

Today's Sermons

Morning: Some Fatal Mistake About Salvation
Evening: Fellowship: Basis & Limits – Part 3

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FOR THE RECORD

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Offering	\$1631

**THEN PETER SAID TO THEM,
"REPENT, AND LET
EVERY ONE OF YOU
BE BAPTIZED
- IN THE NAME OF -
JESUS CHRIST
FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS;
AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE THE
GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT."
ACTS 2:38**



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WILL JESUS SET UP AN EARTHLY KINGDOM WHEN HE COMES AGAIN?

Roger D. Campbell

Jesus *will* come again. About that, there is no doubt. He personally promised that He would come again (John 14:2,3), and there are a number of New Testament epistles which teach the same truth, including what is written clearly in 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17.

But what about the theory that proposes when our Lord returns, He will establish an earthly kingdom and reign over it? Despite the fact that many of our generation believe in such a notion, the Bible simply does not teach it. What Bible instructions make it clear that the Master will not come on a mission to set up an earthly throne?

First, consider the nature of our Lord's kingdom. Jesus told Pilate, "*My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence*" (John 18:36). It is thus plain that our Lord's kingdom is not an earthly, material kingdom, but rather a spiritual one.

Second, there is the truth that the Christ already established His kingdom in the first century. He predicted

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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am

AM Worship...11:00am

PM Worship:...6:00pm

2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am

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that God’s kingdom would come with power during the lifetime of some of those who heard Him teach (Mark 9:1). That promise was fulfilled on the first Day of Pentecost after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended back to heaven (Acts 2). In Colossians 1:13,14, we read what Paul said God the Father had done with him and the saints at Colosse: *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.”* It is obvious that if God delivered people into Jesus’ kingdom, then His kingdom already existed at that time, right?! Away, then, with the fantasy that the Christ will not establish His kingdom until He comes again!

Third, there is the biblical teaching about Jesus’ role as our High Priest. Christians *“. . . have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God . . .”* (Hebrews 4:14). According to Hebrews 8:4, Jesus cannot serve as priest on the earth: *“For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law.”* Thus, Jesus does not carry out His role as our High Priest on the earth. How does that fact have any bearing on whether or not He will set up an earthly kingdom when He comes again?

There is a marvelous prophecy about the Messiah that is recorded in Zechariah 6:12,13. There it is written, *“Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”*

“The BRANCH” of Zechariah 6:12 is the same as the “righteous Branch” out of David that would reign and prosper as King (Jeremiah 23:5). In both instances, “Branch” refers to the coming Christ. Among other things, Zechariah’s prophecy said that the Christ *“shall be a priest upon his throne.”* Mark it down. Where would Jesus serve as priest? The Bible’s answer is “upon his throne.” What else would He do on His throne? The same Bible verse says that He *“shall sit and rule upon his throne.”* Thus, the Messiah was to be on His throne, and while on His throne, He would be priest and rule (as King).

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“Hell is for two classes of people: those who won't do anything, and those who will do anything!” *(Selected).*

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We may not understand all the details of what will transpire when Jesus comes again. Based on the truths that we have observed in this article, however, we can know for sure that establishing an earthly kingdom is not part of the Christ’s agenda. Remember those few verses, and you will not be confused: John 18:36; Mark 9:1; Colossians 1:13,14; Zechariah 6:12,13; Hebrews 4:14; 8:4.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you” (John 16:7-14).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We will return to scheduled building cleaning on a voluntary basis. We encourage two (or more) families to team up. We will only be cleaning the building every 1st & 3rd Sunday. See sign-up sheet in foyer.
- Dec 3 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- Dec 10 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell