as in Acts 3:19-21], as well as unto them [to the Jews in the time of Moses]: *but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, ...Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: ...For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. [Israel will long for this Millennial rest when they are in the Tribulation. The seventh day of creation – a type of the Millennium – was the day of God’s REST! – Gen. 2:1-3]**

In Hebrews 4:2-9, Paul was quoting **Psalm 95:7-11** which speaks of Israel “*in the wilderness*”. The gospel they heard was the good news that God had promised them “rest” - NOT the salvation of their souls, but the refuge, blessing and safety that would have been theirs if they had BELIEVED God and entered into the land (Deut. 12:9-10). “*They entered not in because of unbelief*”!

Hebrews 3:17-19 *But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? **And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?** So we see that **they could not enter in because of unbelief.***

3. **The gospel to Israel - in the land of promise**: *The good news of the promised **King and his kingdom***

(READ: Mark 1:1-5; 1:14-15; Matthew 4:17, 23; 9:35; 10:1, 5-8; John 8:24-25, 28; John 1:41, 49; 4:42; Matthew 16:13-16; 24:14; Acts 2:36, 38; 3:19-21; 9:22)

This was “the gospel of the kingdom” preached by Jesus Christ and his disciples BEFORE the cross and by the Apostles for a short time AFTERWARDS. (See the details, next page)

4. **The gospel to all mankind - in this present church age**: *The good news of the promised **grace***

(READ: Acts 20:24; 1Cor. 9:16-17; Rom. 15:15-16; 16:25-26; Galatians 1:11-12; 2:2-7; 1Tim. 1:11; Titus 1:2-3; 2:11-14; Eph. 3:1-10; Col. 1:25-26; 1Cor 2:2; 2:7-8; 1Cor. 15:1-4)

This promised **grace** is two-fold: (1) Paul received special **grace from God** to understand and preach to all mankind a “mystery” that had been hidden since the beginning of the world and (2) the mystery itself could be summed up in one word: **GRACE**; the marvelous **grace that brought salvation to the Gentiles!** (Titus 2:11-14) Truly, good news for the whole world! (See: “Two Gospels Compared” – page 25)

Acts 20:24 *But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify **the gospel of the grace of God.***

Romans 15:16 *Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of **the grace that is given to me of God**, That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, **ministering the gospel of God**, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.*

Ephesians 3:2-7 *If ye have heard of **the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward**: How that by revelation he made known unto me **the mystery**; ...Which in other ages was **not made known unto the sons of men**, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; **That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel**: Whereof I was made a minister, according to **the gift of the grace of God** given unto me by the effectual working of his power.*

1Cor. 9:16-17 *For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, **a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.***

Galatians 1:11-12 *But I certify you, brethren, that **the gospel which was preached of me is not after man**. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but **by the revelation of Jesus Christ.***

- C. **The gospel of the kingdom was preached to Israel by John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and the disciples. The good news of the kingdom gospel was two-fold: (1) the promised King of the Jews had arrived and His kingdom was ready to be established; (2) the spiritual blessings promised in the Abrahamic covenant were available to ALL through Christ.** Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, prophesied of those spiritual blessings, which God had said would come when the promised Seed (Christ) arrived. *“And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for **he hath visited and redeemed his people**, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: **That we should be saved from our enemies**, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform **the mercy promised to our fathers**, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, **That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.**”* (Luke 1:67-75)

The gospel of the kingdom, which was preached to Israel by John the Baptist, Jesus Christ and his disciples, promised spiritual blessings (kingdom of God) as well as political blessings (kingdom of Heaven).

Matt. 3:1-2 *In those days came John the Baptist, **preaching** In the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.***

Matt. 4:23 *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*

Matt. 9:35 *And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.*

Mark 1:14 *Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.***

Luke 8:1 *And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, **preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God:** and the twelve were with him.*

D. Matthew chapter 10 gives the details of the “gospel of the kingdom of heaven”.

V. 1 *And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, **he gave them power against unclean spirits**, to cast them out, and **to heal** all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.*

Comment: Miraculous signs and wonders accompanied the gospel of the kingdom. *“And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and **confirming the word with signs** following.”* (Mark 16:20) *“For the Jews require a sign”* (1Cor. 1:22; Mark 16:15-18; 1Cor. 14:22) *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; **God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?**”* (Heb. 2:3-4)

V. 5-6 *These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:** But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

Comment: This gospel was NOT for the Gentiles.

V. 7-8 *And as ye go, preach, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:** freely ye have received, freely give.*

V. 11... *And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. (12) And when ye come into an house, salute it. (13) And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.*

Comment: Worthiness for the kingdom was an important component and will be once again during the tribulation. (See verses 37-38). “*But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.*” (Luke 20:35-36) “*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*” (Luke 21:36) Worthiness for the kingdom is explained at length in Matthew chapter 25.

V. 14... *And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. (15) Verily I say unto you, **It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city.***

Comment: Whole cities were held responsible for rejecting the good news of their King. Once again, this emphasizes the “national” aspect of the gospel of the kingdom versus the personal aspect of the gospel in this dispensation.

V. 22... *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. (23) But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.*

Comment: The preaching of this gospel will precede the second coming of Christ to Israel, at the end of the tribulation. – “*But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And **this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world** for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*” (Matthew 24:13-14)

V. 37... *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (38) And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.*

V. 39... *He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. (40) He that receiveth you receiveth me ... (41) and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. (42) And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*

Comment: In this gospel, rewards are promised to those who “receive” the messenger of God, as in Matthew 25:34-40 and John 13:20: “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send **receiveth me**; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.*” Compare this to John 1:11-12

E. The gospel of the kingdom, which the disciples were sent out to preach, did not include the death, burial and resurrection of Christ!

1. The true purpose of the Lord's coming to earth at His first advent was to shed his blood for sinners and to rise again from the dead. However, the disciples were unable to understand this even though Jesus Christ spoke of it throughout his ministry!

a. Jesus told them at the beginning of His ministry:

John 2:19... *Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. (20) Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? (21) But he spake of the temple of his body. (22) **When therefore he was risen from the dead, [NOT BEFORE THAT] his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.***

b. Jesus told them at the time of His transfiguration:

Mark 9:9-10, 31-32 *And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead. And **they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.** For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day. **But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.***

Matt. 16:21-22 *From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. **Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.***

Luke 9: 44-45 *Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men. But **they understood not this saying, and it was HID from them,** that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.*

c. Jesus told them at the end of His ministry, when he entered into Jerusalem:

Luke 18:31... *Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. (33) And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. (34) And **they understood none of these things: and this saying was HID from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.***

d. Even after His resurrection, they did not yet understand!

Luke 24:9, 12 (The disciples, when told by the women of the resurrection) *"...their words seemed to them as idle tales, and **they believed them not.**" (Peter) Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulcher **wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.***

John 20:8-9 (To John) *Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and **believed.** For as yet they **knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.** (Psalm 2:7b, Psalms 16:10, Jonah 2:1-10)*

2. The TRUE purpose of the CROSS was HIDDEN, not only from the disciples, but even from the devils, who are “*the princes of this world*” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Eph. 2:2). The devils did not expect the Lord to turn the crucifixion into a triumph (Col. 2:15). After all, if He was made to be sin for us (2Cor. 5:21), then death rightfully had a claim on him, and the one who had “*the power of death, that is, the devil*” (Heb. 2:14) rightfully could expect to hold him forever! **What a surprise on Sunday morning!** This was the hidden wisdom of God! (1Cor. 2:7) The heavenly “man of war” (Exodus 15:3; Psalm 24:8) had kept his battle plans hidden from the enemy!

1Cor. 2:7-8 *But we speak the wisdom of God in a **mystery**, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: **for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.***

3. Jesus Christ, *the son of David*, did to Satan what David had done to Goliath: **he overcame** a vicious enemy, **reproved** the enemy’s lies, **put an end** to his dominion over God’s people and **delivered them** from his power! David did to Goliath what the previous king (Saul) could not do! Jesus did to Satan what the previous king (Adam) could not do: He **openly shamed** and **defeated** the “strong man” and **glorified** the name of God!

Colossians 2:15 *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

Luke 11:20 *But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. 21 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: 22 But when a **stronger than he** shall come upon him, and **overcome him**, he taketh from him all his **armour** wherein he trusted, and **divideth his spoils**.*

John 12:27-31... *Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but **for this cause** came I unto this hour. (28) Father, **glorify thy name**. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. (29) The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. (30) Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. (31) **Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.***

1John 3:8 ***For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.***

Heb. 2:14-15 *That through death he might **destroy him** that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

4. The preaching of the cross (“*Jesus Christ, and him crucified*”- 1Cor. 2:2), which is foolishness to them that are lost, is to them that are saved, **the power of God** (Rom. 1:16; 1Cor. 1:18) and **the wisdom of God!** (1Cor. 1:21-24)! The gospel reveals **to men** the righteousness and power of God (Rom. 1:16-19) and **to angels** the manifold wisdom of God!

Ephesians 3:8... *Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; (9) And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the **mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God**, who created all things by Jesus Christ: (10) To the intent that **now** unto the **principalities and powers in heavenly places** might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, (11) **According to the eternal purpose** which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

5. **The gospel of the kingdom** had NONE of these glorious elements and could never have done what the gospel of the grace of God (“Paul’s gospel”) can do!

TWO GOSPELS COMPARED

The gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 4:23; 9:35; 24:14)

Preached by John the Baptist, Jesus Christ and his disciples, announcing that the King was ready to establish His kingdom. It was the “good news” of NATIONAL redemption and spiritual blessings in EARTHLY places. It called men to **repent** (Mark 1:4; 6:7-12; Matt. 9:13; Luke 24:47; Acts 5:31) and **believe that Jesus was the Son of God, the King of Israel**. (John 1:49; 12:13) Obedience to this gospel resulted in a people prepared for their King and His kingdom! (Psalm 24:3-10)

Water baptism was included in this good news: Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:37-38

Healing and other apostolic signs* were a MAJOR accompaniment to this gospel, in fulfillment of Joel chapter 2, preparing Israel to enter into the Kingdom. Mark 16:17-18; Matt. 4:23; 9:35; 10:7-8; John 4:48; Acts 3:6; 5:15-16; 6:8; Compare Matt. 9:2 and James 5:14-15

Provided **no** eternal security. One could lose the salvation given by this gospel. Matt. 10:22; 24:13-14; Heb. 3:6, 12, 14; 6:4-5; John 15:2, 6

Required men to believe and “endure to the end” to be saved. Matt. 19:16-17, 21; Acts 2:38; James 2:21-26

The gospel of the grace of God (Acts 15:11; Acts 20:24)

Preached by Paul, who got it directly from Jesus Christ, announcing the “good news” of PERSONAL salvation and spiritual blessings in HEAVENLY places in Christ. (Eph. 1:3). It calls men to **repent and believe the blood atonement and resurrection of Christ**. Paul called this “my gospel”. (Rom. 2:16; 16:25; Gal. 1:11-12; 2:2; Eph. 3:2-4.) Obedience to this gospel results in a people justified, sealed, “raised up”, seated together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus and baptized “into Christ”. (Eph. 2:6)

Water baptism was NOT included in this good news: 1Cor. 1:17; 15:1-4; Acts 16:30-31; 19:3-5

Healing and other apostolic signs* were a MINOR accompaniment to this gospel. They **diminished** and **ceased** after Israel’s rejection of this gospel. (Paul’s power to heal ceased). 1Cor. 13:8-10; 2Cor. 12:9; Phil. 2:25-27; 1Tim. 5:23; 2Tim. 4:20; 4:10-11 with Col. 4:14.

Provides eternal security in Christ. The believer is **sealed** until the day of redemption! Eph. 4:30; 1Cor. 1:7-8; 1Cor. 10:17; Colossians 1:12

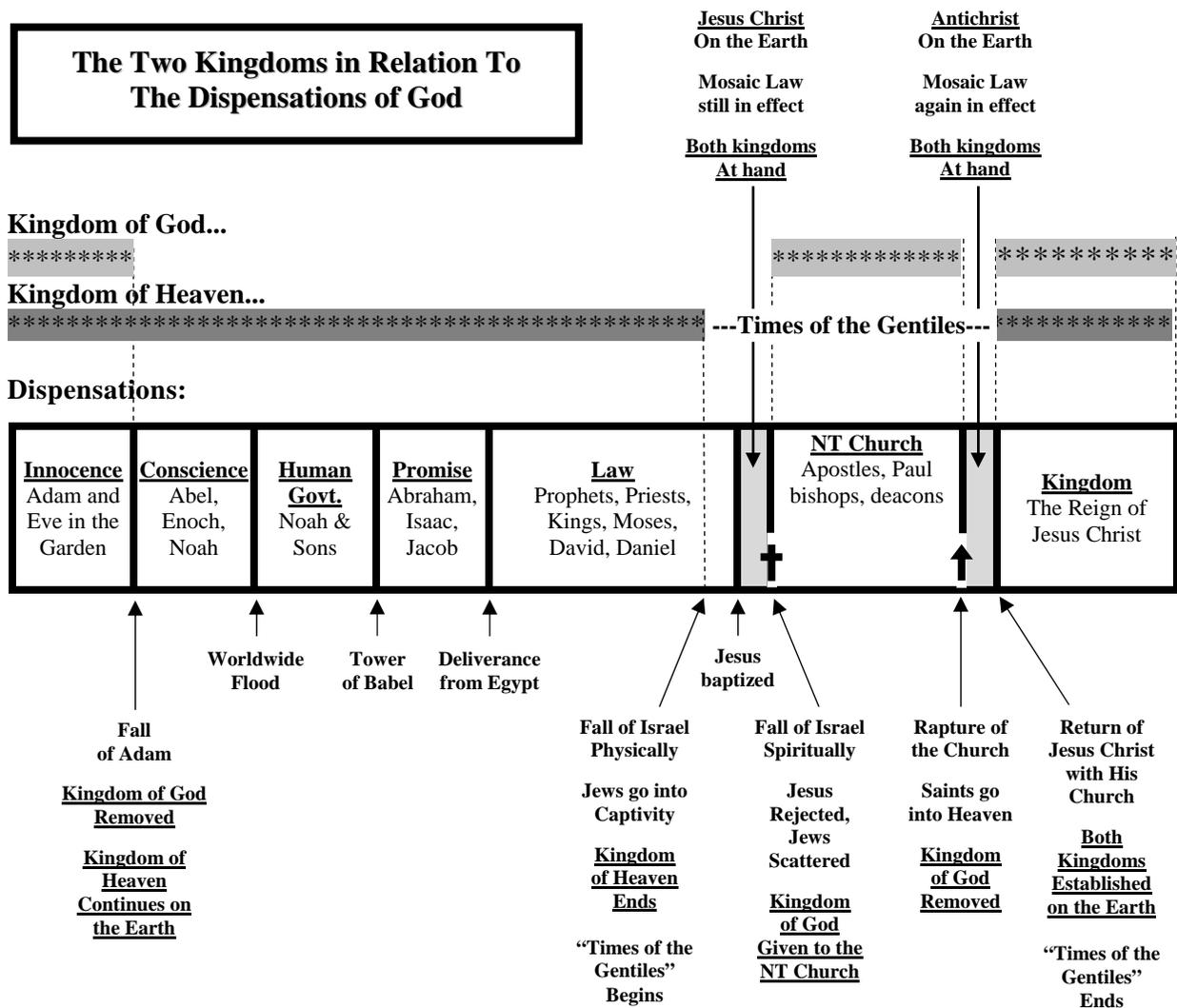
Requires ONLY faith in Jesus Christ to be saved. Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Acts 16:30-31

*At the beginning of the church age, BOTH gospels were accompanied by **signs and miracles** in order to validate apostolic authority and as a sign to unbelieving Jews (“*Jews require a sign*”, 1Cor. 1:22). This was true even in Paul’s case, who even though he was the apostle to the Gentiles, never failed on his missionary journeys to seek out Jews, “his brethren according to the flesh” and to preach his gospel to them. (Acts 14:1-3; Rom. 15:18-19) However, as the Jews continued to reject Paul’s gospel in one city after another, **the signs and miracles slowly diminished** until the blindness of Israel was complete. After the death of Paul (2Tim. 4:6-8) in 67AD, there was no further need for signs and wonders to Israel. A few short years later (70AD) Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans. Church history makes clear, by its silence on the subject, that apostolic “signs and wonders” CEASED after the death of the apostles.

VIII. THE DISPENSATIONS *in relation to the two kingdoms.*

A. As you may have realized by now, First Bible Church takes a dispensational view of the Bible. We believe that, although the whole Bible is God’s inspired and preserved Word, not EVERY part of the Bible has DIRECT and IMMEDIATE application to believers in this church dispensation. In fact, most bad doctrine is the result of “wresting” the scriptures out of their context or privately interpreting them without “comparing spiritual things with spiritual things”. Therefore, the scriptures must be rightly divided to properly understand what men in each dispensation were required to do in order to please God.

B. The two kingdoms overlap the seven dispensations in the following manner (chart): The Kingdom of God, which was absent from the earth in the Old Testament, is now present during this NT church dispensation. During this dispensation God is bringing salvation primarily to the Gentiles. This should not be confused with “*the times of the Gentiles*” (Luke 21:24), which is the period of time when four consecutive Gentile world powers (Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome) have dominion over the earth (over Israel in particular). The times of the Gentiles covers the period of time from the fall of Israel (in the days of Daniel the prophet) until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign on the earth. The “times of the Gentiles” is an aberration in the Kingdom of Heaven.



IX. THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION *in relation to the two kingdoms.*

- A. In the Kingdom of Heaven, TRUE SALVATION as we NOW know it (justification from all sin; with eternal life as a free gift) was never given for simply believing in the Lord! With two notable exceptions (Abraham and David, more about them later), everyone in the Old Testament needed faith plus something else to be “saved”. To be sure, **faith was absolutely essential to salvation**, for “*without faith it is impossible to please him*” (Hebrews 11:6), but faith was insufficient - **all by itself** – to justify sinners before God. In order for a person to inherit eternal life, it took an **obedient** faith: that is, a faith that produced works of righteousness pleasing to God; a faith that endured to the end.

At first glance, that statement seems to contradict these well known verses:

Romans 3:20 *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Galatians 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

Romans 4:1-2 *What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? *For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.**

Acts 13:39 *And by him [Jesus Christ] all that **believe** are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.*

Galatians 3:10-11 *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that **no man is justified by the law in the sight of God**, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*

Titus 3:5-7 *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being **justified by his grace**, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

2Timothy 1:9 *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.*

Romans 4:5 *But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, **his faith is counted for righteousness.***

These verses all have this in common: THEY WERE WRITTEN BY PAUL TO BELIEVERS LIVING IN THIS PRESENT DISPENSATION; IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD! To force these verses to apply backwards into the Kingdom of Heaven or to assume that what is **NOW** true for the body of Christ was **ALWAYS** true for everyone in the Old Testament is to violate the admonition to rightly divide the word of truth! (2Tim. 2:15, 1Cor. 2:13; 2Peter 3:16). Pastors and Bible teachers should know better!

Read those verses listed above one more time. Notice that Paul was NOT teaching that works were NEVER a part of man's salvation in the Old Testament, but that **dependence on those works alone** could NEVER have given anyone eternal life. No one - at any time in the past, present or future - could ever inherit eternal life by the *works of the Law*. Likewise, no one living before or after the church age could ever inherit eternal life by *faith* alone! **Only now** - in our present dispensation - are works completely excluded. Only now do we receive eternal life by faith in Jesus Christ, PLUS NOTHING!

B. How then did someone get eternal life in the Old Testament? Let's look at the Lord's own words on the subject.

1. What did Jesus Christ say was needed to have eternal life?

"What shall I do to inherit [or have] eternal life?" That specific question is recorded in the Bible **only four times**. (Remember the Law of Four-Fold Mention.) **Three times** the question was recorded as it was asked sincerely by a certain **ruler** and **once** as it was asked insincerely by a certain **lawyer**. The Lord's answer to these two men is very important!

The ruler asked him, saying, *"Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?"* (Recorded three times: Matt. 19:16; Mark 10:17; Luke 18:18) The Lord's answer to the ruler was: *"If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments ...If thou wilt be perfect ...one thing thou lackest ...sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come ...take up thy cross, and follow me."*

The lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, *"Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"* (Luke 10:25) The Lord's answer to the lawyer was: *"What is written in the law? ...And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart ...and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live."*

Notice that to both men the Lord spoke of what they LACKED. To the ruler he spoke of **works**. To the lawyer he spoke of **love** for God and **love** for his neighbor. Taken together, these four passages show that **good works motivated by love for God and love for others** were a necessary part of one's salvation in the Old Testament. In Luke 10:26-37 the lawyer, trying to justify himself, asked, *"Who is my neighbor?"* Jesus answered with the famous story of the good deeds done by the "good Samaritan" and said, *"Go, and DO thou likewise."*

2. What did Jesus say was needed to "enter into the kingdom"?

There are twelve verses in the gospels (listed below) that record what Jesus specifically said was required of men to "enter into the kingdom". **Four verses** deal with the Kingdom of Heaven (all in Matthew) and eight verses deal with the Kingdom of God. Notice that for the Kingdom of Heaven **certain moral qualifications were necessary in addition to faith**. In fact, faith is never even mentioned as one of the qualifications. For the Kingdom of God there is only **one** requirement given, to be born of the Spirit!

The four verses that tell about getting into the Kingdom of Heaven give **three requirements** and **one warning** (Matt. 19:23). The warning is that riches make it **harder** (but not impossible) to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. The requirements are that a person must have: (1) personal righteousness that exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, (2) obedience to the will of God and (3) repentance with childlike humility!

- Matt. 5:20 **[Superior righteousness]** *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*
- Matt. 7:21 **[Obedience to the will of God]** *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.*
- Matt. 18:3-4 **[Repentance with childlike humility]** *And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*
- Matt. 19:23** *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

Of the eight verses that tell about entering into the Kingdom of God, seven verses are **warnings!** They state that **riches** and **fleshly habits** make it **harder** for a man to enter into the Kingdom of God! There is only one verse (John 3:5) that gives the **requirement for getting into the Kingdom of God!** John 3:5 states that a man must be **born again!**

- Matt. 19:24 *And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.*
- Mark 10:23 *And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, **How hardly** shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!*
- Mark 10:24 *And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, **how hard** is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!*
- Mark 10:25 *It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.*
- Luke 18:24 *And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, **How hardly** shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!*
- Luke 18:25 *For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.*
- Mark 9:47 *And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:*
- John 3:5** *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

It is not a coincidence that the one requirement for entering into the Kingdom of God is given in the gospel of John and NOT in any of the other three gospels. The gospel of John was written many years after the ministry of Paul had ended and John, no doubt, had a full understanding of Paul's gospel and the pre-eminence of the Kingdom of God in the church age. **Only** John records the private meeting that Jesus had with Nicodemus at night when Jesus revealed to him the truth of the new birth. **Only** John records how to have this new birth. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13)

To summarize these twelve verses: the requirement for entering the Kingdom of Heaven is **superior moral character** as evidenced by **personal righteousness, obedience, and humble repentance**; the requirement for entering the Kingdom of God is **the new birth!**

3. **Matthew 25:31-46**, probably one of the most “misunderstood” passages of scripture in the Bible, tells how Gentiles living through the Tribulation are able to enter into eternal life.

The context of Matthew 25:31-46 is the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the Tribulation when the nations are gathered for judgment. Many people quote these verses to justify their belief that a life of good deeds is the real spirit of Christianity (untrue) and that a life of good deeds is the basis for one’s salvation now (untrue). Other people avoid the passage altogether – perhaps, because it doesn’t fit with their belief that salvation has ALWAYS been and ALWAYS will be **by grace alone through faith alone**. For them, Matthew 25:31-46 is a real problem! According to this passage, Gentiles are clearly receiving ETERNAL LIFE because of their works! There is only one way to resolve the “contradiction”: admit that Gentiles will be saved during the Tribulation by a combination of their faith (Hebrews 11:6) **plus** their works of righteousness! The passage makes that clear:

Matthew 25:34-46 *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye **blessed** of my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world**: ...ye gave me meat ...ye gave me drink ...ye took me in ...ye clothed me ...ye visited me ...ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred ...thirsty ...a stranger ...naked ...sick ...in prison? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these **my brethren** [the Jews], ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye **cursed**, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: ...ye gave me no meat ...ye gave me no drink ...ye took me not in ...ye clothed me not ...ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred ...athirst ...a stranger ...naked ...sick ...in prison? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. **And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.***

In this passage, men receive everlasting life or everlasting punishment due in part to the **lack of or presence of** works of righteousness. We can therefore safely assume that during the Old Testament - **when the Kingdom of God was absent from the earth** - faith **plus** works of righteousness were necessary to have eternal life. Also, during the coming Tribulation - when the Kingdom of God will be absent from the earth - faith **plus** works of righteousness will be necessary **once again** to gain eternal life.

4. But didn’t Jesus say that **only** faith was needed to have eternal life? Yes, that is true!

John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and **believeth** on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

John 6:47 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **believeth** on me hath everlasting life.*

John 6:40 *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and **believeth** on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

John 11:25-26 *I am the resurrection, and the life: he that **believeth** in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and **believeth** in me shall never die.*

The fact that there seems to be “conflicting” statements in the gospels is no problem whatsoever when you remember that **two kingdoms** were being offered to Israel simultaneously during the Lord’s earthly ministry. We should expect that the Lord, who is King of both Kingdoms, would give instructions concerning **both** kingdoms. Likewise, when the **two kingdoms** are offered to men in the tribulation, the instructions will be that men must **believe** (Heb. 4:1-3) as well as **“endure to the end”** to be saved! (Mat. 24:13)

5. What about the “salvation” of Abraham and David?

In Romans 4:1-8, Paul uses Abraham and David as examples of the **righteousness** (Abraham) and **forgiveness** (David) that we have now received by grace.

*“For what saith the scripture? [Genesis 15:6] **Abraham** believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as **David** also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, [in Psalm 32:1] Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. **Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.**”* David, in Psalm 32:1 is responding to the Lord’s mercy after his sin with Bathsheba and his murder of Uriah. (1Samuel 12:13)

Were Abraham and David - *as far as the righteousness and forgiveness that they received* - typical of **all** Old Testament saints – or, were they **exceptions**? Did anyone else in the Old Testament receive the blessings they received? Did anyone else in the Old Testament receive righteousness the way Abraham appears to have received it in Genesis 15:6? Did anyone else receive forgiveness the way David did in 2Samuel 12:13?

If they were exceptions, it would not be the first time God made an exception in the life of some Old Testament person!

Enoch was “translated” (caught up to heaven) because his faith produced a walk with God that pleased the Lord. Was **every** faithful believer in the Old Testament blessed in the same way? Noah’s faith was equally pleasing to the Lord, yet Noah was not translated! Was there **any** other Old Testament saint “translated” like that? No, **Enoch was an exception.**

Elijah was caught up in a fiery chariot to heaven and did not see death! There were many obedient prophets in Israel, but was there **any** other Old Testament prophet caught up the same way? No, **Elijah was an exception.**

Jonah went to hell (Jonah 2:2) as a disobedient prophet who defied God and ran away. But, because God chose to use him as a sign to Israel (Matt. 12:39; 16:4), He brought Jonah up from the dead after three days and three nights! Was there **any** other Old Testament sinner given such a second chance? No, **Jonah was an exception.**

a. **Let’s take a closer look at Abraham.** Based on one Old Testament verse (Genesis 15:6) we learn that he had righteousness imputed to him because of his FAITH. *“And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”* However, based on another similarly worded Old Testament verse (Psalm 106:31) one could make an equally strong case that in the Old Testament men had righteousness imputed to them because of OBEDIENCE to the LAW. *“Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment: and so the plague was stayed. And that was counted unto him for righteousness unto all generations for evermore.”* (Psalms 106:30-31; see also: Deut. 13:6-11; Num. 25:6-8).

If we consider these two verses together (the **ONLY TWO VERSES** in the Old Testament that speak of God “counting” something for righteousness) it seems that FAITH and OBEDIENCE were both necessary for eternal life **in the Old Testament!** Deuteronomy 6:25 indicates as much: *“And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.”*

The book of James adds this about Abraham: “*Was not Abraham our father **justified by works**, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and **by works was faith made perfect**? And the scripture was **fulfilled** which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and **not by faith only**.” (James 2:21-24) While Paul points to Abraham’s faith, James points to Abraham’s “works” in offering up his son, Isaac. That word “**fulfilled**” is important because it connects Abraham’s **faith** in Genesis 15 (believing God’s promise concerning his seed) to his **obedience** in Genesis 22 (offering his son, Isaac). Isaac was the promised seed! Abraham’s obedience in Genesis 22 proves and confirms that Abraham truly believed God’s promise. “*By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for **because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: ...in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.**” (Genesis 22:16-18) Paul separates Abraham’s faith from his obedience that Paul may apply **the scripture** (Genesis 15:6) to our case (Romans 4:1-5)! James joins Abraham’s faith to his obedience that James may apply the incident. The fruit of his **faith** was his **obedience**. Only then was Genesis 15:6 “**fulfilled**”! Therefore, an **obedient** faith was necessary for the scripture to be fulfilled and for Abraham to be truly justified!**

- b. Let’s take a closer look at David.** He was forgiven for two “unpardonable” sins (murder and adultery) in 2Samuel 12:13. The law demanded David’s death for such sins. There was no sacrifice that he could bring to the Lord that would have given him forgiveness. *And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, **The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.*** However, it would be unscriptural to assume that ANY Old Testament saint could be forgiven in a similar way. The blood sacrifices and other expressions of obedience were always necessary. Not that those sacrifices could ever **take away sins** (Hebrews 10:4, 11) – but they were still required if a nation or a person sought forgiveness from God. Otherwise, the offerings prescribed by the Law, even the Day of Atonement itself, were a waste of a time! (*And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission.*** - Hebrews 9:22) Yet David was forgiven without an animal sacrifice – **purely because of God’s grace** – as a “type” that foreshadows the forgiveness given to ALL the saints in the New Testament WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST!

Therefore, the blessings given to Abraham and David serve as “**types**” of spiritual truths and blessings that would not be **fully revealed** or **realized** until the New Testament!

Yet, most Bible teachers claim that in the Old Testament sinners were saved by “looking FORWARD to the cross” just as sinners are saved now by looking BACKWARD to the cross. That sounds nice, but no verse anywhere in the Bible says that men looked forward to the cross. Only **God** could “look forward” to the cross. “*Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.*” (Acts 15:18) But didn’t the prophets write about the sufferings of Christ and about Israel’s rejection of her Messiah?” Oh yes, (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53) but they **more often** wrote of a victorious, glorious, conquering Messiah. The conflicting prophecies served to hide the truth of the cross from all but those whom the Spirit of God specifically enlightened. Even the prophets did not know what “*the Spirit of Christ which was in them **did signify**, when it testified beforehand **the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.**” (1Peter 1:10-11) In other words, the prophets wrote down the things they were told by the Spirit but they didn’t know what the Spirit “**did signify**” by those things. As you saw earlier in this study, even the disciples, when told about “*the sufferings of Christ*” by Jesus Christ himself, did not understand what he was talking about!*

X. THE BOOK OF ACTS *in relation to the two kingdoms.*

- A. **Acts is also a TRANSITIONAL book!** It completes the transition that Matthew began. It takes us from the Old Testament to the New Testament; from “*the apostles doctrine*” (Acts 2:42) and “*the gospel of the kingdom*” to a NEW gospel and NEW (church) doctrine as revealed by Jesus Christ to His NEW apostle, Paul.
- B. **Both “gospels” are preached in the book of Acts:** One message DECREASES while the other INCREASES. (John 3:30)
- C. **The two kingdoms overlap in the book of Acts.** Acts records the transition from the kingdom of heaven to the kingdom of God! The book BEGINS with doctrines oriented to the Kingdom of Heaven and ENDS with doctrines oriented to the kingdom of God. (Acts 28:30-31)
1. The book of Acts OPENS with the disciples looking for **the Kingdom of Heaven**, “*When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*” (1:6). They were looking for an earthly kingdom in which the Messiah would sit on the throne of David and rule mankind. They were waiting for the Messiah to break the yoke of Roman bondage and turn Israel back to the Lord, as the prophets had foretold.
 2. On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41), Peter, faithful to what he knew of God’s plan and filled with the power of the Holy Ghost, preached to Israel **the gospel of the kingdom**. Peter’s message was not about personal salvation. He did NOT tell Jews how to be born again through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. He told them how to save themselves from the condemnation that was going to come on that generation for crucifying their Messiah!
 3. The church that was established in Jerusalem was a Jewish, KINGDOM-oriented church, not a BODY-oriented church (the mystery of the body of Christ had not yet been revealed). The church in Jerusalem was ruled by Apostles, not pastors, as in Antioch, Ephesus and elsewhere. The Apostles in Jerusalem did NOT yet know those doctrines that would later be revealed to the Apostle Paul. They did NOT yet know about the gospel of the grace of God (Gal. 1:6-9) whereby sinners would be justified by faith alone without any works of righteousness. They did NOT yet know about the mystery of the body of Christ (Eph. 2:11-22; 3:1-7; Col. 1:19-22) in which there would be NO DISTINCTION between Jew and Gentile (Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14). They did NOT yet know that believers would be placed into the body of Christ by spiritual baptism (1Cor. 12:13; Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:3-4). They did NOT know about the rapture of the church (1Cor. 15; 1Thess. 4) or about spiritual circumcision (Col. 2:11) or about the judgment seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10; 2Cor. 5:10). They did NOT know about the postponement of God’s program with Israel. They did NOT know that the kingdom of heaven would be put aside while God brought in a NEW dispensation under the authority of a NEW Apostle (Eph. 3:1-2)!
 4. The church in Jerusalem continued to **worship, pray, teach and preach** in the TEMPLE (Acts 2:46; 3:1-3; 5:20-21; 5:42). They avoided contact with Gentiles (Acts 10:28) and observed the laws of Moses (Acts 21:18-24). Most importantly, they were fully expecting the Kingdom of Heaven to come at any moment and, with it, the glorious return of Christ and the Millennium. Peter preached to Israel: “*Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when **the times of refreshing** shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until **the times of restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*” (Acts 3.19-21)

5. The churches established by Paul were not taught to follow the church in Jerusalem. They were not told to sell their possessions and have all things common. They were NOT told to look for the “*times of refreshing*” or the “*times of restitution of all things*” but were taught to await the rapture (1Thessalonians 4). The believers in Antioch were the first to be called “Christians” (Acts 11:26).
6. The book of Acts ENDS with an emphasis on the kingdom of God: “*And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, **Preaching the kingdom of God**, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.*” (Acts 28:30,31)

D. The critical turning point for Israel comes in Acts chapter seven! Under the preaching of Stephen, the spiritual leaders of the nation were given a final chance to REPENT and receive the Messiah. They rejected the message and, **for the third time**, they killed the “messenger”:

1. Israel’s first refusal of the kingdom is marked by the murder of John the Baptist. John’s message was rejected and John was killed (Matt. 14:10).

Luke 7:29-30 *And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. But **the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.***

Matthew 17:12-13 *Jesus said to his disciples, “Elias is come already, and they knew him not, **but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.**”*

2. Israel’s second refusal of the kingdom is marked by the murder of their King.

John 19:14-15 *Behold your King... We have no king but Caesar.*

Luke 19:14 *We will not have this man to reign over us.*

Matt. 27:22 *What shall I do with Jesus which is called Christ? (Messiah)*

Matt. 27:22, 25 *Let him be crucified...His blood be upon us and our children!*

Luke 23:21 *Crucify him, crucify him!*

But because the nation was blinded to the true identity of Jesus Christ (Acts 3:17; 1Cor. 2:8; Numbers 15:24-31; 1Timothy 1:13) God was still willing to forgive them! From the cross Jesus prayed, “*Father, forgive them; for **they know not what they do.***” (Luke 23:34)

3. Israel’s third refusal of the kingdom is marked by the murder of Stephen. On the day of Pentecost many Jews were saved but the rulers and elders of Israel continued to resist the gospel. After Pentecost, the leaders were given THREE MORE opportunities to repent, but abused the preachers each time. Then Stephen is made to appear before the whole council where he delivered a scathing rebuke to Israel for **resisting the Holy Ghost**. Compare Stephen’s warning to those given earlier by Jesus Christ: “*Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but **the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.***” (Mat. 12:31-32) “**The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**” (Mat. 21:43).

Stephen is killed as the council members, “*stopped their ears and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him.*” (Acts 7:57-58)

E. The death of Stephen marks a turning point in the narrative of the book of Acts! At that moment, an important event occurs that is related to the kingdom of heaven!

1. At Stephen's death he saw something that has special meaning for Israel and the Kingdom of Heaven: "*When they [the council] heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul."* (Acts 7:54-58)

Why was Jesus STANDING? It seems to contradict the following verses. "*So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.*" (Mark 16:19); "*The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Till I make thine enemies thy footstool.*" (Luke 20:42,43); "*But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.*" (Hebrews 10:12); "...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." (Hebrews 1:3)

The answer is found in the Old Testament Psalms and prophets that spoke of a future judgment of the nations (including Israel). It would begin when God **STOOD UP** from his throne in heaven. The council's violent reaction to Stephen's words implies that they understood him to mean that **Jesus was God, standing, and ready to come as the JUDGE of the earth!** "*Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. ...behold, the judge standeth before the door."* (James 5:8-9) The Jews on that council must have remembered that Jesus had told them the same thing earlier: "*For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*" (John 5:22-28) The fact that Jesus was standing could mean only one thing: the Day of Judgment (Matt. 11:20-24) was at hand!

Isaiah 3:13 ...*The LORD standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people.*

Isaiah 2:19 *And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.*

Psalms 7:6 *Arise, O LORD, in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded.*

Psalms 12:5 *For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.*

Psalms 68:1 *Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.* (Same in Numbers 10:35)

Psalms 74:22-23 *Arise, O God, plead thine own cause: remember how the foolish man reproacheth thee daily. Forget not the voice of thine enemies: the tumult of those that rise up against thee increaseth continually.*

Psalms 82:8 ***Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations.***

Psalms 94:2, 16-17 ***Lift up thyself, thou judge of the earth: render a reward to the proud. ...Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence.***

Isaiah 33:10-12 ***Now will I rise, saith the LORD; now will I be exalted; now will I lift up myself. And the people shall be ...burned in the fire.***

Isaiah 28:21-22 ***For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act. ...for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth.***

Zephaniah 3:8 ***Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.***

2. **The “day of judgment” described above – that begins when the Lord arises - is not the final “white throne” judgment in Revelation 20:11-15, but the “Day of the Lord” spoken of by the prophets.** It is the dark beginning of a 1,000-year-long “day” that starts with the chastening of Israel in the tribulation, the sudden destruction of the antichrist and his armies, the judgment of the Gentile nations at the Second Advent, the reign of Christ over the nations with a “rod of iron” and then – after 1,000 years - the fiery judgment on Gog and Magog at the end of the Millennium! What a day! This very important “day” is mentioned often in the Bible. It includes the chastening of God on his people (“*the time of Jacob’s trouble*” – Jer. 30:7) and the wrath of God on his enemies (“*a destruction from the Almighty*” - Joel 1:15). It is not to be confused with the Day of Christ (more about that later).

Zephaniah 1:14-17 ***The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.***

(Other verses about the Day of the Lord: Isaiah 2:10-12; Isaiah 13:6-13; Isaiah 66:15,16; Jeremiah 46:10; Joel 1:15, 2:1,2,11, 3:12-16; Zephaniah 1:7,8,14-18; 2Thess. 1:7-9 and Revelation 19:17-21. **More will be said about the Day of the Lord later in this study.**)

3. **At Stephen’s death the day of judgment (the Day of the Lord) was imminent, even at the door – BUT IT DID NOT COME!** Instead of judgment, there was mercy!

Shortly after Stephen’s death, Jesus Christ did indeed return to earth (Acts 9) – not to judge – but to choose a new apostle (Acts 9:1-9, 15) and to reveal his new dispensation, “the dispensation of the grace of God” (Eph. 3:2), a dispensation full of **doctrinal changes** (Ephesians 2:11-3:12).

4. One definite change is that, after the death of Stephen, God's attention turned to the Gentiles. This is CLEARLY seen in the book of Acts:

(Acts 8) The **Samaritans** (half Jew, half Gentile) were saved and the first full-blooded Gentile, **an Ethiopian** proselyte (a Gentile convert to Judaism), was saved after hearing an explanation of the blood atonement of Jesus Christ from Philip.

(Acts 9) The apostle to the Gentiles, **Paul** (Saul), was saved while on the road to Damascus and was later given a new gospel and a commission to go to the Gentiles.

(Acts 10) An **Italian** named Cornelius was saved - in the presence of Peter, "*And they of the circumcision which believed were **astonished**, as many as came with Peter, **because that on the Gentiles** also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.*" (v.45).

(Acts 11) When "*the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that **the Gentiles** had also received the word of God.*" (v.1), Peter began to understand that there had been **an unexpected change** in God's program concerning the Gentiles: "*Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to **the Gentiles** granted repentance unto life.*" (vs.17-18)

(Acts 11) The first Gentile church was established at Antioch by Paul and Barnabas. It was here that believers were first called "Christians."

(Acts 13) The church of Antioch sent out missionaries (Paul and Barnabas) into the Gentile world. Their message was: "*Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man [Jesus] is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And **by him all that believe are justified from all things**, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.*" (v.38-39) When Paul and Barnabas returned from their first travels, "*...and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had **opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.***" (Acts 14:27) The church at Antioch and Paul's example are the pattern for **missions** for the local church in this dispensation.

(Acts 19-20) Paul started the church at Ephesus by first CORRECTING the doctrine of some Gentiles who had been evangelized previously by Apollos (Acts 19:1-6 with 18:24). Ephesus became the first truly autonomous local church. The pastors were given complete oversight of the church and, with Paul's departure, would no longer be subject to the apostles (Acts 20:25-31). This detail was emphasized in the Lord's message to Ephesus in Revelation: "*...thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.*" (Revelation 2:2) Ephesus is the model in almost all respects of what the church is and should be in this dispensation. The letter that Paul wrote to the saints at Ephesus is rich in doctrine about the church; dealing almost exclusively with "the body of Christ", revealing our "*spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ*" and showing us several pictures of the church: as a body, as a temple and as the bride of Christ; teaching us about the walk, the work and the warfare of the New Testament church!

5. Because it was the PRIVILEGE of Israel to have salvation offered to them FIRST (Rom. 1:16; Acts 3:26; 13:26), wherever Paul traveled he preached the gospel FIRST to the Jews. Many individual Jews were saved, but the SPIRITUAL LEADERS of Israel continued to reject the gospel and the NATION did not repent. The **progressive blindness** of Israel and their **rapidly closing door** of opportunity (Acts 14:27; 2Cor. 2:12-13; Rev. 3:7) is evident in the following three passages from Paul's mission trips:
 - a. ANTIOCH in Pisidia (first mission trip, Acts 13:45-48): *But when **the Jews** saw the multitudes, **they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.** Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, **It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.** For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, *I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And **when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.****
 - b. CORINTH (second mission trip, Acts 18:5-6): *And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and **testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.** And when **they opposed themselves, and blasphemed,** he shook his raiment, and said unto them, **Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.***
 - c. ROME (fourth and final "mission trip", Acts 28:23-28): *And when they [the Jews] had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom **he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening. And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not. And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed,** after that Paul had spoken one word, **Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.***

F. Acts chapter seven is also a critical turning point in the history of the Kingdoms.

1. In the gospels, Jesus had offered BOTH kingdoms to the Jews but He said that the Kingdom of God was the superior, essential kingdom. He said, "*Seek ye **first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*" (Mat. 6:33) He also said that without a **new birth** the Jews would never see the kingdom of God (John 3:3) and would lose BOTH kingdoms by rejecting the Son of God. **Israel could not have one kingdom without the other.**

Matthew 21:42-45 *"...**The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof...**And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.*

Luke 13:28 *There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, **in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.***

Matthew 8:11 ...*That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, **in the kingdom of heaven.** But **the children of the kingdom shall be cast out** into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

2. In the kingdom of Heaven, Gentiles are "...*aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.*" (Ephesians 2:12) They could NOT share in the earthly blessings promised to the Jews **unless they were in right relationship to Israel.** (Ruth 2:10-12; Ex.12:48, 49; Lev.19:34; Num.15:14-16, 29). However, beginning with Acts chapter 8 we see God offering to the Gentiles the spiritual blessings of the gospel **WITHOUT** any relationship to Israel: we see the transition from the kingdom of Heaven and the gospel of the kingdom to **the kingdom of God and Paul's gospel of the grace of God.**

Acts 8:12 *But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the **kingdom of God**, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. (This is **the first time** in the book of Acts that the kingdom of God is mentioned as being preached **by the apostles.** Compare Acts 1:3)*

Acts 19:8 *And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the **kingdom of God.***

Acts 20:25 *And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the **kingdom of God**, shall see my face no more.*

Acts 28:23, 31 *And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the **kingdom of God**, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening...**Preaching the kingdom of God**, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.*

3. Acts chapter 15 describes a meeting of the apostles in Jerusalem at which Paul taught them HIS gospel (Gal. 1:11-12; 2:1-10). Peter acknowledged the change in doctrine related to salvation.

Acts 15:7 *And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe (referring to the events of Acts 10)...**Now therefore** why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But **we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.***

XI. THE BODY OF CHRIST *in relation to the two kingdoms.*

- A. Israel's rejection of her rightful King caused the Kingdom of Heaven and the doctrines related to it to be taken away for the present time. They will not be re-introduced until after the rapture. In this present dispensation the body of Christ, which is the true church (Colossians 1:18, 24), and those doctrines related to the Kingdom of God are preeminent. The temporary setting aside of Israel and the dispensation of the grace of God to the Gentiles were mysteries hidden in God and kept secret in ages past. (Rom. 11:25-26; Rom. 16:25-26; Col. 1:25-26; Eph. 3:1-10) Even the "principalities" and powers of the darkness of this world did not foresee God's plan to divorce Himself from Israel and turn to the Gentiles. (1Cor. 2:6-8; Eph. 2:1-2; 6:12; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Dan. 10:13, 20, 21)

The taking away of the Kingdom of Heaven and the establishment of the Kingdom of God is consistent with the purpose of God revealed in Romans 9:11-13: "*(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*" In other words, God purposed to take away the "first" and bless the "second"! The principle is so evident in the scriptures as to be undeniable: "*He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.*" (Hebrews 10:9) The following are some examples of this principle in the Bible:

The First - Rejected:

1. **First** son: Ishmael
2. **First** son: Esau
3. **First** son: Manassah
4. **First**: that which is "natural"
5. **First** man: Adam: earthy, cursed
6. **First** birth: physical, the flesh
7. **First** king: Saul
8. **First** kingdom: Saul to Zedekiah
9. **First** covenant to Israel: **Law**
10. **First**: national adoption
11. **First** mediator to Israel: Moses
12. **First** leader in Israel: Moses
13. **First** offering: Cain's
14. **First** sacrifices: animals' blood
15. **First** advent: Israel rejects Him
16. **First** malefactor mocked
17. **First** church: Jerusalem
18. **First**: Peter's authority,
19. **First**: the "original" manuscripts
20. **First**: Kingdom of Heaven

The Second - Established and Blessed:

- second**: Isaac (Rom. 9:7-8; Gen. 16:15-16; 17: 18-21)
- second**: Jacob (Romans 9:9-13; Gen. 25:34)
- second**: Ephraim (Genesis 48:10-20)
- second**: that which is "spiritual" (1Cor. 15:46)
- second** man: Christ, heavenly, blessed (1Corinthians 15:47; John 6:38)
- second** birth: the Spirit (Romans 9:8; John 3:6)
- second** king: David (1Samuel 15:23, 28; 16:13-14; Hosea 3:5)
- second** kingdom: Jesus Christ, eternal (Daniel 2:44-45; 2Pet. 1:11; Micah 5:2; Mark 1:14-15; Ezek 21:27)
- second** covenant to Israel: "**new**" (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:7-13; Heb. 12:24; Gal. 4:24-26; Heb. 10:9)
- second**: personal, spiritual adoption (Rom. 9:3-4; Exodus 4:22; Deut. 7:6, Hosea 11:1; Eph. 1:3-5)
- second** mediator: Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:19; Heb. 9:15)
- second** leader: Joshua (a type of Christ), who led Israel into the Promised Land.)
- second** offering: Abel's (Gen. 4:3,4; Heb. 11:4)
- second** sacrifice: blood of Christ (Heb. 9:13-14)
- second** advent: Israel receives Him! (Zech. 12:10; Rev. 1:7; Mat. 24:30-31; Acts 7:13)
- second** malefactor believed (Luke 23:39-43)
- second** church: Antioch (Paul's home church and the source of the KJV manuscripts.)
- second**: Paul's authority (Mat. 16:18-19; Acts 15:7; Gal.2:11)
- second**: the **preserved** texts (Psalm 12:6-7; Jeremiah 36:27-32; Ex. 34:1-4; 2Tim. 3:15-16)
- second**: Kingdom of God (Matthew 3:1-2; Mark 1:14; Acts 28:31)

- B. Like the kingdom of God, the New Testament church is spiritual in nature.** It is related to Christ's spiritual BODY - not His physical kingdom. It could be said that it was "born" on Pentecost when the **Holy Spirit** came down upon the disciples! We are baptized by the **Spirit** into His body (1Cor. 12:13), are born of the **Spirit** (John 3:5,6), indwelt by the **Spirit** (John 14:17; Rom. 8:11), sealed by the **Spirit** (Eph. 1:13), walk in the **Spirit** (Gal. 5:16, 25), worship in **spirit** and in truth (John 4:23,24), offer **spiritual** sacrifices (1Peter 1:5) and have a **spiritual** inheritance reserved in heaven.
- C. The church does NOT have a physical inheritance on the earth.** The kingdom of God "*is not of this world*". Our mission is NOT to "bring in the Kingdom". Our purpose is NOT building hospitals, feeding the poor, housing the homeless, and making the world a better place. These all seem like noble endeavors and they bring the praise of men, but they are not the primary work of the New Testament church. Our mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ! We are to hold forth the words of life and point men to the cross where they can be made whole. We are to warn this world that judgment is coming!
- D. On all matters of church doctrine in this present dispensation, Paul's letters are the final authority.** This doesn't mean that the other books of the New Testament are less **inspired** or less **necessary** to believers, but our Lord has given the "last word" for the church to Paul, NOT to Peter, James, or John. (Gal. 1:11-12; 1Tim. 1:16; 1Cor. 11:1)
- E. Paul's letters teach us doctrines that are not taught elsewhere in the Bible:**
1. The gospel of the grace of God (1Cor. 9:17; Gal. 1:6-9) by which all men – even the Gentiles - are justified by faith alone **without Jewish works of righteousness** (Rom. 4:1-4; 11:6). As was pointed out earlier, Paul's gospel differs from the gospel preached by the disciples during the Lord's earthly ministry and by Peter on the day of Pentecost. Paul went up to Jerusalem (Acts 15) to make that clear to the other apostles. "*And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.*" (Galatians 2:2) That gospel given by Jesus Christ to Paul is totally separated from the truths of the Kingdom of Heaven. That gospel is not the message of "the new birth" or "the coming King" or "peace on earth" or "the Christian life" but, "**Jesus Christ, and him crucified.**"
 2. The mystery of the body of Christ (Eph. 2:11-22; 3:1-7); the "new man" (Eph. 2:14-16) in which there is no longer any distinction between Jew and Gentile (Gal. 3:28; Rom.10:12).
 3. The believer's baptism into the body of Christ (1Cor. 12:13; Col. 2:12; Romans 6:3-4)
 4. The hope of glory: Christ living in the believer (Col. 1:21-27; 2Cor. 4:17; 2Thess 2:13-14)
 5. The believer's translation: the "rapture" of the church (1Cor.15:51-52; 1Thes. 4:13-18).
 6. The spiritual circumcision of believers (Col. 2:11)
 7. The seal of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13)
 8. The judgment seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10; 2Cor. 5:10)
 9. The mystery of iniquity: the secret working of the spirit of antichrist. (2Thess. 2:3-8)
 10. The temporary blindness of Israel and her restoration. (Rom. 11:11-15, 25-26)

F. The doctrines committed to Paul for the church were kept secret in ages past. They have been revealed to us - in “due time”.

Romans 16:25,26 *Now to him that is of power to stablish you **according to my gospel**, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began**, **But NOW** is **made manifest**, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:*

Eph. 3:1-10 (This passage is essential to a good understanding of the kingdoms and dispensations) “...by revelation he made known unto me **the mystery**; ...understand my knowledge in **the mystery** of Christ, Which **in other ages** was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is **NOW revealed** unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit...to make all men see what is **the fellowship of the mystery**, which **from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God**, ...To the intent that **NOW** unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places **might be known by the church** the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1Peter 1:10-12 *Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of **the grace that should come unto you**: (Amos 9:11-15; Acts 15:14-17 and Zech. 12:10, where “grace” is mentioned for the last time in the OT) Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that **not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things**, which are **NOW** reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.*

Colossians 1:25-26 *Whereof I am made a minister, according to **the dispensation of God** which is given to me for you, to **fulfil** the word of God; Even **the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but NOW** is made manifest to his saints.*

1Cor. 2:6-8 *Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom**, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which **none of the princes of this world knew**: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

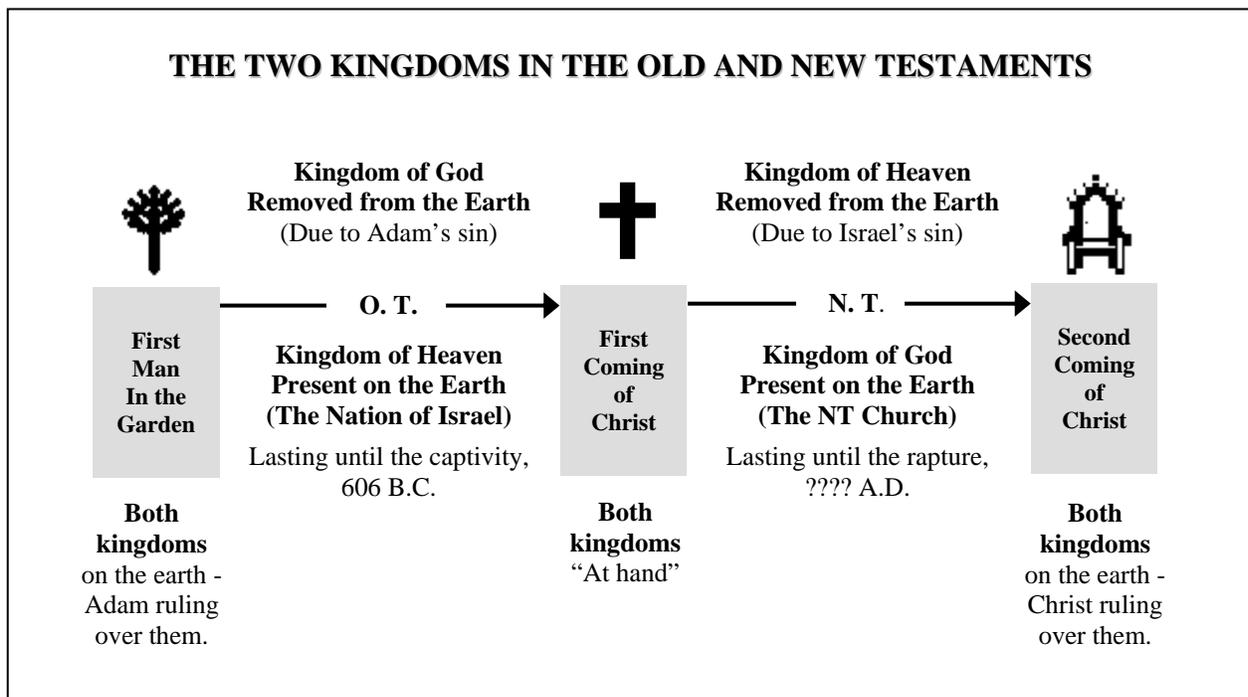
XII. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST *in relation to the two kingdoms.*

- A. **Following the postponement of the Kingdom of Heaven a new dispensation was begun that lasts until the Second Coming of Christ.** Jesus Christ chose a new apostle (Paul) and revealed to him the mystery of the body of Christ. This precious truth had been “hid in God” until the appropriate time and was revealed to Paul just as the Kingdom of Heaven was closing.

Paul wrote that the Gentiles, who, in **TIME PAST**, were “*without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world*” were **NOW**, “*made nigh by the blood of Christ.*” (Ephesians 2:11-13)

Paul further revealed that the present work of the Lord Jesus was to “*make in himself of twain (Jews and Gentiles) one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off (Gentiles), and to them that were nigh (Jews). For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye (Gentiles) are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.* (See Ephesians 2:14-22)

Thus, anyone (Jew or Gentile) could be a part of the Kingdom of God as a member of the Body of Christ. At this present time the Kingdom of Heaven is **ABSENT** from the earth until this dispensation has finished its course. We are now in a **PARENTHETICAL** period in history that ends at the return of Jesus Christ when the body of Christ is “caught up” by the Lord into heaven. **At that event, the Kingdom of God is removed from the earth.**



B. The Second Coming takes place in TWO parts. One part is called the “Day of Christ” and the other part is the “Day of the Lord”. These two “days” are not synonymous! The start of the Day of Christ marks the end of the present dispensation. The Day of Christ is related to the Kingdom of God. The Day of the Lord is related to the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. THE DAY OF CHRIST includes these events:

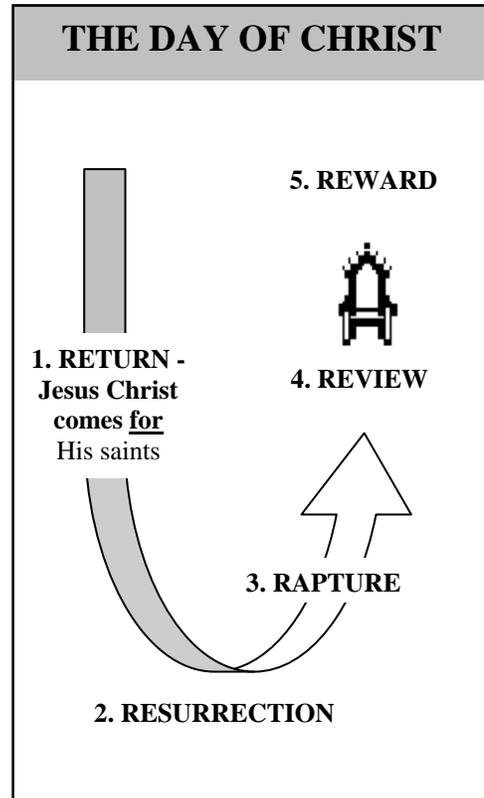
RETURN of Jesus Christ FOR his church:
Acts 1:11; John 14:1-3; Titus 2:13

RESURRECTION of “sleeping” saints:
John 11:25-26; 6:44; Dan. 12:2

RAPTURE of living saints:
1Thess. 4:14-18; 1Cor.15:49-53; S. of S. 2:8-13

REVIEW of their works by the Lord Jesus Christ:
1Cor.3:11-13; 2Cor 5:10; 1John 2:28

REWARD for their works: to REIGN with Christ
1Cor.3:14-15; Col.3:23-24; Rev. 22:12; 2John 1:8



THE DAY OF CHRIST continues IN HEAVEN where the saints appear at the **judgment seat of Christ** to have their work **reviewed** and then, “every man shall receive his own **reward** according to his own labour” (1Cor. 3:8), to reign with Christ in the Millennium.

