

New Testament Church

Lesson 2

The Kingdom and the Church

Review

- Jesus said, “I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18).
- Church is from the Greek word, ekklesia, and it simply means a gathering, a group, an assembly of people.
- While the word church is used many times to refer to a **local church**, the ONE church which Jesus built is what we sometimes call the **universal church**—universal because it includes the saved all over the world, and the redeemed of all ages.

Review

- Titus 2:14 refers to this church (group of people) as God’s “own special people,” redeemed and purified by the blood of Jesus.
- In the O.T., God’s “own special people” were the Jews who lived in the land of Canaan.
- But this was merely preparation for God’s eternal plan—to create a special body of people from **every nation** on the earth (this is the church Jesus built).

Review

- Prophecies of this church appear throughout the O.T., covering a number of different topics: the time frame for the creation of this special people (“last days”); identification of Messiah/Head/Lord/King; the extent of His dominion; and the blessings, duties, and character of this special body of people.
- What a beautiful thing it is to see these many detailed prophecies perfectly fulfilled in Jesus and His church.

O.T. Prophecies of the Kingdom

- “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a **kingdom** which shall never be destroyed; and the **kingdom** shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever”
(Daniel 2:44).

O.T. Prophecies of the Kingdom

- “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a **kingdom**, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His **kingdom** the one which shall never be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13–14).

O.T. Prophecies of the Kingdom

- “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His **kingdom**, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:6–7).

O.T. Prophecies of the Kingdom

- “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed (descendant) after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish His kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever” (2 Samuel 7:12–13).

Questions About these Prophecies

- Has this kingdom been established?
- Who is reigning as king?
- Over whom does He reign? Or, what is the extent of His dominion?
 - Ephesians 1:20–23.
 - “The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all” (Psalms 103:19).

Questions About these Prophecies

- So if Christ in His kingdom rules over all men, including the lost, can we say that the church and the kingdom are the same in **every respect**?
- The word kingdom often conveys the idea of God's rule through His Son, without any direct reference to people.
 - Matthew 6:33, 9–10.

Kingdom IS sometimes applied to church

- Because the church is composed of those who have submitted to Christ's rule, the term kingdom IS sometimes applied to the church.
 - Matt. 16:18–19; Col. 1:13–14; 1 Thess. 2:12; Heb. 12:18–29.
 - The difference between us and them (among other things) is that we have an inheritance in the kingdom. Eph. 5:5; 1:11, 14; Romans 8:16–17.
- So if the church has been established, so has the kingdom (something which premillennialism denies).

The Establishment of the Kingdom

- The dream Daniel interpreted in Daniel 2 involved the succession of four kingdoms: 1) Babylon; 2) Medo-Persia; 3) Greece; 4) Rome.
- Referring to this fourth empire, Daniel 2:44 says, “And **in the days of these kings** the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...”

The Establishment of the Kingdom

- Both John the Baptist and Jesus preached that the kingdom was at hand (Matthew 3:1–2; 4:17).
- “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power” (Mark 9:1).
- Acts 2:29–36, and its connection with the prophecies we read earlier.
- “He has delivered us from darkness and conveyed us into the light of the Son of His love” (Col. 1:13).