

1




2



3

Response to Kingdom Now Problem Passages



1. Passages from Christ's ministry
2. Passages from Acts
3. Passages from Paul
4. Passages from the General letters
5. **Passages from Revelation**
6. Miscellaneous Arguments



4

**4-5 Passages from:
The General Letters & Revelation**

- a. Receiving a kingdom (Heb. 12:28)
- b. A kingdom of priests (1 Pet. 2:9)
- c. A kingdom of priests (Rev. 1:6)
- d. Fellow partaker in the kingdom (Rev. 1:9)
- e. Jesus has the key of David (Rev. 3:7)
- f. **Jesus has already overcome (Rev 5:5)**
- g. Jesus as the King of the Nations (Rev 15:3)

5

Revelation 5:5

“and one of the elders said to me, ‘Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.’”



6

Revelation 5:5 in Progressive Dispensationalism

“The victory, or at least the decisive act, has already occurred. He is qualified to open the scrolls and the seals because of what he has already done as a Davidite. . . . The timing of Revelation 5:5 is critical, since it precedes the seal judgments and the second coming, so the text shows Jesus has his regal victorious status before He returns in Revelation 19. The portrait of these Revelation texts is consistent. Jesus now rules in spiritual-salvific terms, in a new community that is part of the kingdom program, and in a way that inaugurates Davidic promises. That kingdom exists alongside the kingdoms of earth.”

Darrell Bock, “The Reign of the Lord Christ,” in *Dispensationalism, Israel and the Church*, ed. Craig Blaising and Darrell Bock (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992), 64.

7

Three Responses to “Kingdom Now” Theology’s Use of Rev. 5:5

1. Absence of the noun “kingdom” [*basileia*] or the verb “to reign” [*basileuō*]
2. Jesus has not yet opened the seven-sealed scroll (Rev. 5:5; 6:1), which evicts Satan from the earth
3. A present reigning Church does not fit the context of Rev. 2–3



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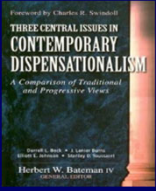


9

Stanley D. Toussaint

"Israel and the Church of a Traditional Dispensationalist," in Three Central Issues in Contemporary Dispensationalism, ed. Herbert W. Bateman (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1999), 248.

"But this [Rev. 5:5] does not prove a present spiritual form of the kingdom. Christ's death and resurrection have defeated Satan but the kingdom is clearly future; this is especially seen in the Apocalypse."




10

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11


Telescoping

7th judgment releases 1st in next series

Seals: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Trumpets: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Bowls: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



12

Ultimate Exodus (Rev 11:15)

- **Sores:** 6th plague (Ex 9:8-12), 1st bowl (Rev 16:1-2)
- **Rivers to blood:** 1st plague (Ex 7:19-21), 3rd bowl (Rev 16:4-7)
- **Darkness:** 9th plague (Ex 10:21-23), 5th bowl (Rev 16:10-11)
- **Frogs:** 2nd plague (Ex 7:25-8:15), 6th bowl (Rev 16:13)
- **Hail:** 7th plague (Ex 9:22-26), 7th bowl (Rev 16:17-21)

13



14

Satan is a Defeated Foe

- John 12:31
- John 16:11
- Col 2:15
- Heb 2:14
- 1 John 3:8


15



Satan's Progressive Defeat

- Initial eviction from heaven (Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:12-17)
- Eden (Gen 3:15)
- Pre-diluvian world (1 Pet 3:19-20)
- **Cross (John 12:31; 16:11; Col 2:15; Heb 2:14; 1 John 3:8)**
- Mid point of the Tribulation (Rev 12:9)
- Beginning of millennium (Rev 20:2-3)
- End of millennium (Rev 20:10)

16



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17



Names & Titles Demonstrating Satan's Post-Fall, Earthly Authority
(Job 1:7; 2:2; Luke 4:5-8; Rom. 8:19-22)

- Prince of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
- God of this age (2 Cor. 4:4)
- Prince and power of the air (Eph. 2:2)
- Who the believer wrestles with (Eph. 6:12)
- Roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8)
- Whole world lies in his power (1 John 5:19)

18

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19



20




21



William Newell
The Book of the Revelation (Chicago: Moody, 1935), 75.