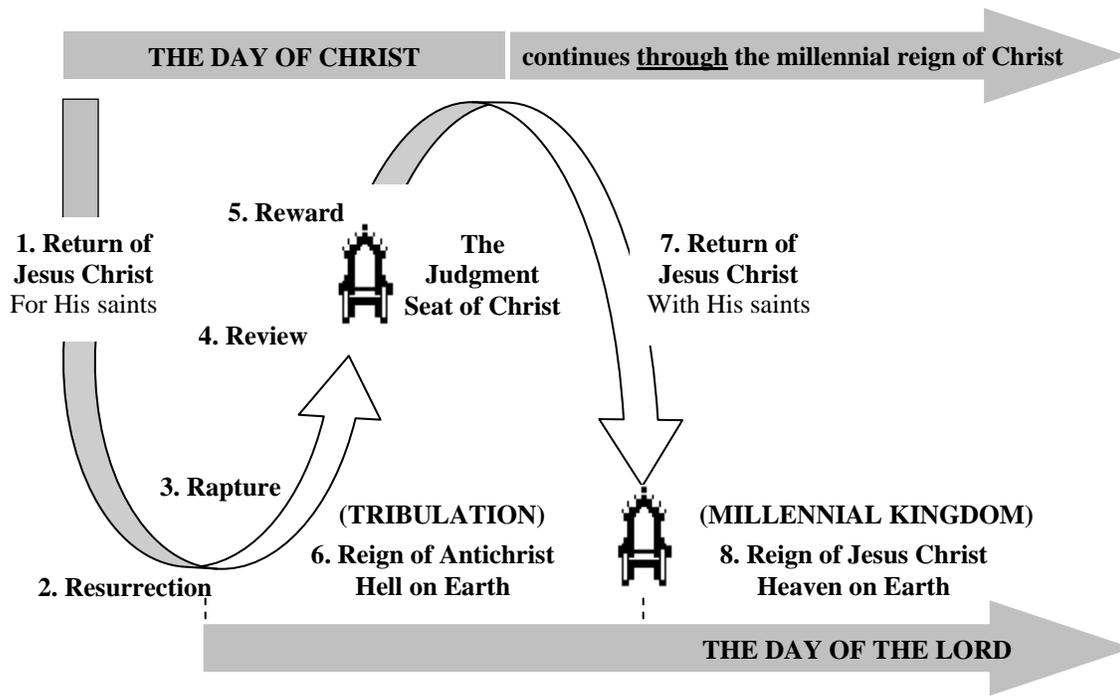
Philippians 1:6, 10: *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until **the day of Jesus Christ**...That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till **the day of Christ**.*

Philippians 2:16: *Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in **the day of Christ**, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.*

1Corinthians 1:8: *Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in **the day of our Lord Jesus Christ**.*

2Thessalonians 2:2 *That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that **the day of Christ** is at hand.*

2. THE DAY OF THE LORD can be considered the 1,000 year-long “day” that affects those inhabitants of the earth left behind at the rapture. It begins **on the earth** after the church is CAUGHT UP. It will be a severe time of TRIBULATION in which Israel will be **persecuted** and horrible **plagues** will come upon the earth. The antichrist, the god-like ruler with power from Satan, will control the earth with the support of a false prophet and a powerful religious organization in Rome. The Jewish people will once again be the object of God’s special care. (Romans 11:25). Although they will be chastened for their rejection of their Messiah, God will spare a remnant and will breathe upon the “dry bones” of Israel and they will be spiritually awakened in preparation for his glorious appearing (Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 11:15).



3. **THE DAY OF THE LORD continues through the tribulation.** During that time the chastening hand of God on Israel will bring forth repentance and yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness. Jesus Christ will make himself known to **144,000** devout Jewish men, just as He did to **one**, Saul of Tarsus, on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-16). Paul's salvation experience was a preview of Israel's conversion in the Tribulation. Paul said that he was "*one born out of due time*" (1Cor. 15:8), that is, he was born of the Spirit before the "due date". In "due time" Jesus Christ will appear to Israel and 12,000 from each tribe (Rev. 7:1-8) will suddenly believe on Him (like Paul did). "Straightway" they will go preaching Christ in the synagogues and temple, that he is the Son of God (Acts 9:20). **Like Paul, they will "increase the more in strength and confound the Jews"** and prove that Jesus is the very Christ. Like Paul, during his time in Damascus, they will preach to the Jews for about 3 ½ years (Galatians 1:18; Acts 9:23; Rev. 11:3).

In the tribulation, the Jewish epistles (Hebrews thru Revelation) will be immediately applicable to **all believers**. Men will read passages like the following and apply them in a way that believers in the church age did not. Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:1-3; 1Peter 1:1,6,7; 2:9,10 (with Hosea 2:14,15,19,23; 3:4,5) 1Peter 4:7,12,13,18; 2Peter 2:19-21; 3:10-14; James 5:7-8, 11, 14-15 (with Matt. 9:2); James 5:17; Rev. 2:7; 3:5; 3:16.

The "gospel of the kingdom" will be preached again throughout the world (Matt. 24:13-14). The true (Jewish) witnesses of Jehovah will be divinely protected (Mark 16:17-18; Jeremiah 30:7) as they take up again the same gospel message that was preached on Pentecost (Acts 2:38-40; 3:19-26; Malachi 3:3).

Although mankind will suffer "**strong delusion**" (2Thes. 2:11-12), many Jews and a great number of Gentiles will be saved (Joel 2: 28-32; Rev. 7:9-17), in **fulfillment** of Peter's message concerning the prophecy of Joel 2:28-32. The prophecy of **Joel 2:28-32 WAS NOT FULFILLED ON PENTECOST. IT WILL BE FULFILLED IN THE TRIBULATION!** Then, when it seems that the forces of antichrist are about to triumph over Israel, the heavens will open and the "**KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**" will descend bringing HIS armies with Him (Rev. 19:11-16). The antichrist and false prophet will be destroyed and then "*shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed...and it shall stand forever.*" (Daniel 2:44) Amen!

4. **THE DAY OF THE LORD** has nothing directly to do with the Church (the Body of Christ) in this present dispensation. The believer is not “*appointed unto wrath*” (1Thess. 5:9). Our only involvement in the Day of the Lord is that, after the judgment seat of Christ, we will be **WITH THE LORD** when He, as the “**sun of righteousness**” (Mal. 4:2), returns “*as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.*” (Psalms 19:5-6) It will be a horrible day for the wicked and a joyous day for the righteous!

Isaiah 2:10-12 *Enter into the rock, and **hide thee in the dust**, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. **The lofty looks of man shall be humbled**, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and **the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.** For **the day of the LORD** of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty...*

Isaiah 13:6-13 *Howl ye; for **the day of the LORD** is at hand; it shall come as a **destruction** from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and **every man's heart shall melt**: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; **their faces shall be as flames**. Behold, **the day of the LORD** cometh, **cruel both with wrath and fierce anger**, to lay the land **desolate**: and **he shall destroy the sinners** thereof out of it. ...And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible...**Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.***

Joel 1:15 *Alas for the day! for **the day of the LORD** is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.*

Joel 2:1,2,11 *Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for **the day of the LORD** cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of **darkness** and of **gloominess**, ...**there hath not been ever the like**, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations... for **the day of the LORD** is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?*

Joel 3:12-16 *Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for **the day of the LORD** is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: **but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.***

Zephaniah 1:14-18 *The great **day of the LORD** is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of **the day of the LORD**: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of **wrath**, a day of **trouble** and **distress**, a day of **wasteness** and **desolation**, a day of **darkness** and **gloominess**, a day of **clouds** and **thick darkness**, A day of the **trumpet** and **alarm** against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their **blood shall be poured out as dust**, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; **but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy**: for he shall make even a **speedy riddance** of all them that dwell in the land.*

2Thessalonians 1:7-9 also describes the Day of the Lord as **flaming fire, vengeance, and everlasting destruction!**

XIII. THE MILLENNIUM *in relation to the two kingdoms.*

- A. When Jesus Christ returns, the two kingdoms will be established on the earth.** (Rev. 19:11-16; Matt. 11:12). The “subjects” of the Kingdom of Heaven will enter from the Tribulation and the “subjects” of the Kingdom of God (members of the Body of Christ) will come down with Him from Heaven in great power and glory. Both kingdoms will then exist together on the earth for the first time since the Garden of Eden! As in the Garden, “Adam” will have dominion over both kingdoms; only He will be the perfect Adam, the “last Adam” (1Cor. 15:45); the Son of God, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Matthew 24:29-30 *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and **the powers of the heavens shall be shaken**: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.***

Haggai 2:6-7 *For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and **I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come**: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. (Compare: Hebrews 12:26-29)*

Revelation 1:7 ***Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.***

Matthew 16:27 *For **the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.** (Also, Mark 9:1)*

2Thess. 1:7-9 *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when **the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.***

- B. The “beast” and the false prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:17-21) and the Devil will be bound in the bottomless pit (Hell) for 1,000 years. (Rev. 20: 1-3)**

Isaiah 14:4 *That thou shalt take up this proverb against **the king of Babylon** [A type of Satan], and say, **...Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.***

Isaiah 27:1 *In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.*

- C. God will send his angels to gather the Jews unto him. (Gen. 49:10; Isaiah 11:10-12)**

Matt. 24:30-31 *And then shall appear **the sign of the Son of man** in heaven: and then shall **all the tribes of the earth** mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and **they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.***

D. Israel will be cleansed and saved.

Zechariah 12:10 *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, **the spirit of grace and of supplications**: and **they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**, and they shall **mourn** for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

Romans 11:25-27 *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so **all Israel shall be saved**: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: **For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.***

Jer. 31:31-34 *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah**: ...But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.** 34 *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.* (Heb. 8:8-13)*

Malachi 3:1-4 *Behold, **I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me***: and **the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple**, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: **And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.** Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years.*

* Had Israel received the Lord Jesus Christ, then John the Baptist would have been the fulfillment of this verse (Matt. 11:10-15). However, Elijah himself will now come in the Tribulation. “Behold, I will send you **Elijah** the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD” (Malachi 4:5; Rev. 11:3-13)

E. God will gather and judge the Gentile nations according to their works. Some will enter into the Kingdom. They are the ones who ministered to Israel in the tribulation and who refused the mark of the beast. They will remain in natural bodies; continue to have children and will eat from the tree of life.

Isaiah 2:4 *And **he shall judge among the nations**, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

Matthew 25:32-46 *And **before him shall be gathered all nations**: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world** ...Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels ...**And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.***

F. Jesus Christ will inherit all the kingdoms of this world and rule over them for 1,000 years.

Revelation 11:15 *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.***

Daniel 2:44 *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up **a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed**: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and **it shall stand for ever.***

Daniel 7:13,14, 22, 27 *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 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. 22 ...the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and **the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.** 27 **And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High**, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.*

Psalms 2:6-12 *Yet have **I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.** I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, **Thou art my Son**; this day have I begotten thee. **Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.** ...**Kiss the Son, lest he be angry**, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*

Philippians 2:9-11 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: **That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth**; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

G. The “times of refreshing” will begin for Israel!

Acts 3:19-21 *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when **the times of refreshing** shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until **the times of restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

Jeremiah 3:17-18 *At that time **they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD**; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. **In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel**, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.*

Isaiah 2:2-3 *And it shall come to pass in the last days, that **the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.** And many people shall go and say, **Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.***

H. The Earth will enjoy her long-awaited REST! The seven days of creation in Genesis 2:1-3 are a picture of the seven thousand years of human history. The “*last day*” is the Millennium.

