

The Coming Kingdom


Chapter 11




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Kingdom Study Outline




1. What does the Bible Say About the Kingdom?
2. The Main Problem with Kingdom Now NT interpretations
3. Why do some believe that we are in the kingdom now?
4. Why does it matter?





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4. Why does it matter?



1. Kingdom Throughout the Bible

1. Eden	6. Old Testament Prophets
2. Abrahamic Covenant	7. Post exile
3. Mosaic Covenant	8. Offer of the King / Kingdom
4. Divided Kingdom	9. Rejection of the Offer
5. Times of the Gentiles	10. Interim Age



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THE INTERIM AGE

1. The Inter-advent Age (Matt. 13)


2. The Church Age (Matt. 16:18)



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Matthew 13 Parables

■ Public parables (13:1-2)

– Sower (13:1-9, 18-23)

– Wheat and tares (13:24-30, 36-43)

– Mustard seed (13:31-32)

– Leaven (13:33)

■ Private parables (13:36)

– Earthen treasure (13:44)

– Pearl of great price (13:45-46)

– Dragnet (13:47-50)


– Householder (13:51-52)



THE INTERIM AGE

1. The Inter-advent Age (Matt. 13)

2. The Church Age (Matt. 16:18)



The Church Age

1. The definition of the Church

2. The beginning of the Church

3. The purposes of the Church

4. The Church is not the Kingdom

5. The Church is not Israel



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1. The Definition of the Church

- a. All (both Jew & Gentile) who have trusted in the very Messiah rejected by first-century national Israel (Gal. 3:28; Rom. 10:19; Eph. 2:14)
- b. Intercalation
- c. Does not fulfill Israel’s purposes

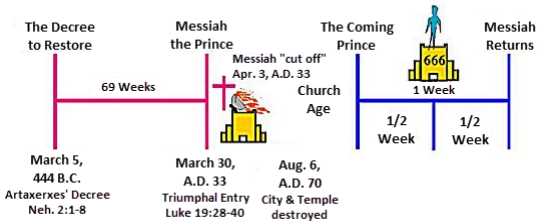


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Daniel's Seventy Weeks
(Daniel 9:24-27)



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2. When Did the Church Begin?



- a. Christ referred to the Church in the future tense (Matt. 16:18)
- b. Paul referred to the Church as a “mystery” (Eph. 3:4-5, 9)
- c. The Church did not exist prior to Acts 1 since Christ became the head of the Church (Eph. 5:23) after His Ascension (Eph. 1:20-22)
- d. The Church did not exist prior to Acts 1 since spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:7; 14:26) only came into existence after His Ascension (Eph. 4:7-11)


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Matthew 16:18 (NASB)

I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build [oikodomeō] My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.




Acts 7:38 (NASB)

This is the one who was in the congregation [ekklēsia] in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and *who was* with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you.



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Romans 16:25-26 (NASB)

25 “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,

26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith.”




“Mystery” Defined

“In the N.T, it [*mystērion*] denotes, not the mysterious (as with the Eng. word), but that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those who are illumined by His Spirit.”


W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of the Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Nelson, 1996), 424.

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2. When Did the Church Begin?



- e. The Church existed before Paul’s conversion in Acts 9 (Acts 5:11; 8:1,3; Rom. 16:7)
- f. The Baptizing ministry of the Holy Spirit began in Acts 2
 - 1) 1 Cor. 12:13
 - 2) Acts 1:5
 - 3) Acts 11:15-16
 - 4) Acts 2:1-4, 37-41

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3. Purposes of the Local Church



- Glorify God (Eph 3:21)
- Edify the saints (Eph 4:11-16)
- Fulfill the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)

Acts 15:14 (NASB)

Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.



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4. Church ≠ Kingdom

- Jesus Christ is never called the King of the Church
- Jesus Christ’s relationship to His Church is never depicted through the King-Kingdom metaphor
- Prolonged Church Age carnality
- Church Age Gospel = believe (Acts 16:30-31)
- Kingdom’s arrival is instantaneous (Dan. 2:44) while the Church's construction is gradual (Eph. 2:22)
- Church = heir of the Kingdom (James 2:5)

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Universal Church Word Pictures

- Shepherd/sheep-John 10:16; Acts 20:28; Heb 13:20; 1 Pet 5:2-4
- Head/body-Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:12-13; Eph 1:22-23
- Bride/groom-Eph 5:22-31; 2 Cor 11:2
- Temple-1 Cor 3:16-17; Eph 2:19-22; Gal 6:10
- High priest/priesthood-Heb 4:14-15; 1 Pet 2:5-9; Rev 1:6
- Pillar of truth-1 Tim 3:15
- Vine and branches-John 15:1-8

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1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual people** but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; ³ for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere men*?



