

“Thy Kingdom Come”
Lesson 2. The Coming of the Kingdom
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Introduction: Beginnings often tell much about the nature and the future of a matter.

A. Jesus raised anticipations of the coming of the kingdom of God.

1. He spoke of the kingdom coming within that generation. (**Mk 9:1**)

2. He also spoke that the kingdom would not come with observation.

(**Lk 17:20-21**)

B. How could one know then when it came?

1. Is there any importance in knowing when it did come? (**Lk 4:43**)

2. When we understand that the kingdom is the rule of God and that it will be different from His previous rule then we then **must know** when the kingdom came.

3. Failure to understand the coming and nature of God’s kingdom will result in our failure to experience the blessings of God.

I. The Time and Place of the coming of the kingdom

A. It would come during the days of the Roman empire. (**Dan 2:31-46**)

1. He saw an image of four distinct parts consisting of different elements.

a. The head is of gold.

b. The chest and arms are of silver.

c. The belly and thighs are of bronze.

d. The legs are of iron and the feet are of iron and clay!

2. Then he saw a stone “made without hands” hit the image on the feet and completely obliterate it.

3. The stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

4. If this was all that we knew, consider some terms that help us with the interpretation.

a. “Made without hands.” – (**Col 2:11**)

b. “Great mountain”

5. What is the absolutely best way to know the meaning of a figurative passage?

a. How can we know the fulfillment of **Joel 2:28-32**? (**Acts 2:16-17**)

b. Many take figurative passages and build destructive doctrinal systems around it. (**2 Pt 3:15-18**)

6. Daniel by inspiration tells us:

a. There would be four consecutive kingdoms beginning with Nebuchadnezzar.

b. In the days of the fourth kingdom God’s eternal kingdom would be established.. (History tells us the kingdoms were: **Babylon,**

Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome)

(**Dan 2:44**) ⁴⁴And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

c. This will come to pass! (**Dan 2:45**)

- B. It would come during the lifetime of those who heard Christ speak. (**Mk 9:1**)
- C. It would come after the death of Christ. (**Mt 21:33-46**)
 - 1. The Pharisees were to put Jesus to death and miss the coming kingdom!
 - 2. Only certain ones can enter this kingdom. They will bear a certain kind of fruit.
 - 2. Notice how the kingdom is likened unto a stone that crushes all opposition.
- D. It would come in the city of Jerusalem and then spread.
 - 1. Isaiah and Micah gave great emphasis to this point. (**Isa 2:2-3; Mic 4:1-2**)
 - 2. Jesus also spoke directly to the importance of Jerusalem. (**Lk 24:46-49**)
 - 3. The coming of the Holy Spirit and the preaching of the gospel would begin at Jerusalem in a short time!
- E. It would come with power. (**Mk 9:1; Lk 1:4-8**)
 - 1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was foretold by John the Baptist. (**Mt 3:11-12**)
 - a. Jesus will be the administrator of Holy Spirit baptism, not man. Even John the Baptist was not able to do this!
 - b. God emphasized this point to John when He showed John the identity of the Christ. (**Jn 1:33-34**)
 - c. He also will administer the baptism of fire.
 - 2. The only condition found that could relate to Spirit baptism is found here. They were to wait in Jerusalem.
 - 3. When the Holy Spirit came the apostles would then have special power and would fulfill the great commission to preach to the whole world. (**Lk 24:46-49**)
 - 4. Jesus then ascended into heaven and the great work of the Holy Spirit was about to begin. (**Acts 1:9; John 16:7-13**)

II. The events surrounding the coming of the kingdom.

- A. The apostles received Holy Spirit Baptism on the day of Pentecost. (**Acts 2:1-12**)
 - 1. In this promised display of power something was heard, seen and done.
 - 2. How could “unlearned” Galileans know these languages? The power of God is on display in giving these men the ability to speak in tongues.
 - 3. When God begins a thing be assured it will be an “attention getter!”
- B. God drew attention to the apostles for a reason! (**Acts 2:14-16**)
 - 1. God promised to bear witness of the apostles preaching through various signs. (**Mark 16:17-20; Heb 2:2-4**)
 - 2. After their conversion they were to continue in the “apostles doctrine.” (**Acts 2:42**)
 - 3. Today those who claim these gifts cannot match the genuine found in the Bible!
- C. Those who became Christians that day received another baptism and another gift of the Holy Spirit. (**Acts 2:38-39**)
 - 1. Every Christian received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit but not all had miraculous gifts! (**Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19-20**)
 - 2. Please do not conclude that there was only one gift of the Holy Spirit. (**Acts 8:14-19**)
 - 3. We now find that the kingdom of God has begun with those in the kingdom experiencing a close fellowship with God that was not known by men before!
 - 4. Do you realize what you have in the kingdom?

