

# 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 19



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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?



# 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







### 3. Passages from Paul's Writings

- a. Walk worthy of the kingdom (1 Thess. 2:12)
- b. Kingdom power (1 Cor. 4:20)
- c. He must reign until... (1 Cor. 15:23-28)
- d. Kingdom is not eating & drinking (Rom. 14:17)**
- e. King of Kings & Lord of Lords (1 Tim. 6:15)
- f. Transferred into the Kingdom (Col 1:13)
- g. Fellow workers for the Kingdom (Col. 4:11)

## Romans 14:17

“for the kingdom of God is [estin] not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”



# Two Issues

(Romans 14:17)

- A. The kingdom is spiritual only and not earthly
- B. The kingdom is a present reality





## George Eldon Ladd

George Ladd, *The Gospel of the Kingdom* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959), 16–18.

**“The Word of God does say that the Kingdom of God is a present spiritual reality.** ‘For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit’ (Rom. 14:17). Righteousness and peace and joy are fruits of the Spirit which God bestows now upon those who yield their lives to the rule of the Spirit. They have to do with the deepest springs of the spiritual life, and this, says the inspired apostle, is the Kingdom of God. . . . **The Kingdom is a present reality.** . . . It is an inner spiritual redemptive blessing (Rom. 14:17) which can be experienced only by way of the new birth.”

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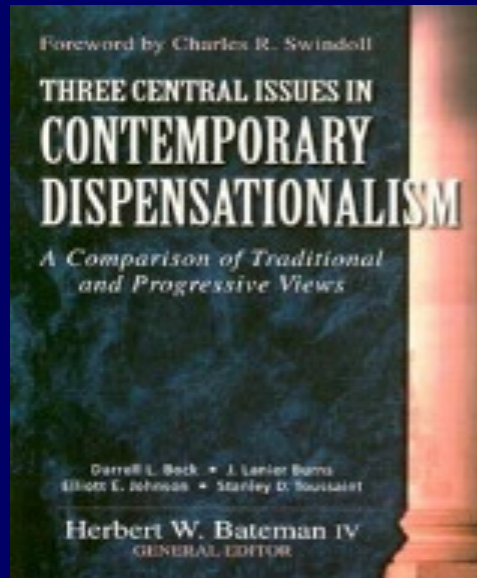




# Stanley D. Toussaint

“Israel and the Church of a Traditional Dispensationalist,” in *Three Central Issues in Contemporary Dispensationalism*, ed. Herbert W. Bateman (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1999), 246.

“It was common for the Jews to say ‘not . . . but’ and simply mean that the emphasis is not this but that.”



## Matthew 8:11

“I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline *at the table* with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.”





## Matthew 26:29

“But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”



## Hosea 6:6

“For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice,  
And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt  
offerings.”



## Matthew 6:19-20

“<sup>19</sup> Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal.”





## 1 Peter 3:3-4

“<sup>3</sup> Your adornment must not be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; <sup>4</sup> but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.”



# 1 Corinthians 4:20

“For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.”



## Zechariah 8:23

Thus says the LORD of hosts, “In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”





## Zephaniah 3:9

“For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.”





## Romans 14:17

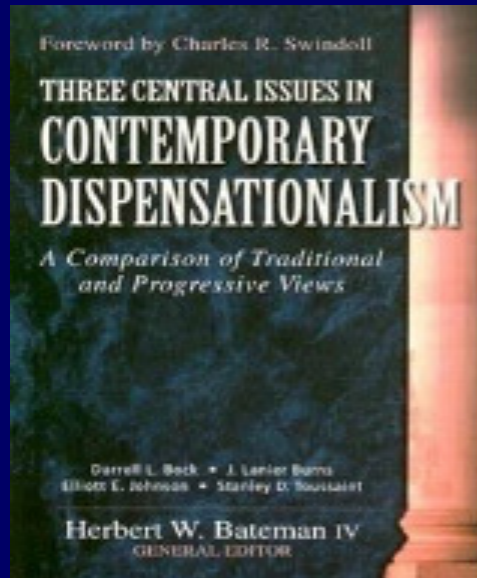
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## 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

“<sup>42</sup> So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; <sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; <sup>44</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is [estin] a natural body, there is [estin] also a spiritual body.”



