

The Kingdom of God

Lesson # 12

Introduction:

Until this time the Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Greeks, and Romans had ruled the world, but now a kingdom not of this earth (John 18:36) will rule the earth forever. This kingdom is a spiritual kingdom made available through Jesus Christ. However this kingdom cannot be shaken (Heb. 12:28). This kingdom exists inside each of us as we accept the rule of God in our lives (Luke 17:21).

We see the kingdom of God is the fulfillment of Daniel 2:44-45 being the final kingdom of all times. Jesus now sits on the throne of David to rule forever.

In this lesson we will see the kingdom doors opened for all people and we will see the charge for the Apostles to build the church (The bride of Christ).

The New Covenant, for-shadowed in Jer. 31, takes effect in the new kingdom and the Old Covenant is nailed to the cross. Not that the OT is worthless....it has now been fulfilled. We thank the father that we have been ushered into a system of grace and mercy as we live under Christ.

I. Reminder of Old Testament Prophecy

Joel 2:28-32 28 " It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. 29 "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. 30 The Day of the LORD "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. 31 "The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 32 "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

II. Apostolic Instructions (Acts 1:1-11)

A. Go wait in Jerusalem (For Pentecost)

Acts 1:4 "...He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me;"

1. First, for the general pouring fourth of the Holy Spirit for all mankind

Acts 2:38 "Peter said to them, " Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

a. This they everyone receives at baptism, in other words the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16 "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

2. Then secondly, for the Apostles to receive power

Acts 2:1-4 “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.”

B. Apostles (messengers) to receive **power** 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.”

1. Why would they need power?

*Authority given to them

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.”

*For getting the New Church started

*Power was to confirm their message

Mark 16:20 “And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.] [And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.]

2 Corinthians 12:12 “The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.”

Hebrews 2:2-4 “For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”

*So they could remember all things John 16:12 “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.”

*For writing the word of God 2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

*Establishing a pattern to be followed Philippians 3:17 “Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.”

2. Also they served as:

-Witnesses 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.”

-Ambassadors 2 Corinthians 5:20 “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

-Foundations of the church Ephesians 2:20 “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,

C. Was this power one that was passed along to others?

-Yes, Acts 8:18 but could not be passed along any further by the one receiving power from the apostles.

D. How long was this power given by God to last?

-Simply by default until the apostles died.

-This makes sense because:

-Heb 2:3...The word has been confirmed

-The church had been established

-The Word of God was written

*Everything intended by the powerful miracles have been fulfilled.

-Hence, 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 “Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

Matthew 16:4 " An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah." And He left them and went away.

III. The Kingdom door's opened on the day of Pentecost

-Peter was given the keys of the kingdom Matt. 16:17-19

-What do keys do? They open or lock something right?

-When Peter preached that first gospel sermon in Acts 2:14-41, he used the keys given to him to open the Kingdom doors.

-This kingdom has a king and a domain

-The King is Jesus

-His domain is the church

-Church is to be built upon Jesus Matt. 16:17-19

-Church is referred to in New Testament as the Bride of Christ

-Should bear his name

-Acts 4:12 No other name given by which men must be saved

-Bible tells us where two or more are gathered in my name there I will be also. Matt 18:20

-Are you reminded here of the Year of Jubilee?

III. Salvation

-Into New Covenant by circumcision also but one of the heart, (Baptism) Col. 2:11-12

*Steps of faithful obedience to enter into covenant relationship with God.

-Hear Romans 10:17; John 20:30-31

-Believe Romans 1:16; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6

-Conviction Acts 2:37

-Repent and turn to God Acts 17:30; 20:21; Luke 13:3

-Confess Jesus as Lord Matt 10:32; Romans 10:9; 1 Tim. 6:12

-Be baptized Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Col. 2:11-12; 1 Cor 12:13; Mark 16:16; Eph 4:4,5

-Live faithfully 2 Peter 1:1-10; Rev. 2:10

*What actually saves you:

-The atoning blood of Jesus

-Eph 1:7; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Rev 7:14; Gal 3:26-27

*The Result

-You are added to church, folks don't join it Acts 2:47

III. We are charged to follow the Apostolic pattern

-Pattern Phil 3:17; 2 Tim 1:13;

-Devoted to their teaching Acts 2:42

*Why?

-So that the Church that Jesus himself established through his blood would never exist through the opinion, or the culture of any certain day, but that it would continue on only through the inspired word of the apostles as the Holy Spirit gave instruction.

IV. Our running orders from Jesus “The Great Commission”

Matthew 28:18-20 “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."

-Pass it on 2 Timothy 2:2 “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

-We are fruit trees....not oak, elm etc.

-Matt 3:10 says that every tree that doesn't bear fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.