

# THE COMING KINGDOM



What Is the Kingdom and  
How Is Kingdom Now Theology  
Changing the Focus of the Church?

**Andrew M. Woods**

Foreword by Thomas Ice

# The Coming Kingdom

## Chapter 16



Dr. Andy Woods

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

# 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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# 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                |



# 1. Kingdom Throughout the Bible

11. Kingdom Mysteries

12. Church

13. Israel's Discipline &  
Restoration

14. Re-offer of the  
King/Kingdom

15. Transfer of Kingdom  
Authority

16. Kingdom Establishment

17. Eternal State

18. Testimony of Early  
Church History



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## 2. The Main Problem with Kingdom Now NT interpretations

- a. The kingdom is always earthly (Gen. 15:18-21)  
over a repentant Israel (Ezek. 36–37)
- b. The kingdom will only manifest after a time of  
tribulation (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 9:24-27)





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# 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



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6. Miscellaneous Arguments





# 1. Passages from Christ's ministry

- a. The kingdom is at hand (Matt. 3:2)
- b. Theirs is the kingdom (Matt. 5:3, 10)
- c. Thy kingdom come (Matt. 6:9-13)
- d. Seek first the kingdom (Matt. 6:33)
- e. The kingdom suffers violence (Matt. 11:12)
- f. Satan falls like lightning (Luke 10:18)
- g. The kingdom has come upon you (Matt. 12:28)



# 1. Passages from Christ's ministry

- h. The kingdom is in your midst (Luke 17:21)
- i. Born again to enter the kingdom (John 3:3-5)
- j. No death until kingdom comes (Matt. 16:28)
- k. Kingdom given to another people (Matt. 21:43)**
- l. Kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36)
- m. All authority given to me (Matt 28:18-20)

## Matthew 21:43

43 “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.”



## k. The Kingdom is Taken From You

(Matthew 21:43)

- 1) The Kingdom is taken away from Israel?
- 2) The Kingdom is given to the Church?



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## Matthew 21:45

“When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them.”



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## Matthew 21:43

43 “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people [*ethnos*], producing the fruit of it.”



## Romans 10:19

“But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, ‘I will make you jealous by that which is not a nation [*ethnos*], By a nation without understanding will I anger you.’”



## Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”



## Ephesians 2:14

“For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.”



## John 11:51

“Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation [*ethnos*].”





## Acts 24:17

“Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation [ethnos] and to present offerings.”



## Matthew 23:37-39

<sup>37</sup> “**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. <sup>38</sup> Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! <sup>39</sup> 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!’”



# Matthew 25:31

“<sup>31</sup> But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; <sup>33</sup> and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”



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## John 18:36

“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.’”





# L. My Kingdom is Not of this World

(John 18:36)

- 1) Kingdom offer was already rejected
- 2) The emphasis on “now”
- 3) Kingdom’s heavenly origin



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# Matthew and the Kingdom

Toussaint, *Behold the King*, 18-20

- Kingdom predicted (Isa 11:6-9)
- Kingdom offered (Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:5-7)
- Kingdom rejected (Matt. 12:24)
- Kingdom postponed (Matt. 13)
- Interim program? (Matt. 16:18; 28:18-20)
- Kingdom ultimately accepted (Matt. 24:14; 25:31)



## Matthew 12:24

“But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said,  
“This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul  
the ruler of the demons.”



