

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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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

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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)

Acts 15:14 (NASB)

Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.



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4. Church ≠ Kingdom

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

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Universal Church Word Pictures

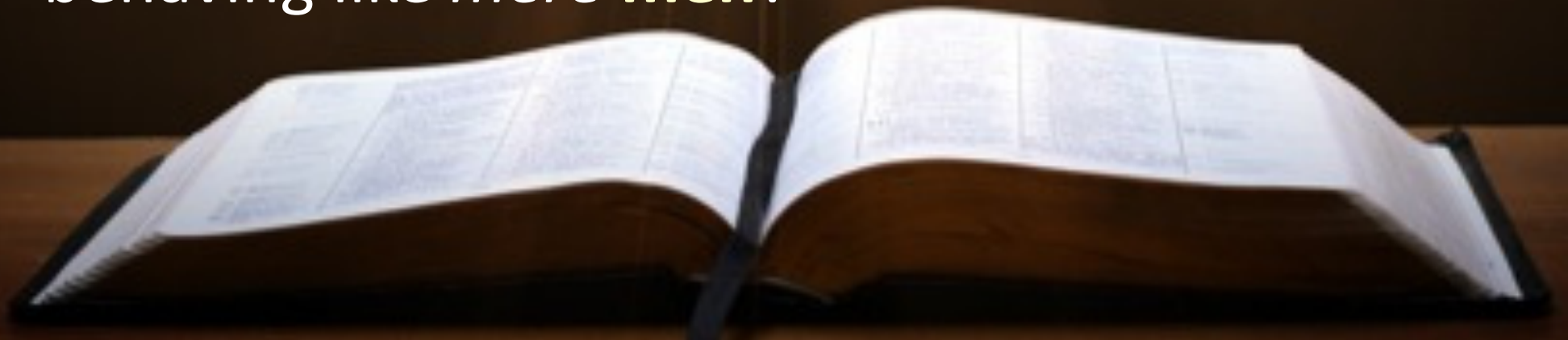
- Shepherd/sheep-John 10:16; Acts 20:28; Heb 13:20; 1 Pet 5:2-4
- Head/body-Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:12-13; Eph 1:22-23
- Bride/groom-Eph 5:22-31; 2 Cor 11:2
- Temple-1 Cor 3:16-17; Eph 2:19-22; Gal 6:10
- High priest/priesthood-Heb 4:14-15; 1 Pet 2:5-9; Rev 1:6
- Pillar of truth-1 Tim 3:15
- Vine and branches-John 15:1-8

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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



The 7 Churches in Revelation

Rev. 1:11



By Gabriel Morris

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Messengers of the Kingdom In Matthew



- John the Baptist – 3:2
- Jesus Christ – 4:17
- 12 Apostles – 10:5-7
- Seventy – Luke 10:1, 9

Toussaint, *Behold the King*, 18-20

Matthew 4:17 (NASB)

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



Matthew 10:5-7 (NASB)

“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**; ⁶ but rather go to the lost sheep of the **house of Israel**. ⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



Acts 16:30-31 (NASB)