“The name comes from *laos*, people, and *dikao*, to rule: the rule of the people: ‘democracy,’ in other words.”




22

Revelation 3:19-20


“¹⁹ **Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline;** therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”



23



**4-5 Passages from:
 The General Letters & Revelation**



- a. Receiving a kingdom (Heb. 12:28)
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- e. Jesus has the key of David (Rev. 3:7)
- f. Jesus has already overcome (Rev 5:5)
- g. **Jesus as the King of the Nations (Rev 15:3)**

24

Revelation 15:3

“And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, **King of the nations!**’”



25

Revelation 15:4

“Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For **all the nations will come [hēkō]** and **worship [proskyneō]** before You, For Your righteous acts have been revealed.”



26

E.R. Craven
“Excursus on the Basileia,” in Revelation of John,
 J. P. Lange (New York: Scribner, 1874), 95.

“the passages which have been referred to as proving the doctrine of a present establishment” and “those passages which, it is alleged, logically imply a present establishment of the *Basileia*”...“There is no critically undisputed passage in the Scriptures which declares, or necessarily implies, even a *partial* establishment in New Testament times.”



27

Response to Kingdom Now Problem Passages

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2. Passages from Acts
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4. Passages from the General letters
5. Passages from Revelation
6. **Miscellaneous Arguments**



28

The Coming Kingdom
Chapter 21



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church
President – Chafer Theological Seminary

29

**Three Miscellaneous Arguments
Advanced by “Kingdom Now Theology”**

1. Alleged NT silence on a future kingdom
2. New Testament’s focus on the Eternal State
3. Jesus Christ’s alleged present inactivity




30

**Three Miscellaneous Arguments
Advanced by "Kingdom Now Theology"**

1. **Alleged NT silence on a future kingdom**
2. New Testament's focus on the Eternal State
3. Jesus Christ's alleged present inactivity




31



Bruce Waltke
Kingdom Promises As Spiritual, in Continuity in Discontinuity: Perspectives on the Relationship Between the Old Testament and New Testament, p.273

"Not one clear **New Testament** passage mentions the restoration of Israel as a political nation or predicts an earthly reign of Christ before His final appearing. None depicts the consummate glory of Christ as an earthly king ruling over the restored nation of Israel. The silence is deafening."


32



Gary DeMar
End Times Fiction: A Biblical Consideration of the Left Behind Theology (Nashville, TN: Nelson, 2001), 203.

"Where is this 'super sign' found in the Bible? Not in the **New Testament**. There is not a single verse in the entire **New Testament** that says anything about Israel becoming a nation again. Nothing prophetic in the **New Testament** depends on Israel becoming a nation again. If Israel becoming a nation again is such 'a significant sign,' then why doesn't the **New Testament** specifically mention it?"

33



Colin Chapman
 Colin Chapman, *Whose Promised Land? The Continuing Conflict over Israel and Palestine* (Oxford, England: Lion, 2015), 262.

“When the New Testament writers like John had seen the significance of the land and the nation in the context of the kingdom of God which had come into being in Jesus of Nazareth, they ceased to look forward to a literal fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies of a return to the land and a restoration of a Jewish state. The one and only fulfillment of all promises and prophecies was already there before their eyes in the person of Jesus. The way they interpreted the Old Testament should be the norm for the Christian interpretation of the Old Testament today.”

34

The Knox Seminary Open Letter to Evangelicals
<http://www.bible-researcher.com/openletter.html>

“Instructively, this same Simon Peter, the Apostle to the Circumcision, says nothing about the restoration of the kingdom to Israel in the land of Palestine. . . . No New Testament writer foresees a regathering of ethnic Israel in the land, as did the prophets of the Old Testament after the destruction of the first temple in 586 B.C.”

35

Bruce Scott Responding to Gary Burge
 “Christian Anti-Zionism: On the Wrong Side of History, Justice, and the Bible,” *Israel My Glory* January/February 2014, 33.