# Matthew Outline

Pedigree of the king (1–2)

◆ Preparation of the king (3–4)

◆ Pedagogy of the king (5–7)

• Power of the king (8–9)

– Program of the king (10)

– Progressive rejection of the king (11–12)

– Preparation of the king's disciples (13–20)

• Presentation & rejection of the king (21–23)

◆ Prophecies of the king (24–25)

◆ Passion of the king (26–27)

Proof of the king (28)

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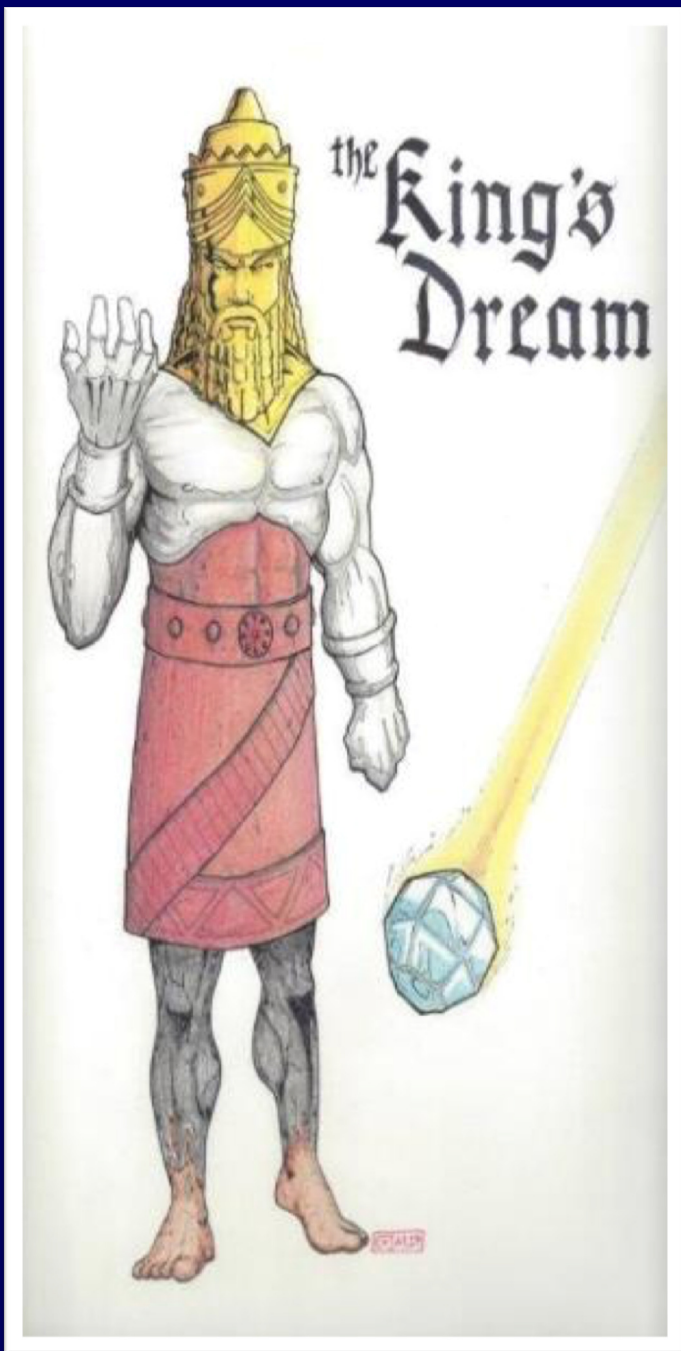
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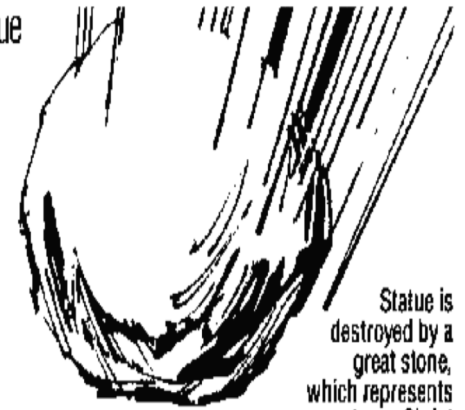
◆ Passion of the king (26–27)

Proof of the king (28)



# Statue & Stone

2. A Statue and a Stone



Statue is destroyed by a great stone, which represents Jesus Christ



HEAD  
**GOLD**

WORLD POWER  
**BABYLON**  
606-539

CHEST AND ARMS  
**SILVER**

WORLD POWER  
**PERSIA**  
539-331

STOMACH AND THIGHS  
**BRASS**

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**GREECE**  
331-323

LEGS AND FEET  
**IRON & CLAY**

WORLD POWER  
**ROME**  
322 B.C. - A.D. 476  
FUTURE



## Thomas Constable

“Notes on John,” 294, accessed February 5, 2014, <http://www.soniclight.com>.

