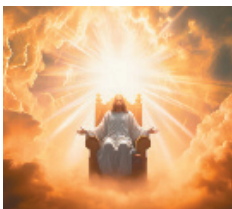


Gospel Reign - Daniel 2 & 7

Growing In Gospel Living: Shelf 2 — Volume 19

It is a reassuring feeling to know that regardless of what transpires in this world in the conflict of nations against nations in war, there is one King who reigns above all the affairs of this world. He is King of kings and Lord of lords.¹ We can be confident, therefore, that even if it seems that the world is falling apart as civilizations come into conflict with one another, there is a worldwide sovereignty far above this world. This Sovereign makes the affairs of this world trifle in reference to Himself as *“far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name [authority] that is named.”*² This is the One in whom we trust, and the One in whom we find comfort in times of turmoil.



Jesus Reigns As
King Of Kings
Lord Of Lords

This is not some kingdom of a king in the far future. This King and His kingdom are a reality in these times. He exists now! And, His kingdom is now! We must not allow some speculators of “future events” to steal this reality from us. If we do, then we will fall victim to the ever present turmoil that has existed in this world even since the beginning. Though things may seem out of control, **our faith is in our King who has everything under control.** He eventually will bring into existence an environment in which those who believe in Him will be blessed with the following:

*And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. And there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. Nor will there be any more pain, for the former things have passed away.*³

Understanding the truth of this hope is imperative in reference to comprehending who Jesus of Nazareth

truly was and is at this moment. Understanding this is crucial because God sought through Old Testament prophecies to establish a solid foundation upon which we would interpret correctly all prophecies. We could correctly understand the fulfillment of prophecy in the present kingdom and reign of the incarnate Son of God. The Father knew that He would bring hope to a world in conflict, once those who believed in His Son and reassured their minds and hearts in the fact that His Son has all things under control.

Our correct interpretation of the prophecies that pointed to the present kingship of the Lord Jesus will lead us to appreciate more the fact that Jesus of Nazareth was actually the Christ and the Son of God. **It is He who presently reigns from heaven over all things.**⁴ The gospel of the incarnation of the Son of God into and out of this world can be understood correctly only if we approach properly the prophecies that foretold His coming into this world in order to ascend to the throne of God above this world. At the end of His present galactic reign, He is coming again to take us out of this world. This is all gospel news, and thus adds meaning to the cross of Calvary.

If we fail to understand correctly the fundamental prophecies that foretold the coming of the Son of God into and out of this world, then we will conjure up all sorts of twisted conclusions concerning the Messianic prophecies of the incarnation and redemption ministry of the Son of God. The result will be that we will not fully appreciate the present gospel reign of King Jesus. At least we will have a limited view of Jesus' present kingdom, and a confused understanding of the church (assembly) of submitted subjects over which He is now head.

Jesus Reigns
Over All
That He
Created In
The Beginning.

Add to this the fact that we will also fail to see in the Lord Jesus Christ the complete fulfillment of all those prophetic statements that He spoke during His earthly ministry concerning His coming into this world. In doing this, we will be denying the totality of the good

news (gospel) that was revealed through the Son of God. The result of our misunderstanding will invariably lead us to construct a false hope for ourselves concerning things that will supposedly take place when Jesus comes again. We would certainly conclude, therefore, that Jesus did not speak out of deception when He stated the following to His disciples just prior to His ascension to the right hand of God:

*These are the words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things must be fulfilled** that were written in the Law of Moses, and the Prophets and the Psalms, **concerning Me.**⁵*

The better we understand the prophecies that focus on Jesus as the fulfillment of all prophecies concerning Him as the sacrificial Messiah, the more we will be convinced that He is the incarnate Son of God who came into this world in the flesh of man in order to go to the cross for us.

1. **T or F:** Since Jesus now reigns over all things, there are no more things over which He will reign when He comes again.
2. **T or F:** All prophecies concerning Jesus and His ministry were fulfilled in the first century

We must keep in mind that no matter what happens in our world today, or whatever incorrect prophetic interpretations may come forth from the speculative fertile minds of men, one thing will always be true. **Jesus Christ, as the resurrected and ascended Son of God, still reigns over all things of the universe.** This is just as it was prophesied in the Old Testament. This is exactly what He promised His disciples during His earthly ministry. And this is exactly what we believe. Jesus is now in control of all the physical world, as well as all the galaxies throughout the universe.⁶ This truth is at the heart of all Old Testament prophecies concerning King Jesus and His present kingdom reign.