“[They] use a fallacious argument from silence to prove their point. They falsely assume their position on the holy land is true simply because the New Testament writers spoke so infrequently of God’s land promises to Israel and Israel’s restoration to its land. On one occasion, when confronted about his argument from silence, Gary Burge countered, “It is such a loud silence.”

36

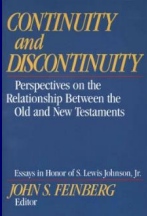


Arnold Fruchtenbaum
 "Israel's Right to the Promised Land," 21, accessed February 4, 2015, <http://www.pre-trib.org>

"Furthermore, the New Testament does not have to mention something specific from the Old Testament to maintain that the Old Testament promise is ongoing. What the author needs is a clear statement that says all the Land Promises have been fulfilled in at least a spiritual way, but this does not exist in the New Testament."

37

Paul D. Feinberg
 "Hermeneutics of Discontinuity," in *Continuity and Discontinuity: Perspectives on the Relationship between the Old and New Testaments*, ed. John S. Feinberg (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1988), 124.




"Why should something that is clearly a matter of Old Testament revelation have to be *repeated* in the New Testament for it to have continuing validity? Should not the very opposite be the case? Should not the promises of the Old Testament be regarded as still in effect *unless the New Testament states otherwise?*"

38

Ephesians 3:3-6

"that by revelation there was made known to me the **mystery**, as I wrote before in brief. ⁴By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the **mystery** of Christ, ⁵which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy **apostles** and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶**to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus** through the gospel".




39

“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.

40




Randall Price

The Temple and Bible Prophecy: A Definitive Look at Its Past, Present, and Future (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2005), 596.

“However, there are good reasons why the promise of Israel’s national restoration, so often stated in the Old Testament, would not be repeated in the New Testament. First, the Old Testament, as the Bible of the early church, already contained sufficient instruction on the subject, and New Testament authors would have assumed this doctrine and expected their audiences to understand it from the Old Testament text. The frequent citations and allusions to the Old Testament by New Testament authors demonstrate that the Old Testament had priority as the first authoritative revelation of God containing everything necessary to understand the divine program, which had its fulfillment in Christ. The New Testament was. . .

41




Randall Price

The Temple and Bible Prophecy: A Definitive Look at Its Past, Present, and Future (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2005), 596.

“...not written to replace the Old Testament, but to add new revelation that attended to the coming Messiah and the formation of the church. Therefore, the New Testament does not need to repeat Old Testament revelation concerning national Israel, but builds upon it by explaining the relationship between Israel and the church. . . . While the New Testament does not change the original intent of its authors, who wrote about Israel’s future restoration in the land, neither does it feel compelled to repeat what was already taught and understood in Scripture. Second, the New Testament does not put Israel in a central position, as does the Old Testament, because the church has become the. . .

42



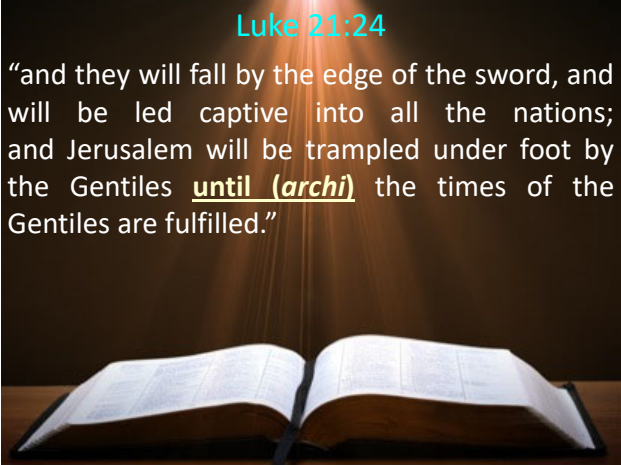
Randall Price
The Temple and Bible Prophecy: A Definitive Look at Its Past, Present, and Future (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2005), 596.