“Jesus was not denying that His kingdom was an earthly kingdom. He was not saying it was only the spiritual rule of God over the hearts of His people. He was not saying that His kingdom had nothing to do with this world, either. This should be clear from Jesus’ other references to His kingdom as being an earthly kingdom. His point was that He and His kingdom were not a present threat to Rome (cf. 18:10–11). It was non-threatening because God had postponed the messianic kingdom—due to Israel’s unbelief—though Jesus did not explain this to Pilate.”



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## John 18:36

“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is [*nyn*], My kingdom is not of this realm.’”



# E.R. Craven

“*Excursus on the Basileia*,” in Revelation of John,  
J. P. Lange (New York: Scribner, 1874), 100.

“In this utterance, it is contended that our Lord intended to declare to Pilate that the kingdom He came to establish was not after the manner of the kingdoms of this world, *i. e.*, not external, political. It is admitted that the utterance considered in itself will bear this interpretation; but it will also bear one consistent with the theory herein advocated, especially in view of the introduction of *nyn* in the last clause of the verse, which may be regarded as a particle of time—My kingdom is not *now* established. Which of these interpretations are we to adopt?”

# E.R. Craven

*“Excursus on the Basileia,”* in Revelation of John,  
J. P. Lange (New York: Scribner, 1874), 100.

“The one supposes that our Lord whispered into the ear of a heathen (neither the disciples nor the Jews were in the Pretorium, ver. 28), the great truth concerning His kingdom, which he had not only *concealed* from His disciples (hid from them in a bewildering enigma) but a few hours before on the solemn occasion of the institution of the Supper, Luke 22:29, 30; but which, also, He continued to *conceal* throughout the forty days of His subsequent continuance with them, during which time He is represented as ‘speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God,’ Acts 1:3, and as opening ‘their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures,’ Luke 24:45! The other interpretation supposes that He spake in consistency with His previous and subsequent teaching.”

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“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of [ek] this realm.’”





## Alva J. McClain

Alva J. McClain, *The Greatness of the Kingdom: An Inductive Study of the Kingdom of God as Set Forth in the Scriptures* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1959), 381.

My kingdom is not *of* this world (italics added), the word translated “of” is the Greek preposition *ek*. McClain notes its significance: “The preposition is *ek*, indicating source or originating cause. His kingdom does not originate in the present cosmos or world system.”





## Thomas Constable

“Notes on John,” 294, accessed February 5, 2014, <http://www.soniclight.com>.

“Jesus’ kingdom is ‘not of this realm’ or ‘from another place’ (Gr. *ouk enteuthen*, lit. not from this place) in another sense. It will come down from heaven to the earth rather than originating from the earth. It will begin when Jesus comes down from heaven to earth at His Second Coming.”



## Matthew 3:1-2

“Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (engizō).’”