The universe is under the galactic sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even Satan and demons are within His realm of authority. Regardless of what may happen on earth, or things in the spiritual world, we

can be assured that Jesus reigns as the supreme authority over all things in the heavens and on earth.

If Jesus is indeed the Son of God, then His sovereignty of necessity extends far beyond the church, and this world.

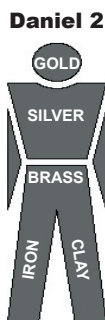
- 3. T or F:** Though Jesus now reigns over all the physical world, He still does not reign over the spirit world.

Now here are some exciting facts about this present reign of King Jesus that are revealed in Old Testament prophecies. Among the approximately three hundred Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah (Greek, “Christ”), the prophecies of **Daniel 2** and **7** refer specifically to the present kingdom reign of King Jesus and the time in history when this reign would begin. These two fundamental prophecies are sufficient in reference to understanding the present kingdom and sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ.

◊ **The Prophecy Of Daniel 2** ◊

In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was given a special, if not frightening, vision from God. This unnerving vision was of a man-like image that terrified the King. It had a **head of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly of brass, and feet and legs part of iron and part of clay.**⁷ God sent Daniel to interpret this vision for the confused, frustrated, if not fearful, Nebuchadnezzar.

The vision of Daniel 2 was a **visionary prophecy of four world kingdoms**. As the head of gold, reference was first to Nebuchadnezzar and his existing kingdom. After him, three other kingdoms were to arise, but fall away in world history.⁸ The head of gold thus represented the **Babylonian Kingdom**; the breast and arms of silver represented the **Medo-Persian Kingdom**; the belly of brass was the **Greek Kingdom**; the feet and legs of part iron and part clay was the **Roman Kingdom**.



In reference to the final fourth kingdom that was presented in the vision, something wonderful would happen during the existence of this kingdom. This event was paramount concerning the history of the world, which event was in the mind of God before the beginning of time. We must not miss this truth in reference to the fourth kingdom: **It was in the days of the Roman Kingdom that God would establish a new kingdom.** This new kingdom that God would establish would not be affected by the turmoil that existed among earthly kingdoms. Notice what Daniel prophesied would happen during the days of this kingdom:

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. And the kingdom will not be left to other people. It will break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms. And it will stand forever.⁹

This would be a kingdom (sovereignty) that would be revealed directly from God. It would not be the result of men seeking power on earth to manipulated civilizations under their control, or dictators expanding their borders. It would be a kingdom of heavenly origins.

What is important to keep in mind is that the Daniel 2 prophecy **has already been fulfilled in every detail!** It was fulfilled when the present kingdom and reign of King Jesus began at the time of His ascension to heaven and coronation at the right hand of God. When Peter stood up on the Pentecost of Acts 2, all that Daniel prophesied in Daniel 2 had been fulfilled.¹⁰ Recognizing this fulfillment is essential in order to come to a correct understanding of the present gospel reign of King Jesus. **This is not a reign that will take place in the future.** It is not prophecy to give hope, as it did to the Israelites in Babylonian captivity. It is a prophecy in our Bibles that gives us **reassurance.** The Daniel 2 vision of Nebuchadnezzar reassures us in times of turmoil on this earth that it **has been ful-**

The Prophecy
Of Daniel 2
Was To Give
Hope To Those
In Captivity.

filled. In the resurrection and ascension, the Son of God was made King of kings and Lord of lords.¹¹

The main point of the vision that was given to Nebuchadnezzar is that the kingdom that God would establish would be set up during the days of the Roman Kingdom, which thing God did when the resurrected Jesus ascended to the right hand of God to reign as King of kings over all things.

4. ____ The great image that Nebuchadnezzar saw in a vision had a head of what?
(A) Silver, (B) Gold, (C) Wood, (D) Clay
5. ____ The belly of brass in Nebuchadnezzar's vision represented which kingdom?
(A) Greek Kingdom, (B) Roman Kingdom, (C) Medo-Persian Kingdom, (D) Babylonian Kingdom
6. ____ In the days of which kingdom would God establish a new kingdom?
(A) Roman Kingdom, (B) Babylonian Kingdom, (C) Greek Kingdom, (D) Medo-Persian Kingdom
7. **T or F:** The establishment of the fourth kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar's vision would happen when Jesus comes again.