...central position in salvation history. The New Testament epistles are written for the instruction of the church, and therefore should not be expected to include discussions about Israel's restoration."

43

Luke 21:24

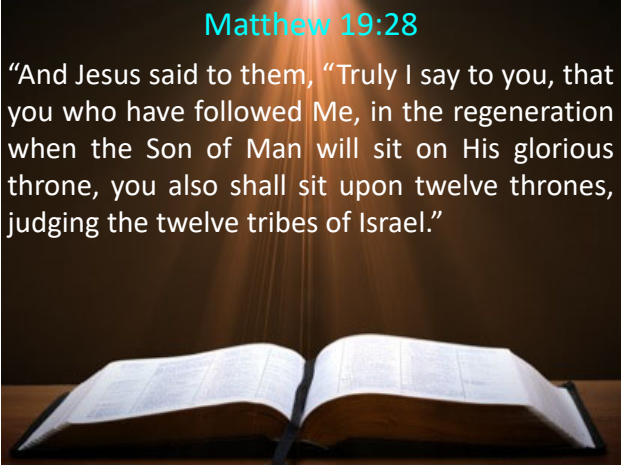
"and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until (archi) the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."



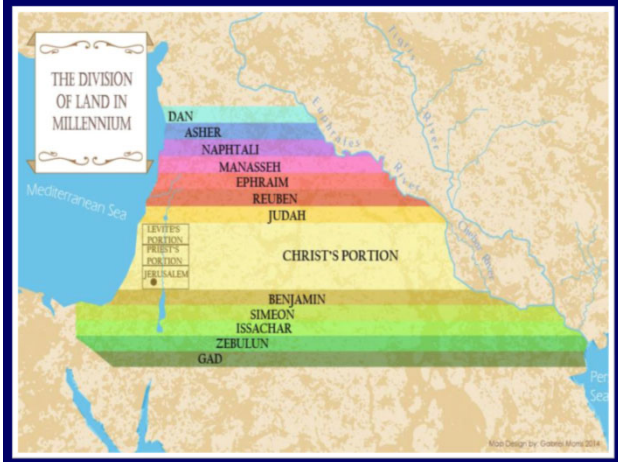
44

Matthew 19:28

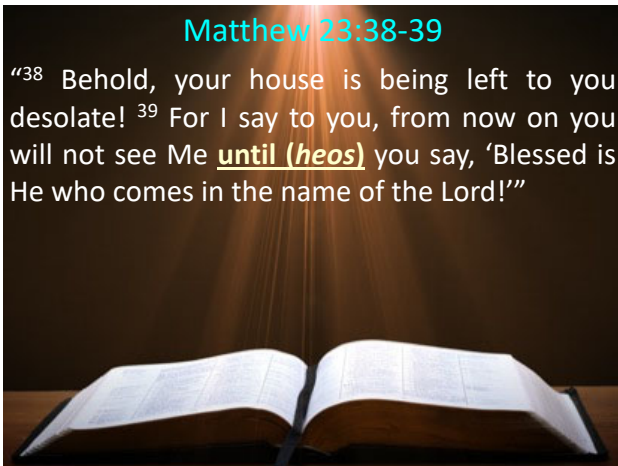
"And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."