III. The nature and future of the kingdom

- A. Those that entered this kingdom were not the ones men expected!
 - 1. Jesus foretold this during His ministry. (**Mt 21:28-31, 43; 22:1-10**)
 - 2. Those who killed Jesus would become part of His kingdom if they repented and obeyed Him! (**Acts 2:36-38**)
 - B. The kingdom would grow mightily from this great beginning.
 - 1. Jesus gave a worldwide commission. (**Mt 28:18-20**)
 - 2. These men appeared as insignificant and absolutely incapable of accomplishing this task!
 - a. Jesus also spoke of this in His parables! (**Mt 13:31-33**)
 - b. When God's work is accomplished through "insignificant men" who gets the glory? (**2 Cor 4:7**)
 - 3. This work would be accomplished in a short period of time. (**Mt 24:14; Col 1:23**)
- Conclusion:** Are you an active part of the kingdom of God?
- A. How many people give up high paying jobs to work for the president?
 - 1. Our God has given you an invitation to His "cabinet." You will be a worker however and not an advisor!
 - 2. How do you view your place in the kingdom?
 - B. Have you received the kingdom? (**Mk 10:15**)

Questions on Lesson 2
The coming of the kingdom

1. If the kingdom does "not come with observation" (**Lk 17:20-21**) then how can we know when it does come?
2. Why is it important to know when God's kingdom came? Can we know for sure?
3. From **Daniel 2:31-46** answer the following questions:
 - a. What does "made without hands" mean?
 - b. What is the mountain of **Dan 2:35**?
 - c. What were the four kingdoms of Daniel's dream?
4. How can we know for sure when a prophecy is fulfilled? (**Acts 2:16-17**)
5. How do we know that the kingdom must come after the death of Christ?
6. List the passages that show the kingdom must begin in Jerusalem.

7. How did the kingdom come with power? (**Acts 1:8**)

8. What great gift does everyone who comes into the kingdom have?

9. What kind of men found the kingdom?

10. How does the world view those that are in the kingdom? Why?

The Wolf And The Lamb

by Wayne Jackson

Seven centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ, the prophet Isaiah peered into the future and depicted the glorious nature of the Messianic era for those who seek refuge in Christ. In vivid symbolism, he wrote (11:6-9):

And the wolf 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. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea.

To what does this remarkable passage refer?

It is rather well-known that premillennialists allege that this context "describes conditions on the earth in the coming kingdom age after Christ returns to Earth" (Henry M. Morris, **Back to Genesis**, September, 1994, p. a).

This viewpoint, though widely accepted by sincere and respected scholars, is erroneous for several reasons.

First, the "kingdom age" is not in the future. Those who have obeyed the gospel of the Son of God are in the Lord's kingdom now.

Jesus declared that the new birth introduces one into the kingdom (Jn. 3:3-5), and early saints were described as being citizens in God's kingdom (Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9). The communion supper was to be observed in the kingdom (Lk. 22:29, 30).

Too, the second coming of Christ will terminate the Lord's kingdom reign, not commence it (1 Cor. 15:24, 25).

Second, the language of Isaiah 11:6ff is obviously symbolic.

One of the rules for determining when a passage is figurative is when it involves an impossibility. This context has lions eating straw! Lions are carnivorous; they can't digest straw.

Is the Lord going to redesign the entire animal kingdom for the alleged millennium? The premillennial theory is replete with these kinds of gross literalisms that ignore sound interpretative procedure. The symbols of this context represent the converted disposition of those who enter the church of Christ (cf. 11:9; Dan. 2:35).

Third, the premillennial view totally ignores the New Testament explanation of this Old Testament prediction.

The prophet declares that the gospel will flow throughout the entire earth (11:9b; cf. Hab. 2:14; Lk. 24:47; Acts 1:8), which was accomplished even before the first century had expired (Acts 17:6; Rom. 10:18; Col. 1:6, 23). In verse 10, Isaiah speaks of the Gentiles seeking rest in "the root of Jesse" (Christ).

Now here is the clinching point: the inspired Paul quotes this passage in his letter to the Romans (15:12). He applies it to the Gentile reception of the gospel in this age — not in some future millennium.

Premillennialists are wrong in their view of Isaiah 11:6-9. We encourage them to study this matter more carefully.