

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

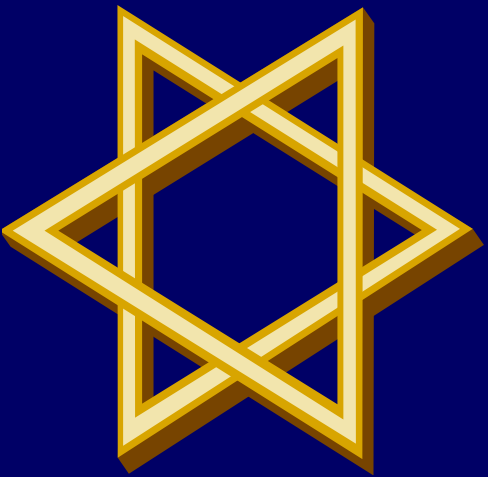
Chapter 11



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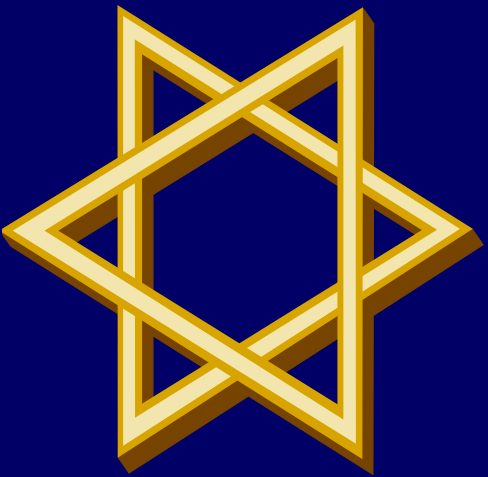
Kingdom Study Outline



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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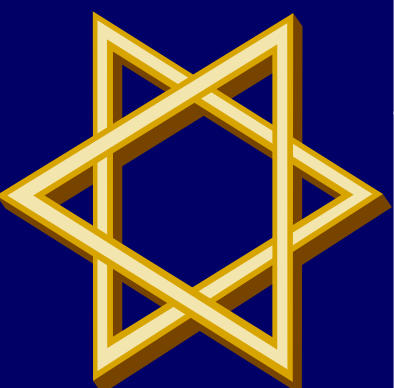


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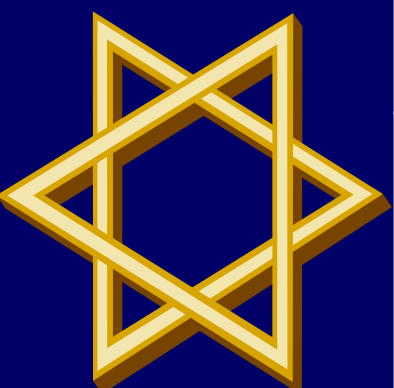
1. Kingdom Throughout the Bible

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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 |



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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)



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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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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)

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 (*joining, uniting, identifying*) 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)

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4. Church ≠ Kingdom

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

4. Church ≠ Kingdom

7. Church suffers today (John 16:33)
8. Satanic influence on the Church (Ephes. 4:26-27)
9. The Times of the Gentiles continue
10. NT kingdom references predominantly future
11. Jesus Christ is never said to be ruling from David's Throne now
12. Kingdom miracles (Isa. 35:5-6) are absent today (2 Tim. 4:20)
13. Kingdom prosperity (Amos 9:11-15) is absent today (Acts 11:28)

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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.”



Matthew 23:37-39

“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	Birtherd Christ	Birtherd 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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Wars	Political	Spiritual
Timing	A quo / ad quem	No time indicators
Priesthood	Have a priesthood	Are a priesthood
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Resurrection	1st resurrection	Rapture
Judgment	Earthly (Ezek. 20:33-44)	Heavenly (Bema)
New Jerusalem	Gates	Foundations
Entrance	Physical birth	Spiritual birth

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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Genesis 12:3

“And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”



Isaiah 42:6

“I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness,
I will also hold You by the hand and watch over
You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the
people, As a light to the nations.”



Isaiah 49:6

He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”



Isaiah 2:1-4

“The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.² 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.³ And many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the...



Isaiah 2:1-4

...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.⁴ And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.”



Zechariah 14:16-18 (NASB)

“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.**”



Matthew 13:3

“And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow.”



The Prophetic Parables of Matthew Thirteen - A. W. Pink

“The words *‘went forth to sow,’* or as Mark’s Gospel puts it *‘went out’* were indicative of the **great dispensational change** which was soon to be introduced. There was no longer to be a planting of vines or fig-trees in Israel, but a going out of the mercy of God unto the Gentiles; therefore what we have here is the *broadcast sowing* of the Seed in the field at large, for as verse 38 tells us *‘the field is the world.’*”

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”



Mark 16:15

“Go into all the world and preach
the gospel to all creation.”