🔮 The Prophecy Of Daniel 7 🔮

Daniel 7 is a parallel prophecy of the same four world kingdoms of Nebuchadnezzar's vision of Daniel 2. In the Daniel 7 vision, Daniel himself foresaw the ascension of the Son of Man (the Christ) to the Ancient of Days (God).

I saw in the night visions, and behold one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven. And He came to the Ancient of Days. And they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion and glory and sovereignty, so that all peoples, nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away. And His sovereignty will not be destroyed.¹²

When the Son of Man ascended to the throne of God in heaven, dominion and sovereignty were given to Him.¹³ It must be noted that Daniel 7 was a prophecy of **an ascension**, not someone descending from heaven to this world. God the Father (the Ancient of Days) is pictured to be in heaven, not on this earth. Therefore, the giving and existence of the sovereignty of the ascended King took place in heaven, **not**

on this earth. Any understanding of prophecy that would assume that the resurrected Son of God will set His foot on this earth again is simply not true.

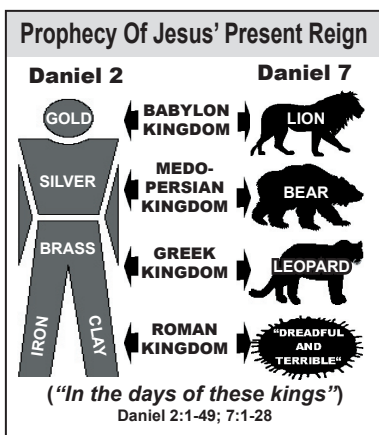
In reference to the kingdom that God would establish during the days of the Roman Kingdom, the Son of Man would ascend unto the Father, not descend to this earth.

- 8. T or F:** Daniel 7 was a vision of the final coming of Jesus at the end of time.
- 9.** _____ To what or whom did the Son of Man ascend in Daniel 7? (A) God the Father, (B) The Holy Spirit, (C) The throne of David in Jerusalem, (D) Neither A, B or C

A. Ascension To Heaven

Understood together, the prophecies of Daniel 2 and 7, with many other prophecies, **speak of the resurrection, ascension, and coronation of King Jesus at the right hand of the Father in heaven.**

These prophecies foretold that the resurrected Jesus would be King over all things while He sat on the throne of David in heaven, which throne continues to be the same as the throne of God. David's throne on earth, throughout the history of Israel, **was only a manifesta-**



tation on earth of the authority of God's throne in heaven. Therefore, Daniel 7 speaks of the gospel (good news) of the coronation and reign of King Jesus when He metaphorically sat down on "David's throne."¹⁴ He now reigns with all authority over all things from this throne.¹⁵

On His throne at the right hand of God, it was prophesied in Daniel 2 and 7 that King Jesus would function as both a **priest and king.**¹⁶ God's house would be the spiritual dwelling into which people from all nations would flow as they were drawn to the sov-

ereignty of King Jesus.¹⁷ The kingdom and reign of the Son in heaven, therefore, would be manifested on earth through subjects of the kingdom who responded to the gospel of the crucified King. The submitted subjects would be the church (assembly) of God's people. These are His people in these times, and until the end.

Those of the church reside within the realm of the kingdom reign of King Jesus, but the reign of King Jesus extends far beyond the membership of the church.

10. ____ What kingdom in Daniel 7 did the bear represent?
 (A) Roman Kingdom, (B) Medo-Persian Kingdom, (C) Babylonian Kingdom, (D) Greek Kingdom
11. ____ Which kingdom in Daniel 7 did the lion represent?
 (A) Babylonian Kingdom, (B) Roman Kingdom, (C) Medo-Persian Kingdom, (D) None of the preceding

When anyone obeys the gospel, therefore, he or she reveals that for which Jesus asked His disciples to pray while He was still with them on earth. Until the time of His coronation that was specifically prophesied in Daniel 7, the disciples were to pray, ***“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”***¹⁸ Every time someone responds to the good news of the incarnate Son of God, **the will of the Father is done on earth in obedient hearts as it is done in heaven.** The “visibility” of the present reign of King Jesus in heaven, therefore, was first revealed on earth when people first responded to the kingdom reign of King Jesus from heaven. They were thus “kingdom” on earth in that they revealed the reign of King Jesus in heaven.