4 Kinds of People from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3



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Messengers of the Kingdom In Matthew



- John the Baptist – 3:2
- Jesus Christ – 4:17
- 12 Apostles – 10:5-7
- Seventy – Luke 10:1, 9

Toussaint, *Behold the King*, 18-20

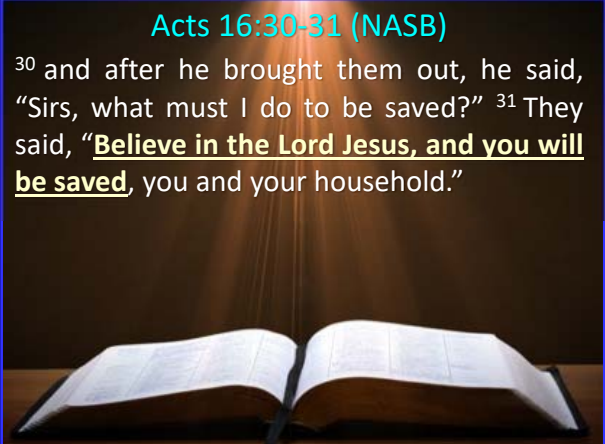
Matthew 4:17 (NASB)

“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



Acts 16:30-31 (NASB)

³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."



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Progress Reports in Acts

- Clearest: Acts 2:47; 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31
- Less clear: Acts 1:15; 2:41; 4:4, 31; 5:14, 42; 8:25, 40; 11:21; 13:49; 17:6

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- Church suffers today (John 16:33)
- Satanic influence on the Church (Ephes. 4:26-27)
- The Times of the Gentiles continue
- NT kingdom references predominantly future
- Jesus Christ is never said to be ruling from David’s Throne now
- Kingdom miracles (Isa. 35:5-6) are absent today (2 Tim. 4:20)
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Revelation 20:1-3 (NASB)

"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time."





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Statue & Stone





Merill F. Unger
Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament (Chicago: Moody, 1981; reprint, Chatanooga, TN: AMG, 2002), 1643.

"Hence, the iron kingdom with its feet of iron and clay (cf. Dan. 3:33-35, 40, 44) and the nondescript beast of 7:7-8 envision...the form in which it will exist *after the church period*, when God will resume His dealing with the *nation* Israel. How futile for conservative scholars to ignore that fact and to seek to find literal fulfillment of those prophecies in history or in the church, when those predictions refer to events yet future and have no application whatever to the church."

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Exodus 19:5-6

“Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”



Deuteronomy 17:15

“you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.”



Matthew 23:37-39 (NASB)

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸ Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! ³⁹ For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”



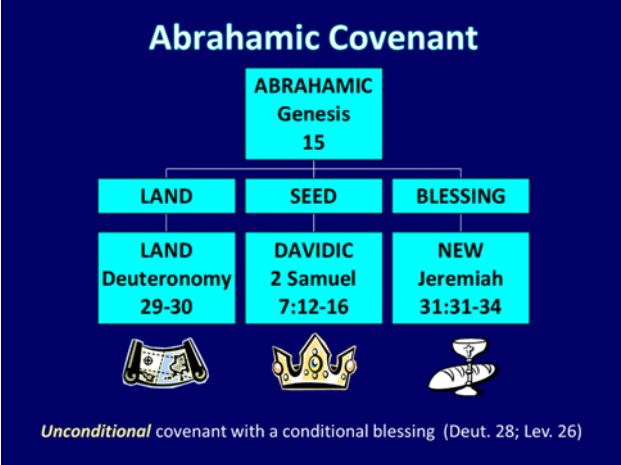
5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church		
	ISRAEL	CHURCH
Marriage	Wife	Bride
Christ	Birther Christ	Birther by Christ
Return	2nd advent	Rapture
Leader	King	Head, Groom
Beginning	Gen 12	Acts 2
Scripture	4/5	1/5
Covenants	Parties	Beneficiaries
Nation	Political	Spiritual