Acts 1:8

“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”



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Ephesians 1:3

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”



Revelation 2:9

“I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”



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Matthew 3:9

“and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.”



Romans 2:28-29

“²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.”



Romans 9:6

“But *it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel.*”



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Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸“It will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD, “That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it.” ⁹“And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”



1 Corinthians 12:13

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”



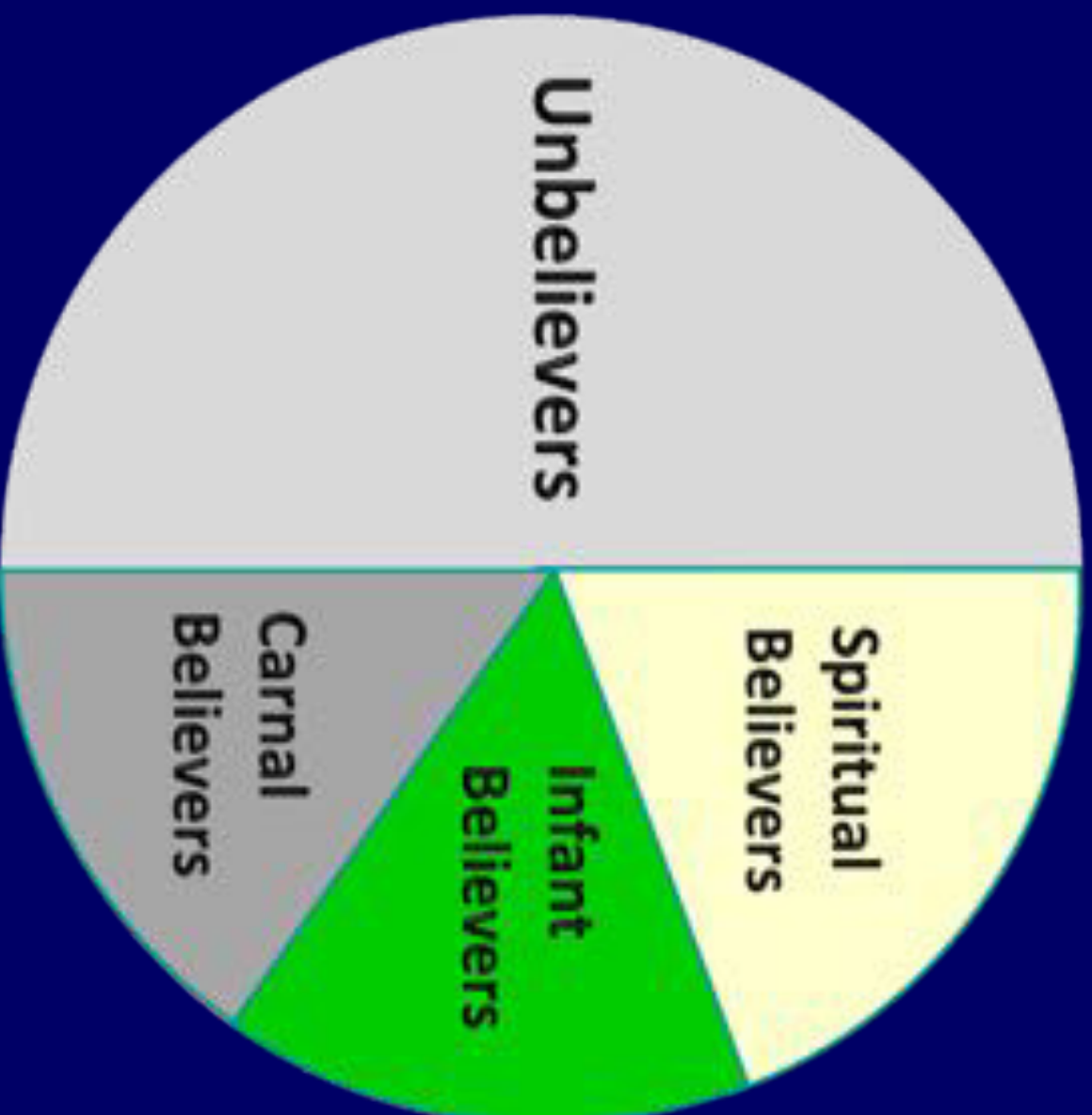
1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

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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Ephesians 3:10

“so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.”

The
Wisdom
of God





Conclusion

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