This is what Paul had in mind when he wrote that the obedient ***“reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.”***¹⁹ Those who are obedient to the gospel, reign on earth at this time with King Jesus who is now reigning from heaven. **The reign of gospel obedient subjects on earth, therefore, is validated only by the existing reign of King Jesus.** In other words, it is as Paul wrote to the Romans, that if we died with Christ in baptism,²⁰ and to Timothy, to suffer with Him in this life,

then **“we will also reign with Him”** in this life.²¹

It is important to remember, therefore, that when we study Old Testament prophecy, we must keep in mind that prophecy in reference to kingdom matters **was all about King Jesus**. Church, on the other hand, **is about people**, and in particular, those of us today who are the gospel-obedient church that Jesus promised He would build.

The Old Testament prophecies, therefore, were not made directly about us, the church. They were made concerning the incarnate Son of God who would come into this world, pay a redemption sacrifice for our sins, and then ascended to the right hand of the Father (the Ancient of Days) to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.²² Therefore, when we study Old Testament prophecy, we are discovering in prophecy important matters concerning King Jesus and His kingdom. We are not searching in prophecy for something about ourselves. We as “church” are the result of the incarnation of the Son of God into this world and His coronation. We as the church are a membership of people with hope that was made possible by the fulfillment of prophecy by the incarnate Son of God.

We must always keep in mind that Old Testament prophecy in reference to our salvation is primarily about the Son of God who gave up being God, and ventured into this world in a body of flesh and blood

Beginning Of The Gospel Age		
PENTECOST, A.D. 30		
ACTS 2		
Isaiah 2:1-5 Micah 4:1-3	In the Last Days Lord’s House Established All Nations Added Word from Jerusalem Judge Nations Peace on Earth	Hebrews 1:1,2 1 Timothy 3:15 Matthew 28:19 Luke 24:47 John 12:48
Daniel 2:44,45	Days of Roman Kings The Stone	2 Thessalonians 3:16 Luke 3:1-4 1 Peter 2:6
Daniel 7:13,14 Joel 2:28-32	Coming in the Clouds “Afterward” – Last Days Spirit Poured Out	Acts 1:9-11 Acts 2:16-24 Acts 2:1-4
Jeremiah 31:31-34	New Covenant	Hebrews 8:6-13

in order that we might have an opportunity to spend eternity with Him where He now is.²³

All the church lies within the realm of the kingdom of Jesus, but not all the kingdom of Jesus is confined to the church. The church is all kingdom, but the kingdom is not all church.

- 12. T or F:** The existing kingdom reign of Jesus is revealed on earth by those who have submitted to the gospel.
- 13.** ____ To whom were the prophecies of Daniel 2 & 7 specifically given?
 (A) Christians, (B) The Israelites in captivity, (C) The church, (D) The world

Prophecies Of John & Jesus

As the forerunner of Jesus, John the Baptist was the one crying in the wilderness of Palestine to prepare the way for the Messiah. In preparation for the Messiah's coming, therefore, John proclaimed, ***"Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight"***²⁴

Jesus followed John's preparation for His coming kingdom reign. Jesus wanted to make very clear the nature of His coming kingdom: ***"My kingdom is not of this world"***²⁵ In this direct statement to Pilate, Jesus informed Pilate that He was born for the purpose of being a king, **but not a king of this world.** On the occasion when Jesus made this statement, Pilate needed to be assured that the kingdom of Jesus **was not going to be a kingdom of this world** as those with which Pilate was familiar, and with which the Roman Empire was constantly struggling to control.

Therefore, we must take from this statement of Jesus to Pilate that His kingdom **would never be a kingdom of this world.** Any teaching that one might construe from either Old Testament prophecy, or fulfillment in the New Testament, that the kingdom reign of Jesus would eventually be a physical kingdom of this world, is simply incorrect. If we would come to such a conclusion, **then we both minimize and marginalize the present gospel kingdom and reign of King Jesus.** We

The Kingdom
Of Jesus
Exists Because
There Are
Subjects.

must restudy the prophecies of Daniel 2 and 7, and then remind ourselves that these prophetic visions were fulfilled over two thousand years ago.

14. _____ Who was the one who came crying in the wilderness that people must repent?
 (A) Paul, (B) Jesus, (C) John the Baptist, (D) Peter

A. John Announces Jesus' Reign

John preached, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”*²⁶ The word “kingdom” refers to **reign or sovereignty**, from which **rule** goes forth. The phrases *“of heaven”* and *“of God”* define the origin of the reign and rule. Jesus’ reign, therefore, proceeds from God and out of heaven. His kingdom reign would never be something that would proceed from a throne on this earth. John’s declaration that the origin of Jesus’ reign out of heaven and of God would mean that His reign would always be heavenly, not of this world.

