

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 20



Dr. Andy Woods

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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?



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





4-5 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)

Revelation 1:6

“and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”



Two Rules of Interpretation



- Search the immediate context
 - ◆ Walvoord: 26X
- Search the remote context
 - ◆ Old Testament
 - ◆ Thomas: 278 / 404 verses

CAST OF 3 CHARACTERS

Revelation 12:1-5

1. SON = MESSIAH

– *Ps. 2:9; Acts 1:9*

2. DRAGON = SATAN

– *Rev. 12:9; 20:2*

3. WOMAN = ISRAEL

– *Gen. 37:9-10*

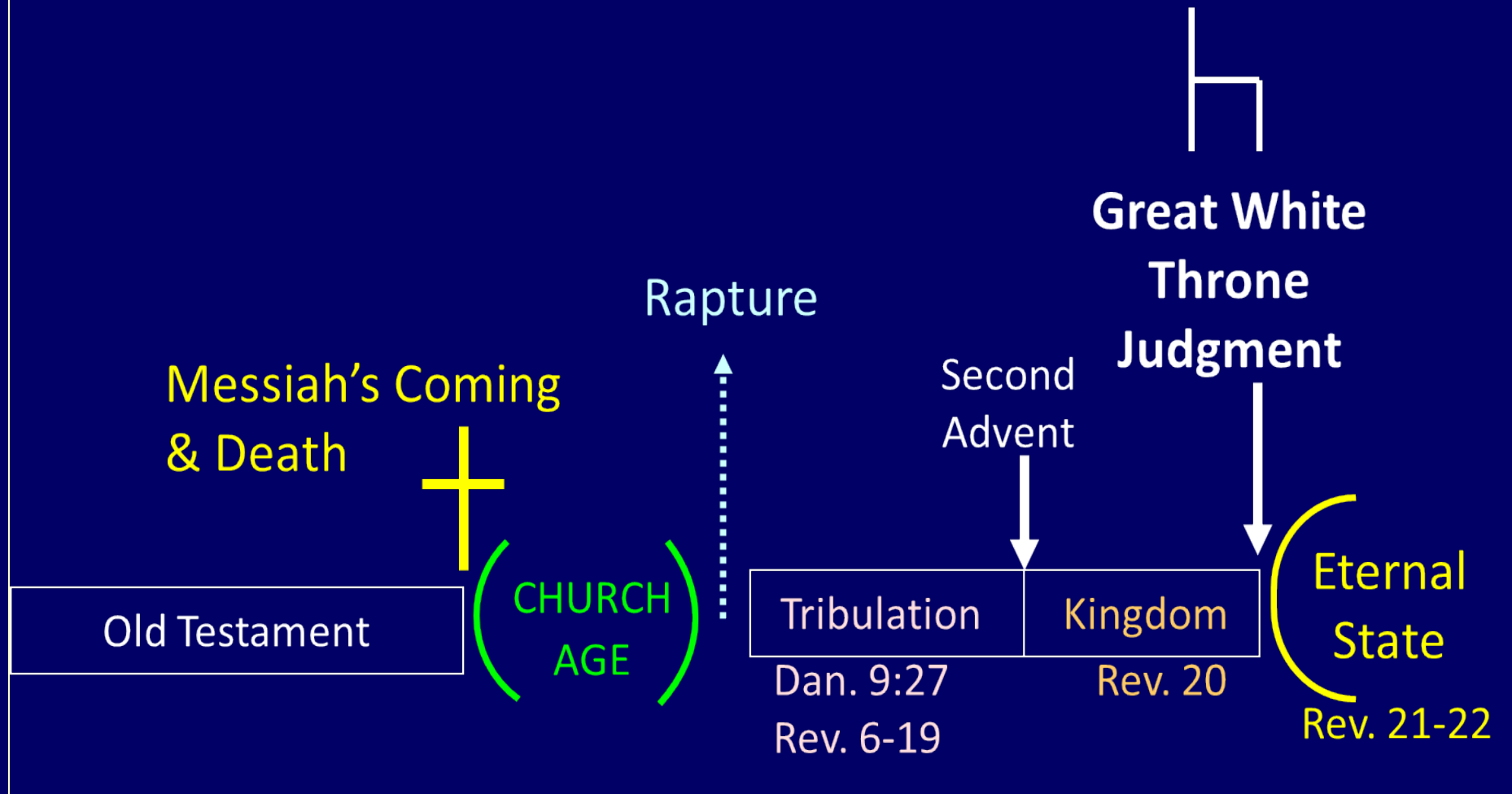


Revelation 5:10

“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign [basileuō] upon the earth [gē].”



