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Joy Of Fulfillment -
Welcome Home:
We Are Living In
The Kingdom
Christ Promised



By Dan Maines

Welcome Home: We Are Living In The Kingdom Christ Promised

Introduction

† For generations, Christians have been told to look toward the future for the Kingdom of God, as though Christ established a promise that His people still haven't entered.

† But the New Testament doesn't describe believers as standing outside the Kingdom waiting for admission. It describes them as already transferred into it, receiving it, serving within it, and reigning with Christ.

† Jesus didn't fail to establish the Kingdom He promised. He received His Kingdom, defeated His enemies, established the New Covenant, and brought His people into a Kingdom that can't be shaken.

† The message of fulfilled prophecy isn't, Keep waiting for the Kingdom. The message is, Welcome home, the King reigns, the Kingdom has come, and we're living in what Christ promised.

† This doesn't mean every person recognizes Christ's authority. It means Christ possesses all authority and His Kingdom is the present covenant reality of His people (Matthew 28:18; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Ephesians 1:20-22).

† We aren't waiting for Jesus to become King. We're living under the reign of the King who has already been enthroned.

Colossians 1:12-13

giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

† Paul didn't say believers would someday be translated into Christ's Kingdom. He said God had already delivered them from the authority of darkness and transferred them into the Kingdom of His Son.

† The language is accomplished, not postponed. Their citizenship had changed because their covenant standing had changed (Philippians 3:20; Ephesians 2:19).

† If first-century Christians were already in Christ's Kingdom, the Kingdom can't be something that has remained entirely future for the last two thousand years.

† Salvation isn't merely rescue from something. It's entrance into something, we've been rescued from darkness and brought under the gracious reign of God's Son (Acts 26:18; Romans 6:14).

† Christians don't need to spend their lives searching the prophetic horizon for a Kingdom God says they've already entered.

Hebrews 12:28

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let's show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

† Hebrews doesn't tell believers to wait thousands of years for an earthly political Kingdom. It says they were receiving a Kingdom that can't be shaken.

† The surrounding context contrasts what could be shaken with what would remain. The old covenant order was being removed while the unshakable Kingdom remained (Hebrews 12:26-27).

† This Kingdom doesn't depend upon earthly governments, geographical borders, military power, temples made with hands, or political control (John 18:36; Acts 17:24).

† That's why the destruction of Jerusalem couldn't destroy Christ's Kingdom. The shaking removed the temporary covenant order, but what God established through Christ remained.

† We're living in that unshakable Kingdom today. Empires rise and fall, nations change, governments collapse, but the reign of Christ continues.

Revelation 1:5-6

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood - and He made us into a kingdom, priests to His God and Father-to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

† Revelation begins by identifying Jesus as the ruler of the kings of the earth. John didn't introduce Jesus as someone waiting to receive authority at the end of human history.

† Christ had already made His people a Kingdom and priests. Their identity wasn't merely a future promise, it was their present standing in Christ (1 Peter 2:5, 9).

† Revelation therefore begins with Kingdom reality before describing the judgments that were soon to take place (Revelation 1:1, 3).

† The King was reigning while the old covenant world

approached judgment. The Kingdom didn't need Jerusalem's earthly throne because Christ's throne was heavenly (Acts 2:30-36; Hebrews 8:1).

† We aren't waiting to become the people of the Kingdom. In Christ, we already belong to the royal priesthood of the Kingdom He established.

Luke 17:20-21

Now He was questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, and He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.

† Jesus directly challenged the expectation that God's Kingdom would arrive as an observable political revolution.

† The Pharisees were looking for something that could be identified through outward political signs, but Jesus explained that God's Kingdom wasn't arriving according to their expectations.

† This is why searching for a modern political nation, rebuilt temple, earthly throne, or future world government misses the nature of the Kingdom Jesus described (John 4:21-24; John 18:36).

† Christ's Kingdom is real without being another earthly empire. His authority is greater than earthly kingdoms precisely because His reign isn't dependent upon them.

† The Kingdom advances through the rule of Christ in His people, not through geographical expansion enforced by human armies (Matthew 28:18-20).

Daniel 7:13-14

I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a son of man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Honor, and a kingdom, So that all the peoples, nations, and populations of all languages Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not

pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

† Daniel's vision shows the Son of Man coming to the Ancient of Days and receiving dominion, glory, and a Kingdom.

† The direction matters. The Son of Man comes to the Ancient of Days. This is enthronement language, pointing to Christ receiving royal authority rather than describing Christ leaving heaven to establish a temporary earthly government (Acts 1:9; Acts 2:33-36).

† Jesus deliberately used Daniel's Son of Man language concerning His authority and vindication (Matthew 26:64).

† Daniel says this Kingdom won't pass away and won't be destroyed. That's the same unshakable Kingdom described in Hebrews (Hebrews 12:28).

† Christ doesn't need another throne. He possesses the everlasting dominion promised by Daniel.

1 Corinthians 15:24-25

then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to our God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

† Paul said Christ must reign until His enemies were placed beneath His feet. The reign wasn't waiting to begin after the enemies were defeated, the reign was the means through which they were being subdued.