The phrase **“at hand”** directed the attention of John’s immediate audience to the nearness or immediate establishment of the kingdom reign from heaven in reference to the earthly ministries of both John and Jesus. Therefore, in reference to John’s ministry, **Jesus’ kingdom reign was soon to be established**. It was not a kingdom that would be postponed for establishment over two thousand years in the future after the time John first preached this message. **It was a kingdom that was to be established in the first century**. When we speak of the kingdom and reign of King Jesus, therefore, this kingdom and reign was set up soon after it was first announced by both Jesus and John the Baptist during their ministries.

15. **T or F:** The word “kingdom” refers to people who have been established as a government on earth.
 16. **T or F:** The phrase “at hand” referred to something that was in the far future in reference to the ministries of Jesus and John.

B. Jesus Announces His Reign

After John, Jesus prophesied, *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.”*²⁷ In order

to emphasize the immediate nature of the establishment of His kingdom reign, Jesus said that some of **His immediate disciples would not die before His kingdom was established.**²⁸ This is a very significant truth in reference to the kingdom about which both John and Jesus spoke. Jesus did not lie to those immediate disciples.

The immediate establishment of the kingdom in the lifetime of some of Jesus' immediate disciples argues against any teaching that asserts that Jesus was speaking of the establishment of a physical kingdom on earth when He comes again. If He would establish such a kingdom when He comes, then it would be an earthly kingdom that would be beneficial only for those who would be alive at the time of His coming. **An earthly kingdom in the future would salvationally benefit no one who lived on the earth for thousands of years before His second coming.** This is true because none of the faithfuls in the Old Testament would have any salvational benefit from such an earthly kingdom reign of Jesus.

Jesus and John's use of the phrases "at hand" and "the time is fulfilled," means that the kingdom and reign of Jesus, and the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecies concerning the kingdom, were about to be fulfilled sometime in the early part of the first century.

For this reason, there is no mention in Old Testament prophecy or New Testament fulfillment of anything concerning the salvational benefit of a supposed earthly kingdom reign of Jesus. And since this is true, **then there is no mention in the Old Testament or the New Testament of any earthly kingdom reign of King Jesus.** What is mentioned in

**"At Hand"
Means
Soon.**

reference to salvational matters in Old Testament prophecy has already been fully completed in Jesus' incarnation and redemptive sacrifice on the cross in the first century.²⁹ Only deliverance from this world of turmoil is yet in the future.³⁰

Therefore, all that was prophesied in the Old Tes-

tament concerning salvational matters **has already taken place**. The only thing that remains in reference to the totality of the gospel journey of the incarnate Son of God, is the good news of His coming again. He is coming again in order to take His people of faith from this present world into a new heavens and earth.³¹ Our hope is expressed in the final words that the Holy Spirit gave to Peter:

*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements will melt with fervent heat. The earth also and the works that are therein will be burned up. Since all these things will be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens, being on fire, will be dissolved and the elements will melt with fervent heat?*³²

17. ____ Whom did Jesus say would not die before His kingdom reign was established and revealed?

(A) The last person on earth, (B) Citizens of the Roman Empire, (C) John the Baptist, (D) Some of His immediate disciples

C. A Church Of The Submitted

Jesus prophesied to His disciples that they would be His assembly (church) of submitted subjects. On one occasion during His earthly ministry, Jesus asked His disciples, *“Who do you say that I am?”*³³ Peter responded, *“You are the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the living God.”*³⁴ Peter’s confession was true. Jesus was the prophesied Messiah (Christ) because He fulfilled all Old Testament prophecies concerning His incarnation into this world, His earthly ministry, and redemptive sin-bearing sacrifice on the cross.³⁵ He was proved to be the **Son of God** because the Father worked miracles through Him in order to confirm Him as the Christ.³⁶ Likewise, the Lord Jesus was *“declared to be the Son of God with power . . . by the resurrection from the dead.”*³⁷

The messiahship and sonship of Jesus are thus the rock upon which the church of believers is founded.³⁸ This simply means that those who believe that Jesus was the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecies

concerning the Christ (Messiah), and that He was the incarnate Son of God, have a right to become subjects of His kingdom reign. It is as Jesus said, ***“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”***³⁹ When one’s belief moves him or her to respond in baptism to the gospel news, then he or she is added to the assembly (church) of Christ.

