

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



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

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| 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	Birthed Christ	Birthed by Christ
Return	2nd advent	Rapture
Leader	King	Head, Groom
Beginning	Gen 12	Acts 2
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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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Work of the Spirit in the OT vs. Church Age

	OT/Gospels	Today
Reception of all of the Spirit at the moment of salvation?	Subsequent to salvation (Exod 31:3)	At moment of salvation (Rom 8:9)
How long is the indwelling?	Temporary indwelling (1 Sam 16:14; Ps 51:11)	Permanent indwelling (John 14:16)
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Romans 8:9

“However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”



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John 14:16-17

“¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”

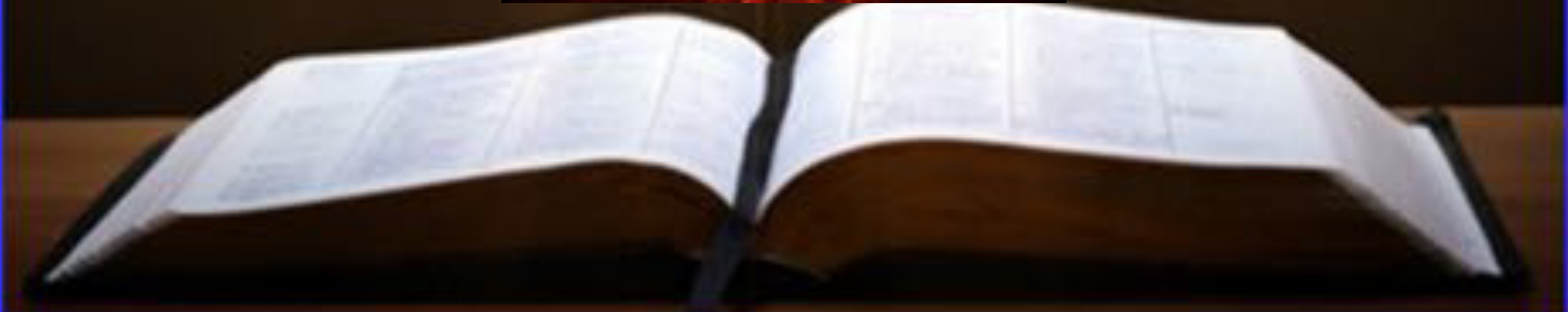


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1 Corinthians 12:13

“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.”



Work of the Spirit in the OT & Gospels

- Pattern of Holy Spirit's present work is not found in the OT or Gospels
 - ◆ John 7:37-39
 - ◆ John 14:16-17
 - ◆ Acts 1:5

John 7:37-39

“³⁷ Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ But this He spoke of **the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given***, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”



John 14:16-17

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Acts 1:5

“⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”



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Discourse

	OLIVET	UPPER ROOM
SCRIPTURE	Matt 24–25	John 13–17
LOCATION	Mount of Olives	Upper Room
PASSION WEEK	Third day	Sixth day
GENERAL FOCUS	Farewell: Israel	Hello: Church
SPECIFIC FOCUS	Israel's future	Divine provisions
PROMPTING	Temple's destruction	Christ's imminent departure
EXPLANATIONS	Written OT	Unwritten NT

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Exodus 4:22

“Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD, ‘Israel is My son, My firstborn.’”



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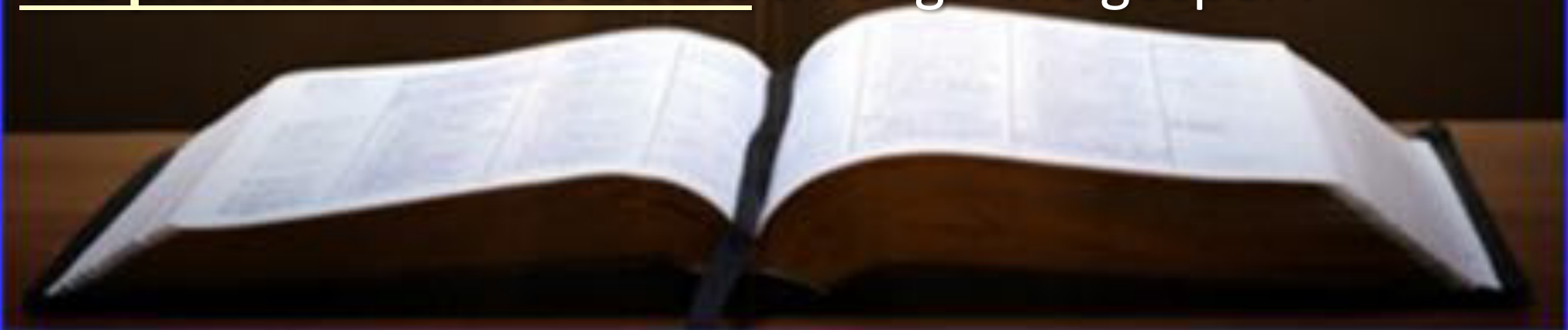
Matthew 16:18

I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build [*oikodomeō*] My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.



Ephesians 3:3-6

“³that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. ⁴By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶ to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel”.



Ephesians 3:9

“and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things.”



“Mystery” Defined

“In the N.T, it [*mystērion*] denotes, not the mysterious (as with the Eng. word), but that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those who are illumined by His Spirit.”

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of the Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Nelson, 1996), 424.

Colossians 1:26

“*that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His.”



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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.”



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.*’”

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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



Conclusion

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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
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