³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

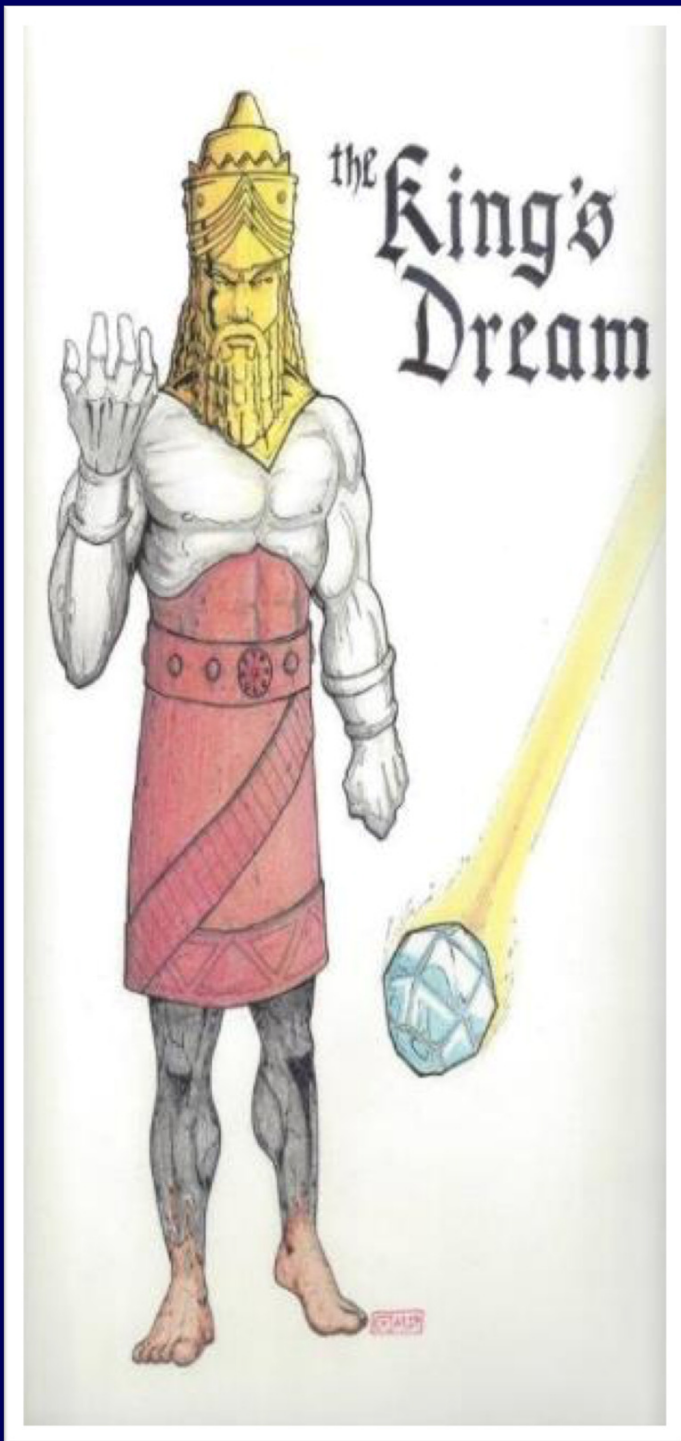


Every Geographical Location in Acts/Epistles



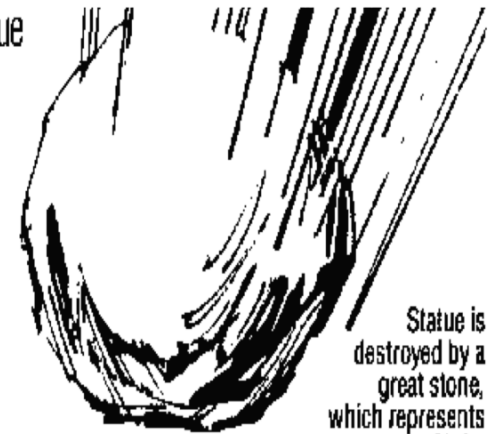
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Statue & Stone

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

WORLD POWER
GREECE
331-323

LEGS AND FEET
IRON & CLAY

WORLD POWER
ROME
322 B.C. — A.D. 476
FUTURE

Progress Reports in Acts

- Clearest: Acts 2:47; 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31
- Less clear: Acts 1:15; 2:41; 4:4, 31; 5:14, 42; 8:25, 40; 11:21; 13:49; 17:6

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

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Revelation 20:1-3 (NASB)

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.”