The foundation upon which the church of believers is established is the fact that Jesus fulfilled all prophecies of His kingdom and reign, as well as the fact that He was declared to be the Son of God who gave Himself for us at Calvary.

We must keep in mind that receiving and believing in King Jesus only gives us “the right” to become children of God. We must follow through on our “receiving and believing” with baptism into the death, burial and resurrection of our King in order to be His subjects and part of His body, the church.⁴⁰

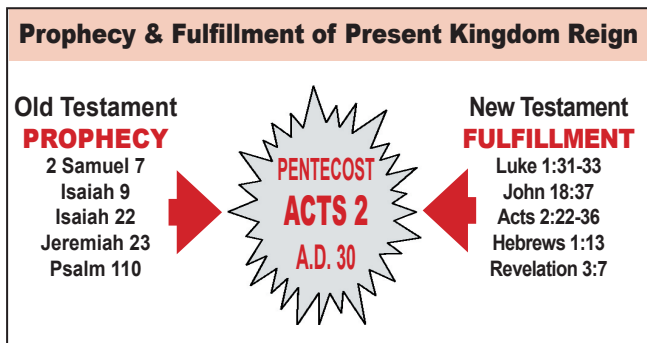
In Matthew 16:19 Jesus spoke of His universal kingdom. He said to Peter, ***“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven.”*** “Keys” metaphorically refers to the privilege to reveal heavenly authority. Peter was given the initial privilege to unlock the kingdom reign (authority) of Jesus from heaven. **He was the first person to officially and publicly announce the sovereign reign of King Jesus.** This Peter did in A.D. 30 on the day of Pentecost that is recorded in Acts 2.⁴¹

18. T or F: The word “kingdom” refers to people, whereas the word “church” (*ekklesia*) refers to the sovereignty of Jesus.

◊ **Fulfilled Kingdom Prophecies** ◊

The disciples of Jesus were in Jerusalem on Pentecost when God signalled from heaven the existing reign of Jesus by pouring out the Holy Spirit upon all the apostles.⁴² Peter proclaimed that this outpouring

of the Holy Spirit fulfilled the prophecy of Joel that God made centuries before.⁴³ This outpouring was God's signal that King Jesus was **already reigning** from the throne of God in heaven and that His kingdom was thus in existence. In other words, in reference to the fulfillment of all the prophecies of the kingdom and reign of the Son of God had been fulfilled **before** the public announcement of Peter on the day of Pentecost.



The church of Christ begin when people, who heard the gospel preached for the first time on the day of Pentecost, **responded to the reign of King Jesus**. The church began when the first people of faith receive and believed Peter's announcement, and were subsequently baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of their sins.⁴⁴ In other words, Jesus' kingdom and reign from heaven was revealed on earth only when people of faith responded to King Jesus' reign from David's throne in heaven. Gospel-responsive people were established as the church, and subsequently have continued as such for over two thousand years.

When people on earth first received and believed the announcement of Peter in **Acts 2:36** concerning the reign of the ascended King Jesus, the church was about to begin in a single day: *"Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this same Jesus whom you have crucified, both Lord and Christ."* And on that very day about 3,000 people responded to this announcement by being baptized into Christ. This was, therefore, the beginning of the church.⁴⁵

The church began when people first responded to the first announcement that was made on earth of the reign of King Jesus.

- 19. T or F:** Jesus was already reigning at the right hand of God at the time Peter made the first official announcement of His kingdom reign.

A. Old Testament Prophecy Fulfilled

Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled in Acts 2. All the kingdom prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled on that day of Pentecost, which was in the days of the Roman Empire. These prophecies were fulfilled when the first official announcement was made in Acts 2 that Jesus had ascended to reign on the throne of David in heaven.⁴⁶ At the time of Peter's announcement on Pentecost, Jesus had already ascended to the right hand of the Father. He was reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords.⁴⁷

B. First Official Announcement

With the “keys” (authority) of the kingdom in his hands (mind), Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and made the first official announcement of the reign of the resurrected, ascended and coronated Lord Jesus to the throne of God in heaven.⁴⁸

C. Kingdom Reign Announced

At the time Peter announced the kingdom and reign of Jesus, **Jesus had already ascended to the right hand of God about six days before.** Therefore, when Peter announced the gospel reign of King Jesus, he preached that Jesus was already at the right hand of God with all His enemies as His footstool.⁴⁹ The kingdom of Jesus, therefore, existed before the establishment of the church, and thus, it would be confusing to say that the kingdom of Jesus and the church are the same.