**REPENT** for the  
**KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**  
is at hand.



## Matthew 4:17

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

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## Matthew 10:5-7

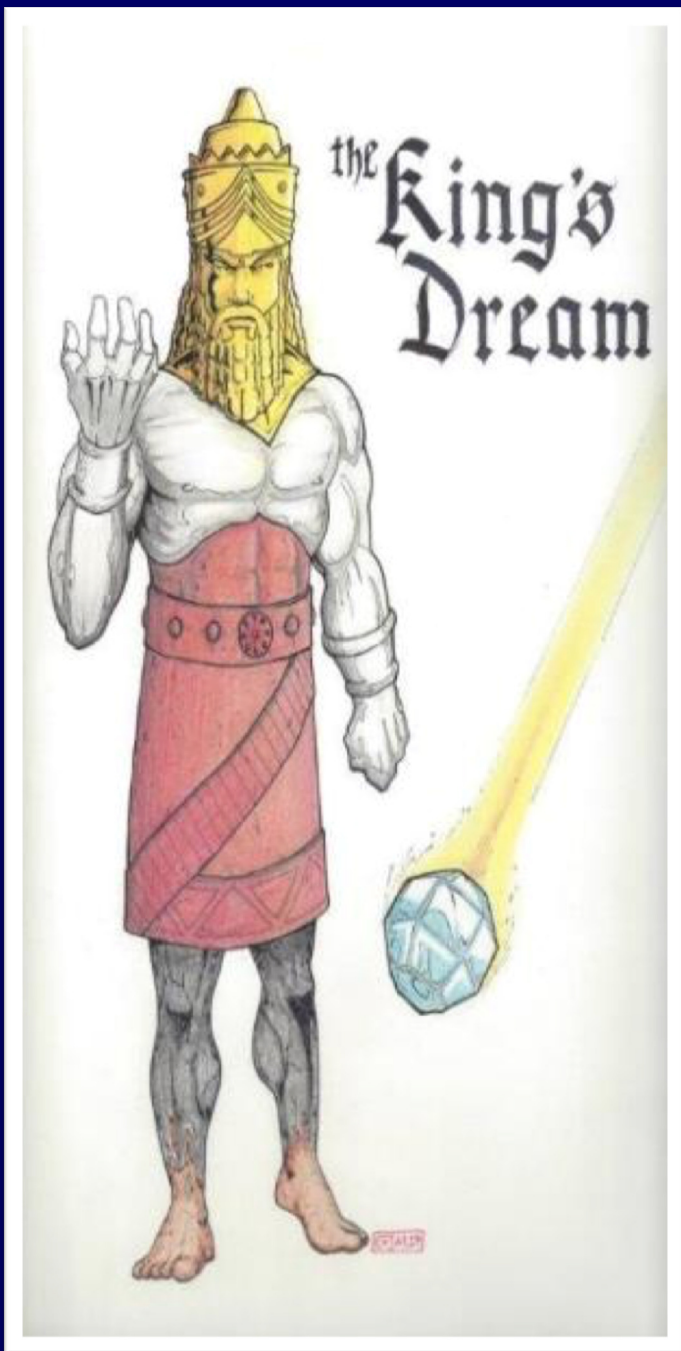
“These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of the Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans;<sup>6</sup> but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.<sup>7</sup> And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



## Daniel 2:44

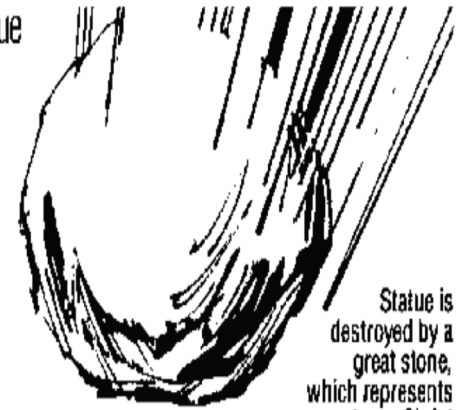
“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.”





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## Matthew 28:18-20

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## Darrell Bock

Darrell Bock, "The Reign of the Lord Christ," in *Dispensationalism, Israel and the Church*, ed. Craig A. Blaising and Darrell L. Bock (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992), 61.

“The point made here is like that of Matthew 28:18, where all authority resides with Jesus, who has formed a community through which He provides spiritual blessing. This is the first stage of the kingdom program. Nonetheless, the demonstration of full authority awaits his return.”



## Darrell Bock

Darrell Bock, “Covenants in Progressive Dispensationalism,” in *Three Central Issues in Contemporary Dispensationalism*, ed. Hebert Bateman (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1999), 223.