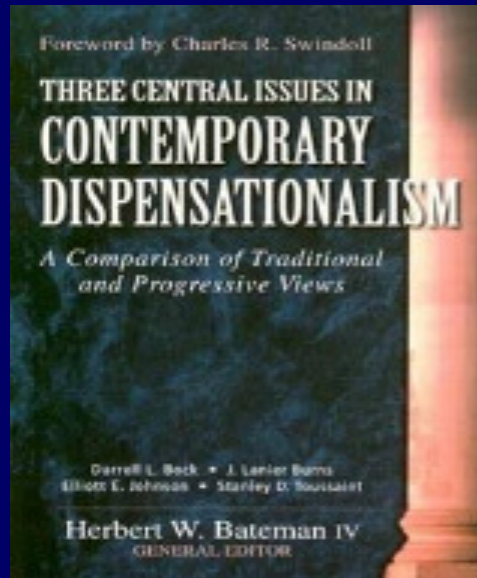
Prophecy Panorama



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.

“The explanation of this verse [Rev. 1:6] is found in 5:10 (NASB), which anticipates the future reign of believers with Christ.”





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Revelation 1:9

“I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom [*basileia*] and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”



Revelation 5:10

“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign [basileuō] upon the earth [gē].”

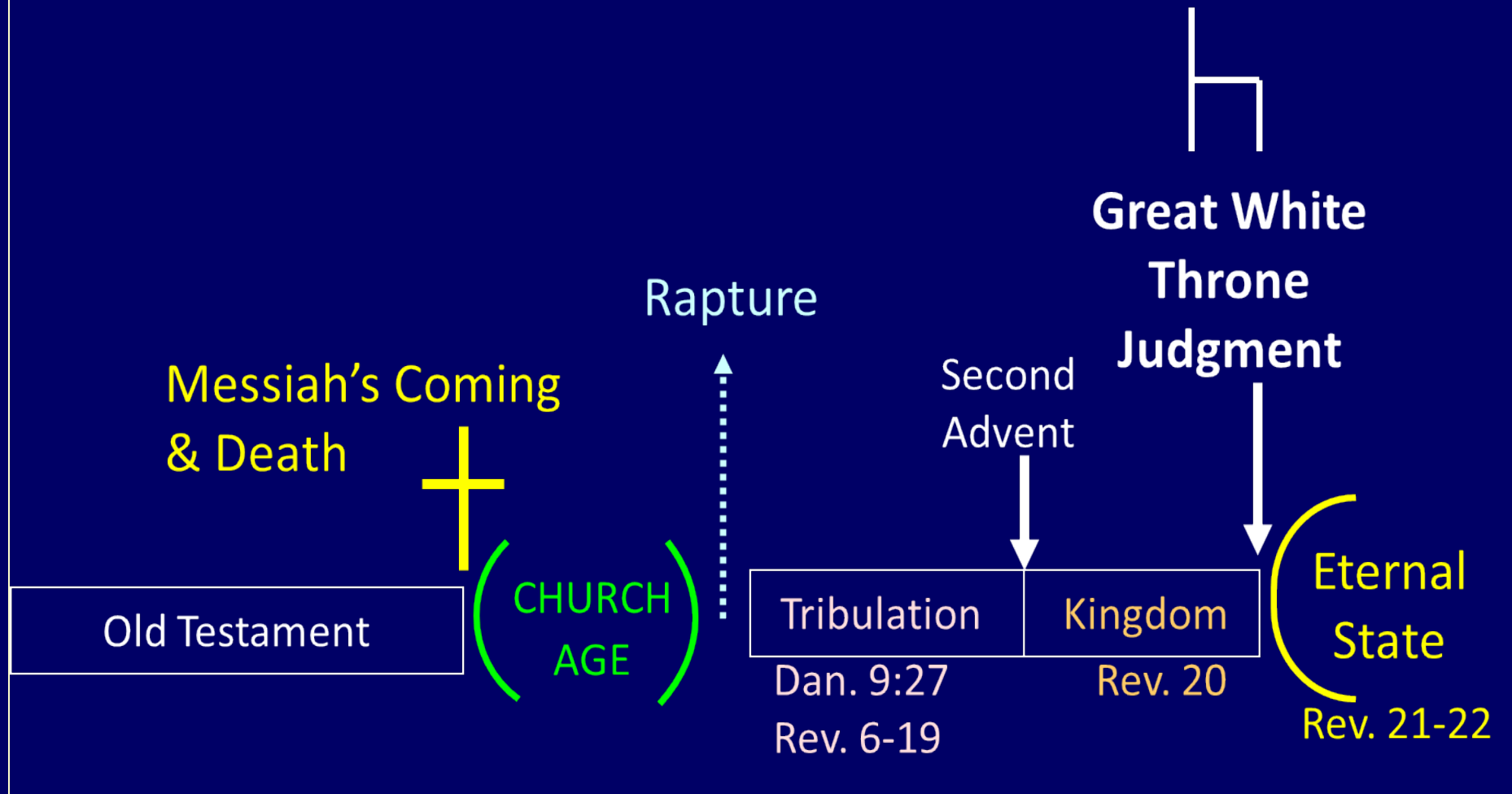


Revelation 11:15

“Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.’”

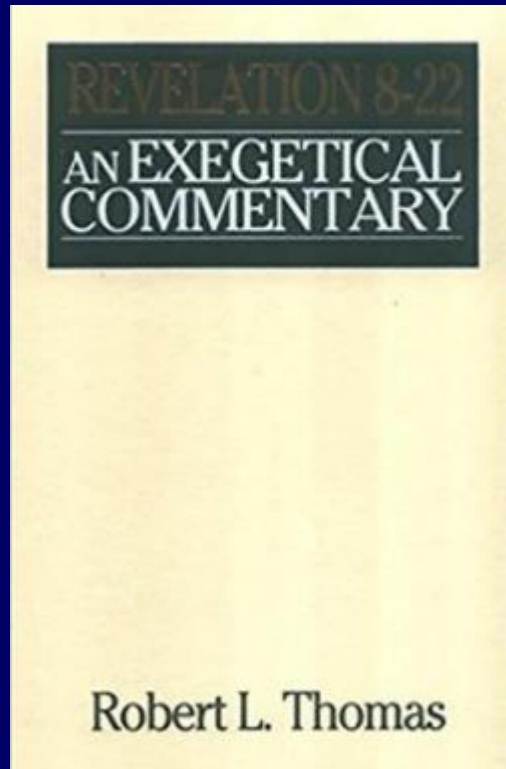


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Dr. Robert Thomas

Revelation 1 to 7: An Exegetical Commentary
(Chicago: Moody Press, 1992), 87.



Dr. Robert Thomas observes that, "Little difference of opinion exists over the meaning of *basileia* [kingdom] in 1:9. It is the millennial kingdom described more fully in Revelation 20."



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Revelation 3:7

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this.”



Revelation 3:7 in Progressive Dispensationalism