- 20.** To what does the metaphor “keys” refer in Matthew 16:19?
(A) Authority, (B) Church, (C) Faith, (D) Hope
- 21.** _____ What was the date, according to our calendar today, of the beginning of the church?
(A) 30 B.C., (B) A.D. 70, (C) 100 B.C., (D) A.D. 30

D. Church Begins

The church began when people first responded to the first official announcement of Jesus' existing kingdom and reign. On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached the kingship of Jesus that began six days before.⁵⁰ On Pentecost, people believed and responded with repentance and baptism, just as Peter had instructed.⁵¹ The church, therefore, came into existence **after** the kingdom and reign of the Lord Jesus had already commenced.

Today, when submissive men and women obey Peter's instructions, they are added to the church by God.⁵² **The church began when submissive people first responded to the first official announcement of the existing kingship of Jesus.** Their response reveals to the world the continued existence of Jesus' kingdom reign from heaven.

Today, every time someone submits to the kingdom reign of Jesus, the will of God the Father is done on earth in the hearts of people of faith as it is done in heaven.⁵³ Subsequently, the kingdom comes into the hearts of those who submit to Jesus by being baptized into Christ.⁵⁴

Through their submission, people of faith proclaim the power and authority that King Jesus still is King of kings and Lord of lords. Therefore, we must not confuse the kingdom and reign of Jesus from heaven with the response of people of faith from earth. In this context, kingdom refers to the incarnate Son of God exercising all authority from heaven. Church refers to the response of people on earth to the reign of King Jesus.



The church is the visible representation of the reign of King Jesus, though all His reign is not restricted to the church. His kingdom and reign are galactic, whereas the church is limited only to the submitted of this world.

22. T or F: Kingdom refers to the response of angels in heaven that was revealed through the word of God on earth.

The kingdom and reign of Jesus extends far beyond the members of the church. In other words, **those of the church are the obedient subjects of the reign of King Jesus.** However, Satan and his angels are not obedient subjects, though they exist within the realm of the sovereignty of King Jesus.⁵⁵ But they are not members of the church. Because they are rebellious, they stand as insubordinate subjects in the kingdom. Therefore, the teaching that the kingdom of King Jesus is the same as the church is a confusing understanding of the church, as well as the galactic nature of the universal reign of the resurrected Son of God.

Simply stated, since His ascension to the right hand of God, Jesus became King of kings.⁵⁶ However, all the kings of the world are not members of the church. Nevertheless, Jesus is still their King. Lords of this world may pompously pretend to be the center of reference to societies they have brought under their control, but they too have a Lord over them. This is certainly in the meaning of the words by which Jesus rebuked Pilate at the time of His trials: *“You [Pilate] would have no power over Me unless it had been given to from above.”*⁵⁷

The unfortunate misunderstanding that the kingdom of Jesus is limited to the membership of the church also leads to misunderstanding many Old Testament prophecies that speak exclusively of the universal kingdom and sovereignty of King Jesus, as well as the fulfillment of kingdom prophecies that He made in the New Testament. Consider the following truths that highlight the present totality of the reign of King Jesus:

- ▶ Jesus now exercises all authority of His kingdom and reign.⁵⁸
- ▶ Jesus is now King of kings and Lord of lords.⁵⁹
- ▶ Jesus is now far above all principality, power, might and dominion of all world governments.⁶⁰

- ▶ Jesus is now King over all things.⁶¹
- ▶ Jesus is now exalted above every named (authority) that is on earth and in the heavenly places.⁶²
- ▶ Jesus is the king of all angels, including Satan, and civil authorities on earth.⁶³
- ▶ Jesus is now in control of the created galaxies.⁶⁴

Jesus is now King of His kingdom and head of His church! He now has all authority over all things! All those who submit to His kingdom and reign will become a part of His body, the church. The church, therefore, is the manifestation of the kingdom reign of Jesus to all those of the world who witness their gospel behavior.