## Romans 14:10-12

“<sup>10</sup> But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup> For it is written, ‘AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.’ <sup>12</sup> So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.”



## Ephesians 2:6

“and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus.”





## Philippians 3:20

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”



## 2 Peter 3:10-11

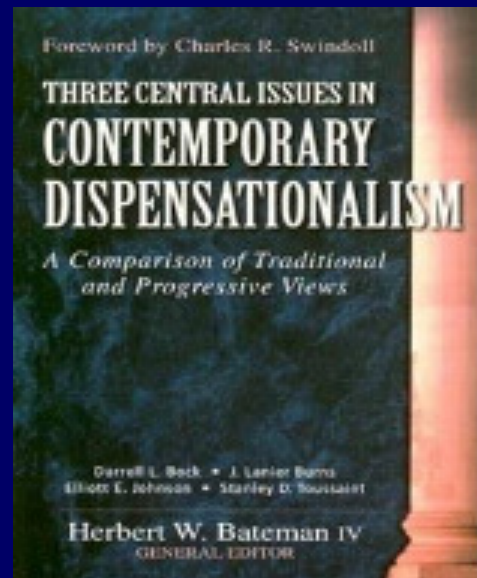
“<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness.”



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“In that coming kingdom the emphasis will not be on food but on spiritual realities. If that will be true in the future, the Christian’s present conduct should reflect it. The future does influence the present (cf. 2 Peter 3:11).”





## 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), 434.

“The thought here fits a *future* Kingdom better than a present one. For surely in the present life no one can deny the importance of meat and drink; but so far as the Church is concerned in the future kingdom these things will be of no consequence. Therefore since the church is to reign in the Kingdom, its members should not judge or grieve one another in such matters here and now (cf. vss. 13–21). All disputes of this nature should be left for the ‘judgment seat of Christ,’ which will inaugurate His Kingdom upon the earth (vs. 10).”



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- g. Fellow workers for the Kingdom (Col. 4:11)

## 1 Timothy 6:15

“which He will bring about at the proper time—  
He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the  
King of kings and Lord of lords.”





# Two Issues

(1 Timothy 6:15)

A. Career of David

B. Context of 1 Timothy 6:15



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## 1 Samuel 16:13-14

“<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.  
<sup>14</sup> Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.”



## Parallels

## Davidic

## Jesus

**Anointing:**

**1 Sam. 16**

**Acts 2:33-35**

**Inauguration:**

**2 Sam. 5**

**Matt. 25:31**

**Usurper:**

**Saul**

**Satan**

**Interim:**

**1 Sam. 24; 26**

**1 John 5:19**

**Choice (sight v. faith):**

**Saul v. David**

**Satan v. Jesus**

**Majority v. Minority**

**David's Men  
(*giborim*)**

**Matt. 7:13-14**



# Satan as Ruler of this World

- Job 1:7; 2:2
- Luke 4:5-7
- John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11
- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- Ephesians 2:2
- 1 John 4:4; 5:19





# 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)

## Psalm 2:8-9

“<sup>8</sup> **Ask of Me**, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession. <sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.”



## Psalm 110:1-2

“<sup>1</sup> The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at My right hand **Until** I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.’  
<sup>2</sup> The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from **Zion**, saying, **‘Rule in the midst of Your enemies.’**”





## Hebrews 2:8-9

“<sup>8</sup> YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.”  
For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. <sup>9</sup> But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely*, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”



# Two Issues

(1 Timothy 6:15)

A. Career of David

B. Context of 1 Timothy 6:15



## 1 Timothy 6:14-15

“<sup>14</sup> that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.”



CONCLUSION





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