† Paul wrote about Christ's reign as an existing reality, not merely as a distant future administration (Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:34-36).

† This destroys the idea that Jesus must someday return to earth before He can begin reigning. The apostles proclaimed an enthroned Christ who was already exercising royal authority.

† Christ's Kingdom isn't evidence that the world has become perfect. His Kingdom means that the rightful King reigns even while His gospel continues reaching people and transforming lives.

† Our confidence isn't based on what governments are doing.

It's based on who occupies the throne.

Hebrews 12:22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

† Notice the words, you have come. Hebrews doesn't say Christians will someday come to Mount Zion and heavenly Jerusalem. They had already approached the spiritual reality represented by those things.

† The destination wasn't another earthly Jerusalem. It was the heavenly Jerusalem, the city associated with the New Covenant and the reign of Christ (Galatians 4:26; Revelation 21:2).

† This means the Christian life isn't a journey toward an unestablished Kingdom. It's life within the covenant reality Christ opened through His blood.

† Jesus is already the mediator of the New Covenant, God's people already belong to heavenly Jerusalem, and the Kingdom they received can't be shaken.

† Welcome home isn't sentimental language. It's covenant language. Through Christ, God's people have been brought home to God.

Historical References

† Josephus described the catastrophic destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70, recording the collapse of the Jewish city and sanctuary after the Roman siege (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Books 5-7).

† That historical destruction is significant because Jesus had connected Jerusalem's approaching desolation with judgment upon that generation (Matthew 23:36-38; Luke 21:20-22, 32).

† Eusebius later recorded the tradition that believers in Jerusalem left the city for Pella before the war, connecting the

early Christian community with the warnings surrounding Jerusalem's approaching destruction (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5).

† These historical witnesses don't establish doctrine, Scripture does. But they confirm that Jerusalem and its temple experienced the first-century catastrophe Jesus had warned His contemporaries about.

† The temple fell, the city fell, and the old covenant center disappeared, but Christ's Kingdom didn't fall. History demonstrated the difference between the kingdom that could be shaken and the Kingdom that couldn't be shaken (Hebrews 12:27-28).

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't wake up every morning waiting for Jesus to become King. We wake up knowing Jesus is King.

† We don't pray as spiritual outsiders hoping someday to become citizens. In Christ, we're already members of God's household and citizens of His Kingdom (Ephesians 2:19; Colossians 1:13).

† We don't need fear-driven prophecy teaching that makes every war, election, earthquake, technological development, or political crisis into evidence that Christ's Kingdom still hasn't arrived.

† Our King isn't nervous about tomorrow. His throne isn't threatened by elections, nations, economies, armies, or world events (Psalm 2:1-6; Hebrews 1:8).

† We can live with joy because the Kingdom isn't hanging in the balance. Christ has already received everlasting dominion.

† We can serve with confidence because we're receiving a Kingdom that can't be shaken.

† We can love people without fear because darkness doesn't possess ultimate authority. Christ does.

† We can preach the gospel with hope because Jesus possesses all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18-20).

† We can stop living like spiritual refugees waiting for God to

build us a home. In Christ, we've come to Mount Zion, heavenly Jerusalem, and the city of the living God.

† The Christian message isn't, Hold on until the Kingdom finally gets here.

† It's, Welcome home.

† The King reigns.

† The New Covenant stands.

† The Kingdom can't be shaken.

† We've been transferred into the Kingdom of God's beloved Son, and we can live today with confidence, purpose, peace, and great joy.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Are Christians still waiting to enter the Kingdom?

A: No. Paul said believers had already been transferred into the Kingdom of God's Son (Colossians 1:13).

Q: Does the Kingdom require Jesus to sit on a physical throne in modern Jerusalem?

A: No. The New Testament presents Christ as already enthroned at God's right hand and reigning over His enemies (Acts 2:33-36; 1 Corinthians 15:25).

Q: Is the Kingdom merely something inside an individual's heart?

A: No. Christ's Kingdom is His real rule and authority. Believers participate in that Kingdom, but His reign extends far beyond an individual's feelings or private spiritual experience (Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 28:18).

Q: If Christ reigns now, why does evil still exist?

A: Christ's reign doesn't mean every person voluntarily submits to Him. It means Jesus possesses supreme authority and His everlasting Kingdom can't be destroyed (Daniel 7:14; Hebrews 12:28).

Q: Where is the Jerusalem that belongs to the New Covenant?

A: Hebrews identifies it as heavenly Jerusalem, and Paul calls Jerusalem above our mother (Hebrews 12:22; Galatians 4:26).

Q: What should fulfilled prophecy produce in Christians today?

A: Confidence, worship, service, peace, and joy. We've received a Kingdom that can't be shaken, so we're called to serve God with gratitude (Hebrews 12:28).

Q: What is the message Christians should hear about Christ's Kingdom?

A: Welcome home. Christ reigns, His New Covenant Kingdom stands, and believers have already been transferred into the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:5-6).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Colossians 1:12-13; Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 1:5-6; Luke 17:20-21; Daniel 7:13-14; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25; Hebrews 12:22-24

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Books 5-7; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5

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