Jesus reigns from heaven in the hearts of people on earth.⁶⁵ He will reign as our personal King with all authority until He comes again. At the time of His final coming, and when He has submitted the last enemy, death,⁶⁶ He will then do as the Holy Spirit revealed through Paul:

*When all things are submitted to Him, then will the Son also Himself be subject to Him who put all things under Him [King Jesus], so that God may be all in all.*⁶⁷

- 23. T or F:** Satan and his angels are part of the church.
24. T or F: The kingship of Jesus over all things means that all the created galaxies are within the domain of His authority.
25. T or F: When all things have eventually come to an end for their purpose of existence, Jesus will submit Himself in order that God be all in all.

Encouraging Research: **1.** 1 Timothy 6:15, **2.** Ephesians 1:21, **3.** Revelation 21:4, **4.** John 20:30,31, **5.** Luke 24:44, **6.** Ephesians 1:19-23; Hebrews 1:3, **7.** Daniel 2:31-35, **8.** Daniel 2:36-45, **9.** Daniel 2:44, **10.** At 2:22-36, **11.** 1 Timothy 6:15, **12.** Daniel 7:13,14, **13.** See also prophecies of 2 Samuel 7:12,13; Psalm 16:8-11; 110:1; Zechariah 6:12,13; Joel 2:28-32; Isaiah 2:1-5; Micah 4:1-3, **14.** See At 2:29-36, **15.** Matthew 28:18, **16.** See Hebrews 7:1-10, **17.** 1 Timothy 3:16, **18.** Matthew 6:10, **19.** Romans 5:17, **20.** Romans 6:3-6, **21** 2 Timothy 2:11,12, **22.** 1 Timothy 6:15, **23.** See John 1:1,2,14; Philippians 2:5-11, **24.** Matthew 3:3; see Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1, **25.** John 18:36,37, **26.** Matthew 3:1,2, **27.** Mark 1:14,15, **28.** Mark 9:1; see Luke 9:27, **29.** See Romans 3:25; Hebrews 9:15, **30.** Revelation 21:4, **31.** See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, **32.** 2 Peter 3:10-12, **33.** Matthew 16:15, **34.** Matthew 16:16, **35.** See Luke 24:44, **36.** John 3:2; 20:30,31, **37.** Romans 1:4, **38.**

Matthew 16:18, **39**. John 1:12, **40**. Romans 6:3-6, **41**. See Acts 2:22-36, **42**. Acts 1:26 – 2:1-4), **43**. Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16-21, **44**. Acts 2:38, **45**. Acts 2:41, **46**. Daniel 2:44; Lk 2:1-3; see Acts 2:22-36, **47**. Daniel 7:13,14; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:13-15, **48**. Acts 2:29-33; see 2 Samuel 7:13,14, **49**. Psalm 16:8-11; 110:1; Acts 2:25-28,34,36, **50**. Acts 2:36, **51**. Acts 2:37,38, **52**. Acts 2:41,47, **53**. Matthew 6:9,10, **54**. Luke 17:20,21; see Romans 6:3-6, **55**. See 1 Peter 3:21,22, **56**. 1 Timothy 6:15, **57**. John 19:11, **58**. Matthew 28:18; John 13:3; 17:2, **59**. 1 Timothy 6:15, **60**. Ephesians 1:20,21, **61**. Ephesians 1:22, **62**. Philippians 2:9,10, **63**. 1 Peter 3:22, **64**. Hebrews 1:3, **65**. Luke 17:20,21, **66**. 1 Corinthians 15:25,26, **67**. See 1 Corinthians 15:26-28



CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

1. What is the significance of believing that Jesus is at this time King of kings and Lord of lords?
2. What would not affect the fourth kingdom during the days that God would establish new kingdom?
3. Why was Daniel 7 a prophecy of Jesus' coronation?
4. How was the kingdom reign of Jesus revealed on earth?
5. How did John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus?
6. Why is it not necessary for Jesus to establish a physical kingdom on this earth?
7. What is the significance of the metaphor "at hand" in reference to the kingdom of Jesus?
8. What is the meaning of Jesus' use of the word "kingdom" in the text of Matthew 16:19?
9. In view of the existing reign of Jesus at the time of His ascension, what indicated the establishment of the church on earth?
10. How is the church the manifestation on earth of the kingdom reign of Jesus in heaven?
11. Why and how are Satan and his angels within the realm of the kingdom reign of Jesus, but are not members of the church?
12. What will happen to Jesus' kingdom reign after He comes again and submits all things to His reign?

See also: *Biblical Research Library*,
Book 9, *The Gospel Reign Of The Son Of God*,
www.roger-e-dickson.org

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