Psalms 96:10-13 *Say among the heathen that **the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.***

Isaiah 14:4-11 *Thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon [He is a type of Satan and Babylon is a type of the kingdom of darkness that will rule the earth and persecute Israel in the Tribulation], and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth. **The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.***

Isaiah 11:1-10 *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: ...But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and **he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.** And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and **the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.** ...They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for **the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD ...and his rest shall be glorious.***

J. BOTH kingdoms will exist together on the Earth and be in harmony with each other during the Millennium. The people will be governed physically and politically by the laws of the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew, chapters 5-7) while the spiritual laws of the Kingdom of God will govern the hearts of men. (“*For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.***” - Romans 14:17; “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again,** he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” - John 3:3; “*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.***” - Luke 17:20-21) As a result, there will still be a distinction between the “members” of the two kingdoms. Some distinctions:

1. The Kingdom of God in the Millennium

a. The church age saints, whose works were reviewed and rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ, return with Him in glorified bodies. (Phil. 3:20-21) They will reign with Christ over the world (Rev. 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6).

1Corinthians 6:2 “*Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?*”

Psalms 149:5-9 *Let the saints be joyful in glory: ...Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written: **this honour have all his saints.** Praise ye the LORD.*

- b. **The NT saints will not ALL reign with Jesus Christ.** To reign with Christ is a **reward** for faithfulness in one's Christian life. To be crowned with glory and honor at the judgment seat of Christ and to return with Him to judge and rule the Gentile world is not guaranteed to all the sons of God, but only to those "sons" who served Him faithfully:

2Tim. 2:11-12 *"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: **if** we suffer, we shall also reign with him: **if** we deny him, he also will deny us."*

Romans 8:17-18 *"And if children, then heirs; **heirs** of God, and **joint-heirs with Christ; if** so be that we suffer with him, **that we may be also glorified together.** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*

Revelation 3:21 *To him that **overcometh** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

Colossians 3:23-25 *And whatsoever ye do, **do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.***

1Corinthians 3:13-15 *The fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. **If** any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. **If** any man's work shall be burned, **he shall suffer loss:** but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

- c. **The OT saints who return to earth will have resurrected bodies, but may not yet have glorified bodies.** There **is** a difference. The Lord arose and walked on the earth for 40 days in a resurrected body that could "vanish" and walk through closed doors – but it was not yet GLORIOUS in its appearance (Luke 24:13-39; John 20:15,16; 21:4-7). The great resurrection passage in **Job 19:25-27** ("yet in **my flesh** shall I see God") seems to imply that the OT saints could – at least temporarily – be on the earth again in risen bodies that await a future glorification (in eternity?). **Daniel 12:1-3** also seems to indicate that the OT saints will be glorified ("shine" in glorious bodies) after the final resurrection of the wicked ("to shame and everlasting contempt"). Either way, the OT saints will have part in both kingdoms; as spiritual beings (Kingdom of God) who will rule over the earthly Israel (Kingdom of Heaven). (See End Notes)

Daniel 12:2-3 *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And **they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.***

Matt. 13:43 *Then shall the **righteous shine forth as the sun** in the kingdom of their Father.*

1John 3:1-3 *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, **now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him;** for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

- d. **Abraham, David, the twelve apostles and others will sit down in both kingdoms.** (Seated, they are a picture of kings “ruling” and of Israel “resting”):

Luke 13:28,29 *There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see **Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God**, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and **shall sit down in the kingdom of God**. And, behold, there are **last** [the Gentiles] which shall be first, and there are **first** [“to the Jew **first**”] which shall be last.*

Matthew 8:10-12 *When Jesus heard it [the Gentile centurion’s statement of faith], he marvelled, and said to them that followed [the Jews], Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That **many** [Gentiles, according to the previous verse] shall come from the east and west, and shall **sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven**. But the children of the kingdom [Jews, according to Mat. 15:26] shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Jeremiah 30:9 *But **they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king**, whom I will raise up unto them. (See also: Ezekiel 37:24)*

Matthew 19:28 *And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in **the regeneration** [the time of Israel’s “new birth”] **when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.***

2. The Kingdom of Heaven in the Millennium

- a. **Tribulation “survivors” will enter the Kingdom in natural bodies.** There will be people in the tribulation who escape destruction (Dan. 11:40-41). Many Jews and Gentiles, young and old, will enter into the Kingdom in their human bodies (Zechariah 8:1-8). They will reproduce (Ezek. 47:22) and grow old. They will be ruled with a rod of iron even though the knowledge of the Lord will be widespread (Mal. 1:11) and the Devil will be in chains. (Isaiah 11:1-10; Ps. 110:1-7).
- b. **The Gentiles will be blessed according to their relationship with the Jews.**

Isaiah 56:3-8 *Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. ...I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off. Also **the sons of the stranger**, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. **The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.***

Zechariah 8:22-23 *Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, **We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.***

- c. **Temple worship will be re-instituted!** (Ezekiel 44-47). The OT sacrifices will begin again! (Ezek. 45:16-25; 46:20) The Sabbath will be in force again; the feast days and Levitical ministry will begin anew! The sons of Aaron will once again be Israel's priests (Malachi 3:1-4; Isa. 61:1-6, 66:15-21). The Law (that's right!) will go forth again from Jerusalem (*For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.* - Isaiah 2:3) and all mankind will come up to Jerusalem to worship!

Isaiah 66:23 *And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and **from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.***

Zechariah 14:16 *And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to **keep the feast of tabernacles.***

Ezekiel 20:40-41 *For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, **there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things. I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people...*** (See also Ezekiel 20:35-38)

- d. **The King will govern according to the principles he gave at His first advent.** The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7) is the constitution of the Kingdom.
- e. **Sin will be subdued by force!** (Psalm 2:9; Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15) Even though Satan will be bound for 1,000 years, men's hearts will still have the capacity for wickedness. The inhabitants of earth will be restrained from outward sin by the just application of the Law and by the vivid and perpetual reminder of the consequences of transgressing the Law! (Isaiah 66:23-24)
- f. **Satan will be loosed** (Rev. 20:7) **and will gather mankind together for one last rebellion.** Not every person living in the Kingdom age will come to believe on Christ. After 1,000 years of the most righteous, peaceful and prosperous government (Isaiah 9:7; 32:16-18; 33:5; Amos 9:11-15; etc.) many will still secretly hate the Lord. Satan will gather these together and stir them up for one final act of rebellion. He will cause them all to be destroyed. (Revelation 20:8-9) Satan will then, finally, be cast into the lake of fire.
- g. **The last event of the Kingdom Age is the Great Judgment.** The fiery destruction of the heavens and the earth at the end of the Millennium is actually **the conclusion of the Day of the LORD.** The dead who were in hell will be brought before God's throne and the final judgment will take place. They will be cast into the Lake of Fire for ever. Then the Lord will create new heavens and a new earth! (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; Rev. 21:1, 27)

2Peter 3:10-12 *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which **the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.***

Revelation 20:11-15 *And I saw a **great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ...And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.***

XIV. ETERNITY *in relation to the two kingdoms.*

A. Eternity begins with the creation of a New Heaven, a New Earth

Revelation 21:1-2 *And I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

2Peter 3:13 *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for **new heavens and a new earth**, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

B. Dispensationally, eternity is the “fullness of times” and the “world without end”! (Isaiah 45:17; Eph. 3:21). In eternity the great purpose of the church (Eph. 3:8-10) and the great promises to Israel will both have been fulfilled. There will no longer be any need for TWO kingdoms.

Eph. 1:10 *That in **the dispensation of the fullness of times** he might **gather together in one all things in Christ**, both **which are in heaven**, and **which are on earth**; even **in him**:*

1Cor. 15:24 *Then cometh **the end**, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down **all rule and all authority and power**. (This happens **after** the power and authority of the Devil is put down permanently – Rev. 20:10)*

1Cor. 15:25-26 *For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. (Eternity begins **after** death and hell are cast into the lake of fire.)*

1Cor. 15:27-28 *For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he [God] is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, **that God may be all in all**.*

C. The New Jerusalem comes down from heaven. Its description suits both Israel and the church (“Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.” Gal. 4:26). The gates are named for the twelve tribes and the foundations are named for the twelve apostles (Revelation 21: 1-14). It is possible that the saints themselves may become beautiful and wondrous in appearance. The glory of God (Rev. 21:23; 1Tim. 6:16) will **shine** and be **magnified** through their bodies (Dan. 12:2; Mat. 13:43; 1Cor. 15:40-42), as through translucent, living precious stones: “*builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit*” (Eph. 2:22, Mal. 3:16-17).

D. The kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ will expand out into the universe ...and beyond?

Isaiah 9:6-7 *... 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.*

☞ THE END ☞

XV. END NOTES

Page 16 **Daniel's seventieth week**, "Seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks" (Daniel 9:25) is a total of sixty-nine weeks. A "week" is equal to seven years (Gen. 29:27); therefore sixty-nine "weeks" equals **483** years. I take the position, contrary to most people, that this period of sixty-nine "weeks" **began** at the commandment of Cyrus (2Chron. 36:22-23; Isaiah 44:28) and **ended** at the baptism of Christ, at which time He was anointed and began His public ministry. (Mark 1:14-15) That event marks the beginning of the seventieth week of Daniel, which was interrupted in the midst by the crucifixion of Christ. The rest of the week has been postponed until the Lord's purpose concerning the Body of Christ in this dispensation is finished. The Tribulation is the last half of Daniel's seventieth week!

Page 54 **The resurrection bodies of the OT saints** - Will they have glorified bodies during the Millennium? Peter, James and John saw the Lord in a **glorious** form when they were with him on the mountain (Matt. 17:1-2; Mark 9:2-3; John 1:14; 2Peter 1:16). Paul saw the Lord in his **glorious** form on the road to Damascus (Acts 22:6-7; 26:13; 1Tim. 6:16) and John saw the Lord in his **glorious** form on the Isle of Patmos (Rev. 1:12-16). However, the Lord did NOT appear in that form while on the earth following his resurrection. He could speak with Mary by the empty tomb or walk with two disciples on the road to Emmaus and not be recognized. Perhaps the OT saints who return to rule on earth will do so in resurrection bodies - like the Lord's, when he was on the earth after his resurrection – but will not be GLORIFIED until after the Millennium.

The NT saints, however seem to be abundantly assured of glorification **IF** they are worthy of rewards at the judgment seat of Christ: "*And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*" (Romans 8:17-19) "*When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*" (Colossians 3:4) "*God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (2Thess. 2:13-14) "*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*" (Romans 5:1-2) "*Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" (Colossians 1:26-27) "*For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*" (2Corinthians 4:17)