“The rule is extended from the Father to the disciple through the Son, the one who in Revelation 3:7 says he has ‘the key of David.’ . . . Here Jesus refers to himself as ‘the one who has the key of David,’ a phrase that contains a present participle . . . ‘the one who has.’ This is currently held Davidic authority.”

Three Responses to “Kingdom Now” Theology’s Use of Rev. 3:7

1. A key merely grants the right of future admission rather than present entrance
2. Jesus’ heavenly position (Rev. 3:21) disproves a present Davidic enthronement
3. The active presence of the church’s enemies (Rev. 3:9) disproves a present Davidic enthronement



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Isaiah 22:22

“Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder, When he opens no one will shut”



Matthew 16:19

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”



Philippians 3:20

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





Revelation 3:8-12

“⁸ ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. ⁹ Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.”





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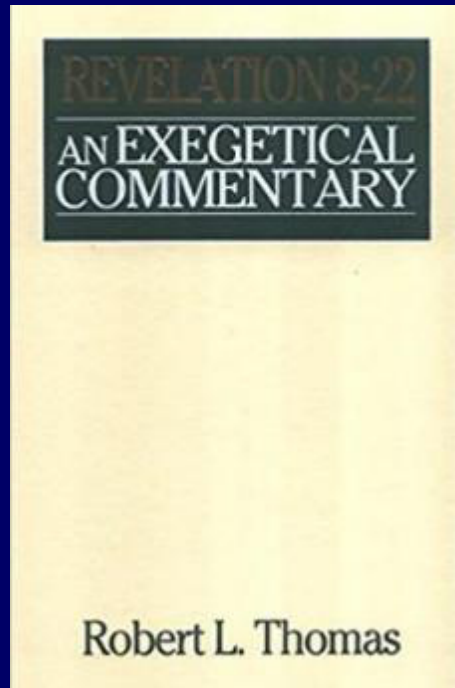
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Dr. Robert Thomas

Revelation 1 to 7: An Exegetical Commentary
(Chicago: Moody Press, 1992), 87.