“[T]he biblical terminology and conceptual field (even the name Christ) show that the authority of Jesus is received now (Matthew 28:18–20) and involves the exercise of that authority at certain key soteriological points. Jesus’ executive authority in a variety of areas as shown in this listing indicates that His activity is messianic, and thus regal, not merely high priestly. . . . If it is messianic and Davidic, then it is regal and indicates initial manifestations of Jesus’ rule.”

# M. All Authority Has Been Given to Me

(Matthew 28:18-20)

- 1) “Kingdom” (*basilea*) is absent
- 2) Present age = no kingdom conditions
- 3) OT kingdom definition changed
- 4) Granted authority vs. exercising authority
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# Matthew 24:14

“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”



## Matthew 25:31-34

“<sup>31</sup> But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; <sup>33</sup> and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”



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# OT PROPHETS DESCRIBE THE KINGDOM



- Kingdom Characteristics
- Is. 2:1-4; 11:6-9; 65:17-25
  - ◆ Jerusalem = center of world spiritual and political authority
  - ◆ Perfect justice
  - ◆ World peace
  - ◆ Peace in the animal kingdom
  - ◆ Universal spiritual knowledge.

# Apostasy is a Sign of the Last Days

2 Tim 3:1

“But know this, that in the last days  
perilous times will come.”

2 Tim 3:13

“But evil men and imposters will grow  
worse and worse, deceiving and being  
deceived” (Italics mine).



# Apostasy is Internal

## Acts 20:29-31

“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.” Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.” (Italics added).



# The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



Patmos







## William Newell

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.”



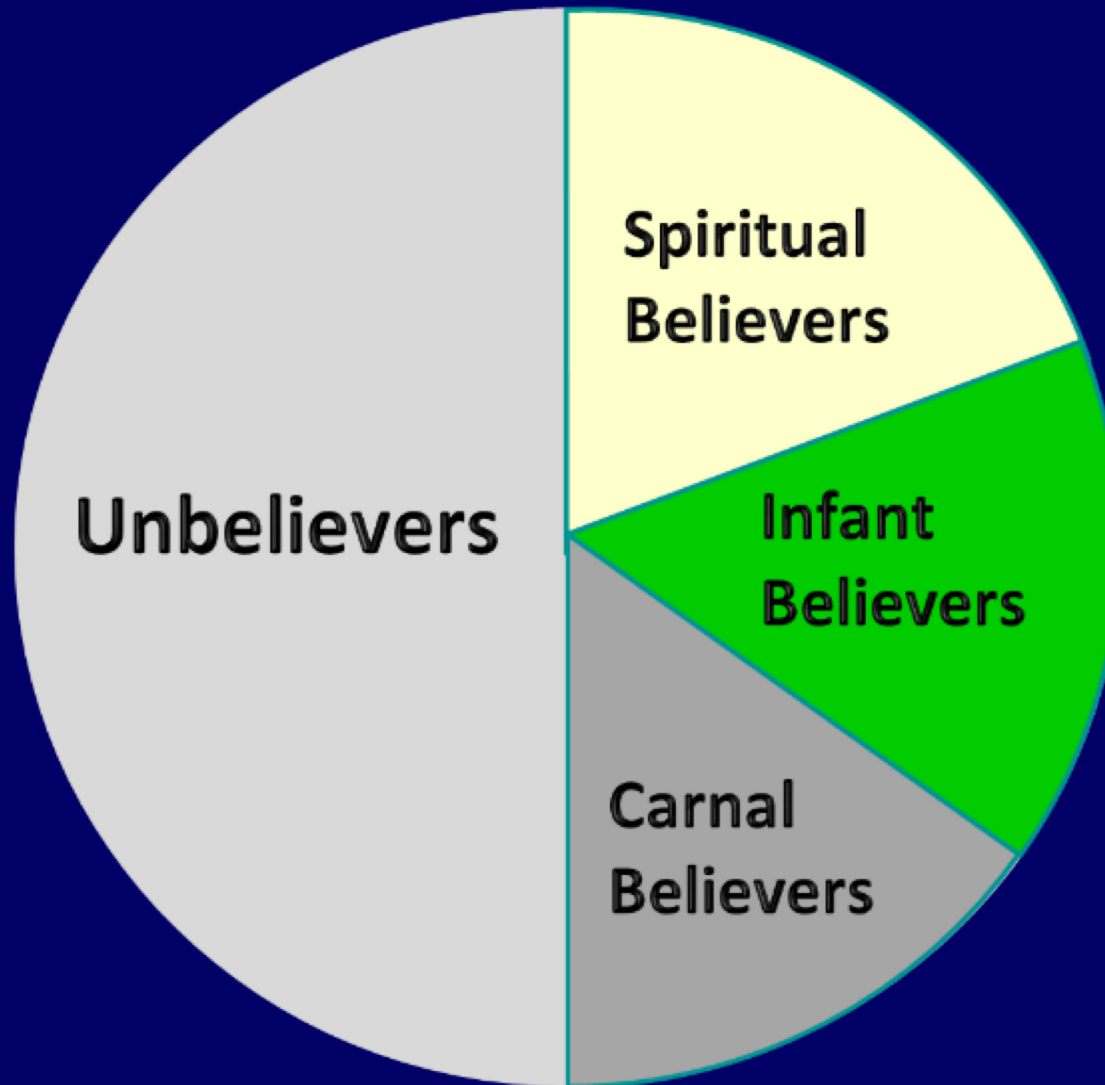
## 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** *people* but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ.

<sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* **men**?



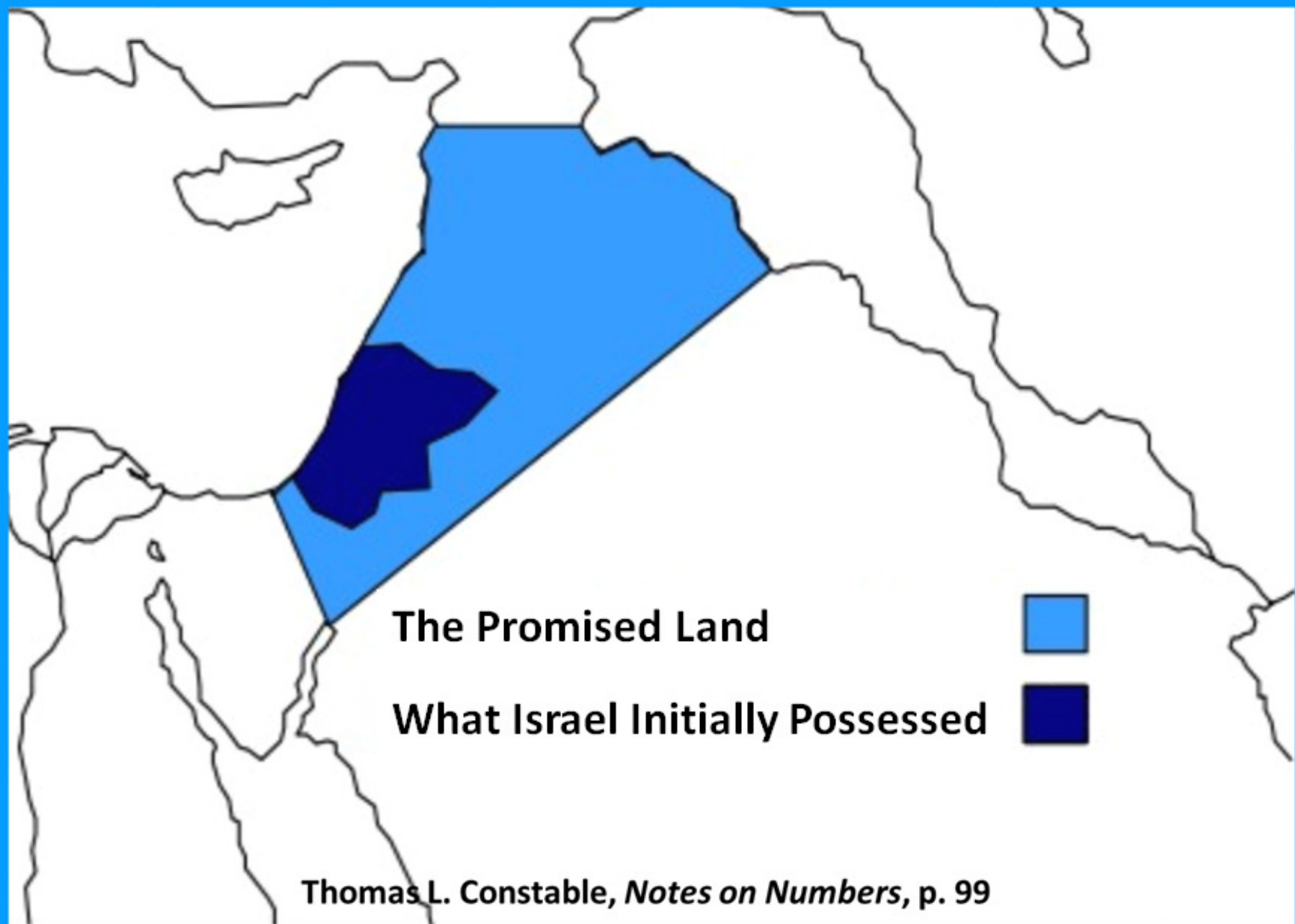
# 4 Kinds of People from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3