Satan Uses Believers

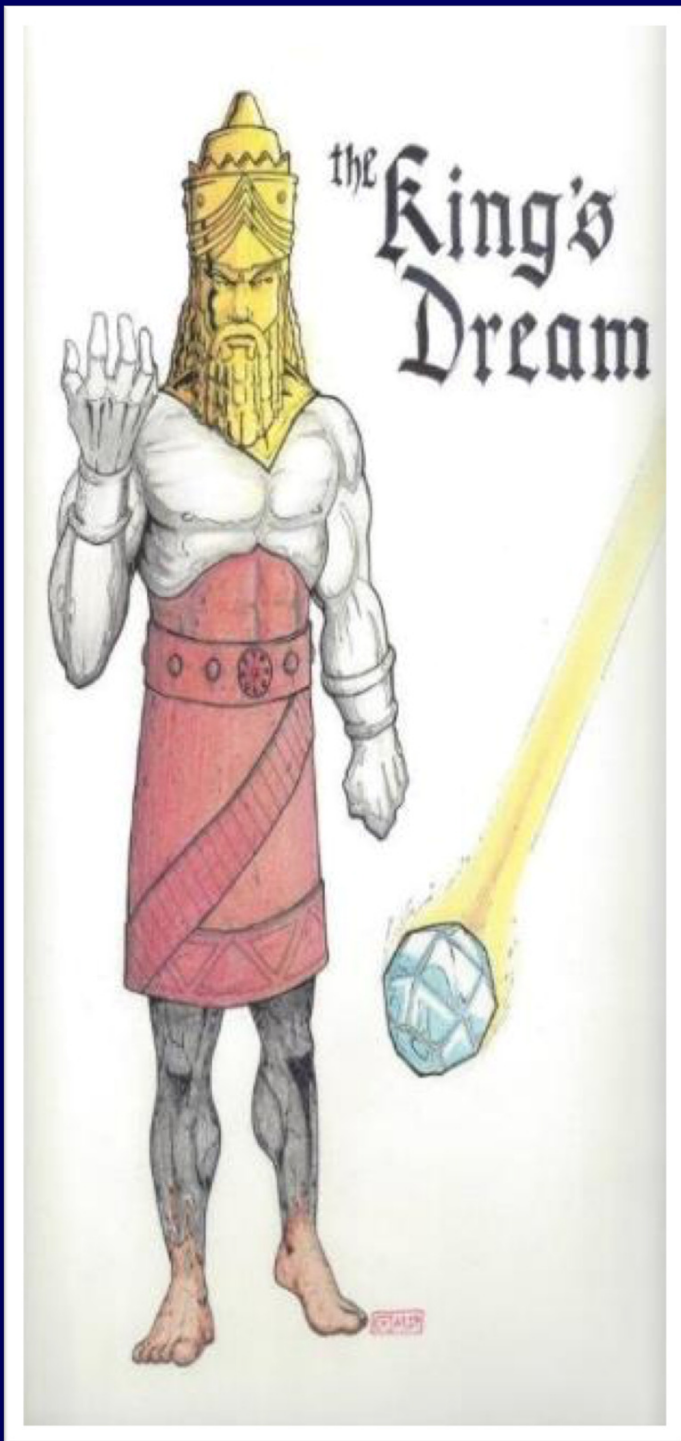


- Peter – Matt. 16:21-23
- Ananias & Sapphira – Acts 5:3-4, 11
- Ephesians – Ephes. 4:26-27



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322 B.C. — A.D. 476
FUTURE



Merill F. Unger

Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament (Chicago: Moody, 1981; reprint, Chatanooga, TN: AMG, 2002), 1643.

“Hence, the iron kingdom with its feet of iron and clay (cf. Dan. 3:33-35, 40, 44) and the nondescript beast of 7:7-8 envision...the form in which it will exist *after the church period*, when God will resume His dealing with the *nation* Israel. How futile for conservative scholars to ignore that fact and to seek to find literal fulfillment of those prophecies in history or in the church, when those predictions refer to events yet future and have no application whatever to the church.”

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Christ's Three Offices

1. Prophet – 1st Coming (Matt. 4:17)
2. Priest – Present Session (Heb. 4:15)
3. King – 2nd Coming (Isa. 9:6-7; Matt. 25:31)



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Order of Paul's Letters

1. Galatians (A.D. 49)
2. 1–2 Thessalonians (A.D. 51)
3. 1–2 Corinthians (A.D. 56)
4. Romans (A.D. 57)
5. Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians (A.D. 60–62)
6. 1 Timothy, Titus (A.D. 62–66)
7. 2 Timothy (A.D. 67)



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