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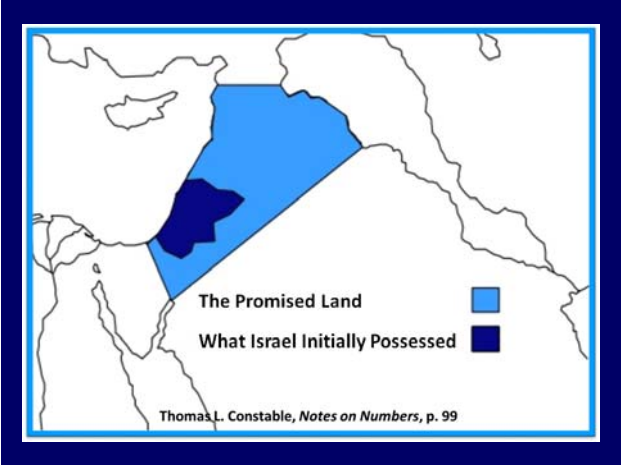


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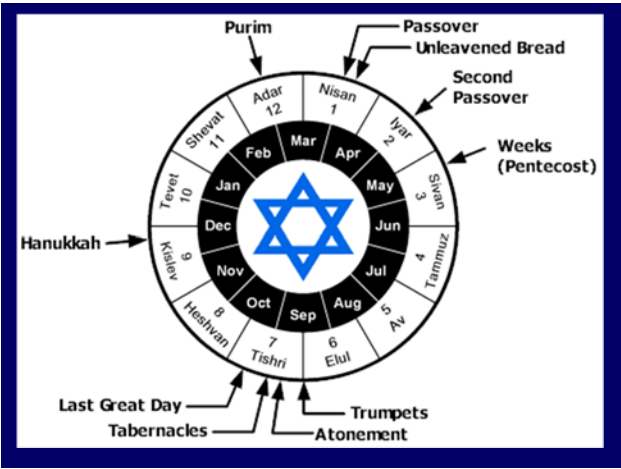


5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church		
	Israel	Church
Wars	Political	Spiritual
Timing	A quo / ad quem	No time indicators
Priesthood	Have a priesthood	Are a priesthood
Temple	Physical	Body
Resurrection	1st resurrection	Rapture
Judgment	Earthly (Ezek. 20:33-44)	Heavenly (Bema)
New Jerusalem	Gates	Foundations
Entrance	Physical birth	Spiritual birth

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Levitical Feasts (23)			
Feast	Season	Purpose	Type
Passover	Spring	Redemption	1 Cor 5:7
Unleavened Bread	Spring	Separation	John 6:35
1st fruits	Spring	Praise	1 Cor 15:20
Pentecost	Spring	Praise	Acts 2:1-4
Trumpets	Fall	New Year	Matt 24:31
Atonement	Fall	Lev 16	Zech 12:10
Booths	Fall	Wilderness provision	Zech 14:16-18

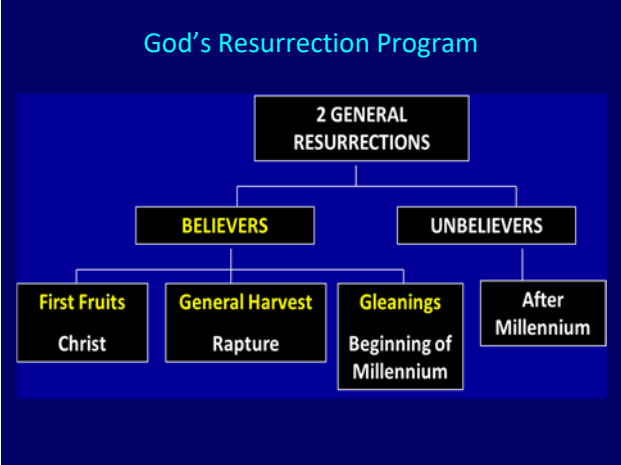


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- ISRAEL’S FOUR TEMPLES
- A. Solomon’s pre exilic temple (Kings and Chronicles)
 - B. Zerubbabel’s post exilic temple (Ezra 1-6; John 2:20)
 - C. Antichrist's temple (Dan 9:27; Matt 24:15; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 11:1-2)
 - D. Millennial temple (Ezek 40-48)