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## Hebrews 10:12-13

“<sup>12</sup> but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time onward UNTIL [heos] HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET.”



# Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary

Earl Radmacher, Ronald Allen, and H. Wayne House, eds., Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1999), 1202.

“All authority has been given to Jesus, although He is not yet exercising all of it (Phil. 2:9–11; Heb. 2:5–9; 10:12, 13; Rev. 3:21). He will manifest this power when He returns in all His glory (Matt. 19:28; 1 Cor. 15:27, 28; Eph. 1:10).”



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## Isaiah 2:2-3

“Now 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.”



## Zechariah 14:16-18

“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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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.”

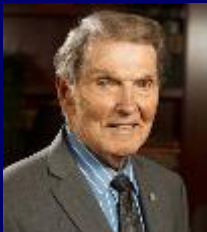


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## Tim LaHaye Prophecy Study Bible

Tim LaHaye, ed. Tim LaHaye Prophecy Study Bible (Chattanooga: AMG, 2001), 1163. Illustrated Bible Commentary (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1999), 1202.

“Instead of sending His disciples back to the house of Israel, they were sent into all the world.”



# M. All Authority Has Been Given to Me

(Matthew 28:18-20)

- 1) “Kingdom” (*basilea*) is absent
- 2) Present age = no kingdom conditions
- 3) OT kingdom definition changed
- 4) Granted authority vs. exercising authority
- 5) Christ's limited authority is explained
- 6) The kingdom headquartered in Jerusalem

CONCLUSION

# 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





# 1. Passages from Christ's ministry

- a. The kingdom is at hand (Matt. 3:2)
- b. Theirs is the kingdom (Matt. 5:3, 10)
- c. Thy kingdom come (Matt. 6:9-13)
- d. Seek first the kingdom (Matt. 6:33)
- e. The kingdom suffers violence (Matt. 11:12)
- f. Satan falls like lightning (Luke 10:18)
- g. The kingdom has come upon you (Matt. 12:28)



# 1. Passages from Christ's ministry

- h. The kingdom is in your midst (Luke 17:21)
- i. Born again to enter the kingdom (John 3:3-5)
- j. No death until kingdom comes (Matt. 16:28)
- k. Kingdom given to another people (Matt. 21:43)
- l. Kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36)
- m. All authority given to me (Matt 28:18-20)