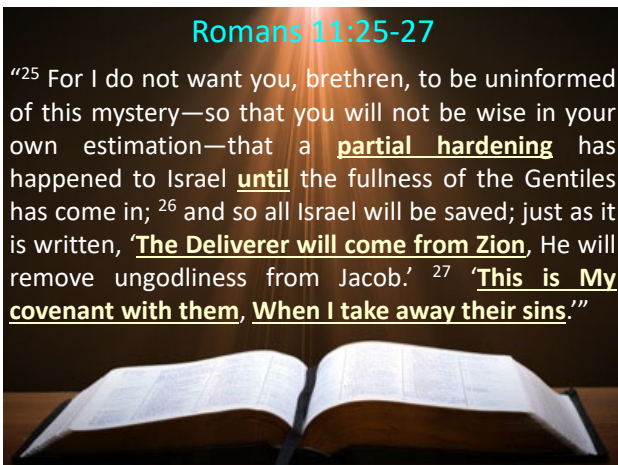
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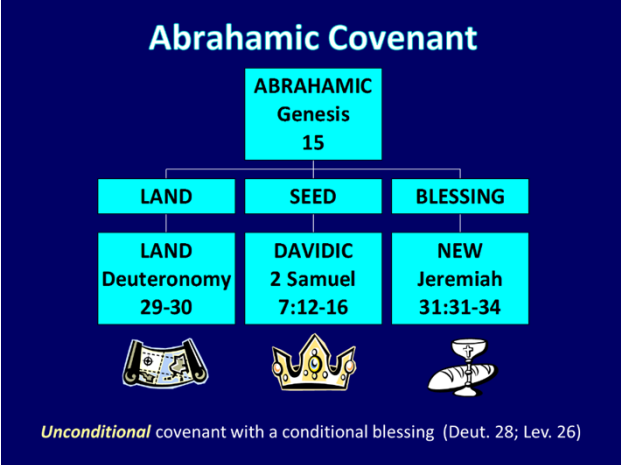
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47



48



49

Distinctions Between 144,000 & Multitude

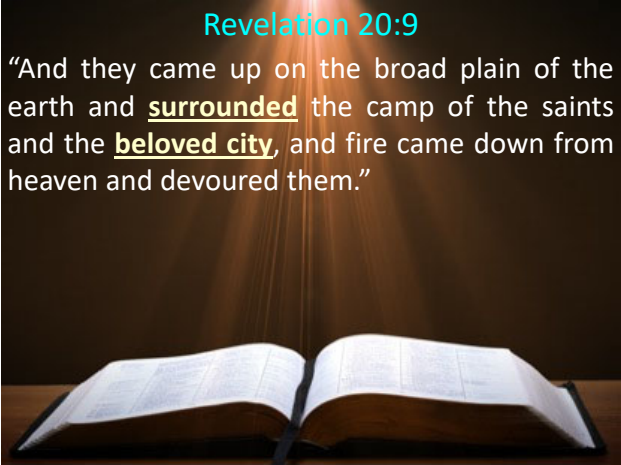
144,000	MULTITUDE
Revelation 7:1-8	Revelation 7:9-17
Numbered	Innumerable
Jews	All nations
Sealed	Slain
Sealed before the Tribulation	Converted out of the Tribulation

Hitchcock and Ice, The Truth Behind Left Behind, 77

50

Revelation 20:9

“And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and **surrounded** the camp of the saints and the **beloved city**, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.”



51

Isaiah 2:2-3


"²Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.³ And many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths.' For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD **from Jerusalem.**"




52

Zechariah 14:16-18

"¹⁶ Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against **Jerusalem** will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. ¹⁷ And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to **Jerusalem** to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. ¹⁸ If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no *rain will fall* on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths."




53



Robert Thomas

Four Views on the Book of Revelation, page 207.

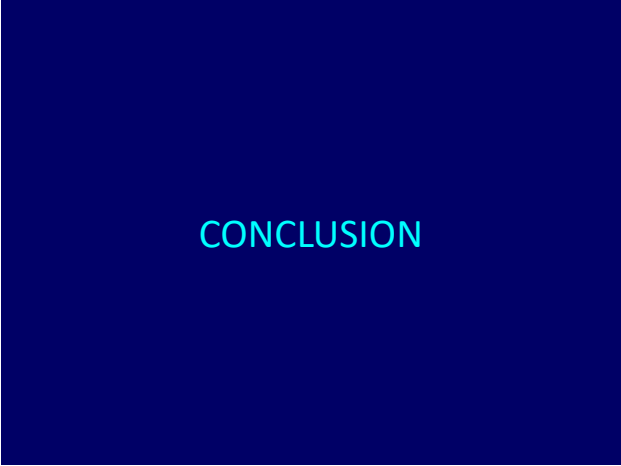


"At the end of the Millennium that city will be Satan's prime objective with his rebel army, because Israel will be a leader among the nations."

54



55



56



57