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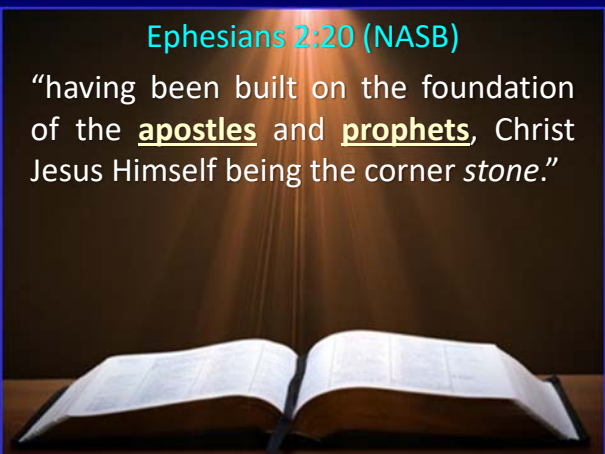


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Ephesians 2:20 (NASB)

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*.”



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5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church		
	Israel	Church
Governing principle	Law	NT
Relation to HS	Selective, temporary, subsequent	Universal, permanent, at moment of salvation
Farewell address	Olivet Discourse	Upper Room Discourse
Designation	First Born Son	Bride of Christ
Revealed in OT	Yes	No
Evangelism	Come & See	Go & Proclaim
Blessings	Earthly	Heavenly
Composition	Believers & Unbelievers	Believers Only

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Work of the Spirit in the OT & Gospels

■

Pattern of Holy Spirit’s present work is not found in the OT or Gospels

◆

John 7:37-39

◆

John 14:16-17

◆

Acts 1:5

Work of the Spirit in the OT vs. Church Age		
	OT/Gospels	Today
Reception of all of the Spirit at the moment of salvation?	Subsequent to salvation (Exod 31:3)	At moment of salvation (Rom 8:9)
How long is the indwelling?	Temporary indwelling (1 Sam 16:14; Ps 51:11)	Permanent indwelling (John 14:16)
Who is indwelt?	Selective indwelling (Joel 2:28)	Universal indwelling (1 Cor 12:13)

5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church		
	Israel	Church
Governing principle	Law	NT
Relation to HS	Selective, temporary, subsequent	Universal, permanent, at moment of salvation
Farewell address	Olivet Discourse	Upper Room Discourse
Designation	First Born Son	Bride of Christ
Revealed in OT	Yes	No
Evangelism	Come & See	Go & Proclaim
Blessings	Earthly	Heavenly
Composition	Believers & Unbelievers	Believers Only


Discourse		
	OLIVET	UPPER ROOM
SCRIPTURE	Matt 24–25	John 13–17
LOCATION	Mount of Olives	Upper Room
PASSION WEEK	Third day	Sixth day
GENERAL FOCUS	Farewell: Israel	Hello: Church
SPECIFIC FOCUS	Israel's future	Divine provisions
PROMPTING	Temple's destruction	Christ's imminent departure
EXPLANATIONS	Written OT	Unwritten NT

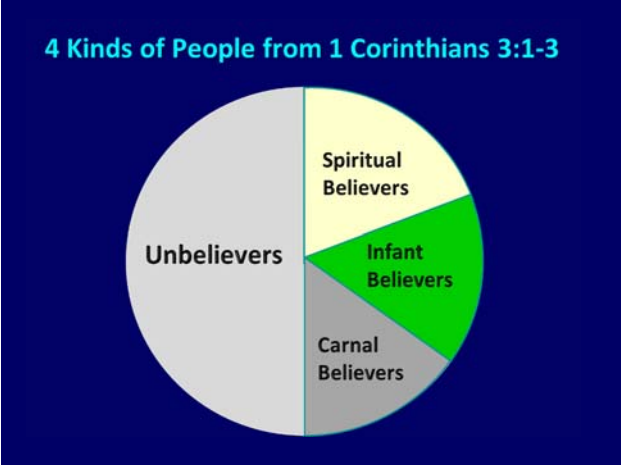
5. Discontinuity Between Israel & the Church		
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1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual people** but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; ³ for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere men*?






Conclusion

THE INTERIM AGE

1. The Inter-advent Age (Matt. 13)

2. The Church Age (Matt. 16:18)



The Church Age

1. The definition of the Church

2. The beginning of the Church

3. The purposes of the Church

4. The Church is not the Kingdom

5. The Church is not Israel