Dr. Robert Thomas observes that, "As the root and offspring of David (cf. Rev. 5:5; 22:16), Christ in the fullest sense controls the entrance to David's house, which *ultimately* refers to the Messianic kingdom. . . . He is the genuine Messiah, and in the *coming* reign of glory His power to open the door to His own and close it to the self-styled 'children of the kingdom' is established (*italics added*)."

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Rev 3:21

“He who overcomes, I will grant [future tense of *didōmi*] to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down [aorist tense of *kathizō*] with My Father on His throne.”

TWO THRONES



2 Samuel 7:12-16

“When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”
¹⁷ In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.”





John F. Walvoord

Israel in Prophecy (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1962), 84-85, 87.

“The covenant with David is not only given twice in its major content— namely, II Samuel 7 and I Chronicles 17—but it is also confirmed in Psalms 89. In this and other Old Testament references there is no allusion anywhere to the idea that these promises are to be understood in a spiritualized sense as referring to the church or to a reign of God in heaven. Rather, it is linked to the earth and to the seed of Israel, and to the land...There is no indication that this kingdom extended to a spiritual entity such as the church nor that the throne in view is the throne of God in heaven rather than the throne of David on earth...Such a situation does not prevail in this present age and is not related here or elsewhere to the reign of Christ from the throne of His Father in heaven.”

Psalm 2:6-9

⁶“But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.” ⁷ “I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’ ⁸ ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. ⁹ ‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’”



Isaiah 11:4

⁴ “But with righteousness He will judge the poor,
And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the
earth. And He will strike the earth with the rod
of His mouth.”



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Psalm 110:1-2, 5-6

“¹The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”
² The Lord will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, “Rule in the midst of Your enemies.” ...⁵
The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. ⁶ He will judge among the nations, He will fill them with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country.”





Revelation 3:8-12

“⁸ ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. ⁹ Behold, I will cause those of the **synagogue of Satan**, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.”





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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.’”



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.”

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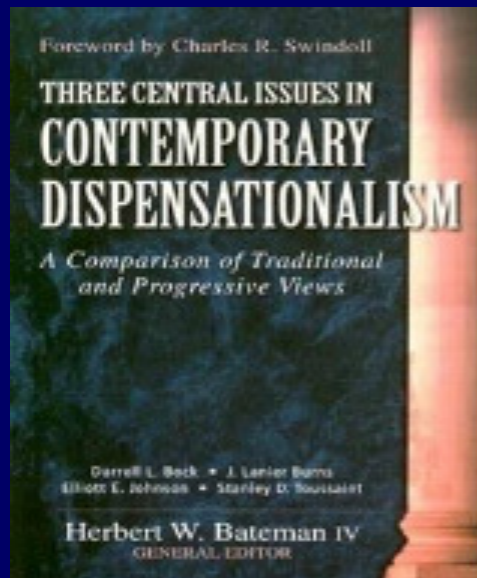
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“Israel and the Church of a Traditional Dispensationalist,” in *Three Central Issues in Contemporary Dispensationalism*, ed. Herbert W. Bateman (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1999), 248.

“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.”



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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



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)



CANAAN

GOSHEN

SINAI

MIDIAN

Mediterranean Sea

Dead Sea

Way to the Land of the Philistines

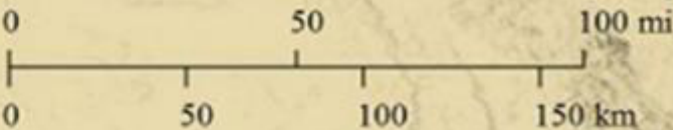
WILDERNESS OF ZIN

WILDERNESS OF SHUR

WILDERNESS OF PARAN

WILDERNESS OF SIN

Mount Sinai? (Jebel Musa)



EGYPT

Nile River

Red Sea

Red Sea

Satan is a Defeated Foe

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



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)



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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)

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The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11







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.”



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.”





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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!’”



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.”



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

