

MESSIAH'S THRONE HAS TO BE IN HEAVEN

HE REIGNS NOW

Before Acts 2, the kingdom is always spoken of as being in the future. Afterwards it is spoken of as being here now:-

Ephesians 1:20-23 - "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised Him from the dead, and set Him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come."

Colossians 1:13 - "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."

1 Corinthians 15:25 - "... he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."

THE KINGDOM OF DANIEL 2, HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED

We saw that the kingdom is here and the Lord Jesus is reigning over it now, and, when he returns, it is to hand over the kingdom to God the Father. So he is not coming to establish his kingdom but to relinquish his kingdom.

1 Corinthians 15:20 - "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom of God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all things under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."

THE KINGDOM HAD TO BEGIN AT THE TIME OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the image which depicted the kingdom of God coming after four other kingdoms (Daniel 2:28-45.) The head of gold depicted the *first* kingdom Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, Babylonia, (Daniel 2:38.) The *second* (silver chest and arms) was the Medo-Persia kingdom. To Nebuchadnezzar's son, Belshazzar, Daniel said, "PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." Daniel (5:28.) Darius the Mede sacked Babylon. The *third* kingdom (belly and thighs of brass) was the Greek empire. Daniel told Belshazzar

“The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.” (Daniel 8:20-21.) The first king was Alexander. The Roman empire succeeded the Greek and so is the *fourth* kingdom (the legs of iron and feet of iron and clay). The kingdom of God had to be established when the Romans were in power: **“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever”** (Daniel 2:44). They were in power when Christ came (Luke 3:1). The Roman empire has long since disintegrated.

Passages from the book “Revelation” are used as proof text by protagonists of the theory that the Lord Jesus is yet to return to earth to set up his kingdom even though the Apostle John considered himself, at the time he wrote the book, to be in the Lord’s kingdom.

Revelation 1:9 - **“I John, who also am your brother, and companion ... in the kingdom...”**

CHRIST IS ON DAVID'S THRONE NOW!

HIS THRONE CANNOT BE ON EARTH

The Lord Jesus descended from Jeconias.

The last official king of Judah was wicked Coniah, also known in the Old Testament as Jehoiachin, rendered in the Septuagint as “Jeconias” as in Matt 1.12 A.V.

The Lord Jesus descended from Coniah (Matthew 1:12). No descendant of Coniah could reign on David’s throne in Jerusalem. (See “The Curse of Jeconias” <http://members.aol.com/zpaynel/>)

Jeremiah 22:28-30 - **“Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not? O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.”**

The Lord Jesus is both king and priest at the same time.

Zechariah 6:12-13 - **“And speak unto him, saying, 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 priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”**

He is our priest now in heaven

Hebrews 4:14-15 - **“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”**

He cannot be a priest on the earth.

Hebrews 8:4 - **“For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law...”**

Since he cannot be a priest on earth, he cannot be a king whilst on the earth.

HIS THRONE IS IN HEAVEN

Psalm 89-2 "For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. 3 I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, 4 Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah. 34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. 35 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. 36 His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. 37 It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven."

Verse 37 says that it is established in heaven. David's seed would sit forever on David's throne in heaven.

Acts 2-30 "Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul as not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32 This Jesus God hath raised up..."

Peter applied this to the resurrection of Christ. Having been raised from death began to reign upon his ascension to heaven. It will not be in the future on the earth.

THE NATURE OF THE KINGDOM

Part of the problem is men's misunderstanding of the nature of the kingdom.

When James and John demanded justice on the Samaritans, because they had snubbed the Lord and his disciples, the Lord Jesus rebuked them for having the wrong spirit:-

Luke 9:55 - "... he ... rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of."

(Would those "christians" who want Bin Laden to be "taken out" have wanted Saul of Tarsus "taken out"?)

The Lord Jesus insisted that his would be a *spiritual* kingdom:-

John 18:36 "Jesus answered, 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".

If we forget the nature of the kingdom we will have difficulty - both theologically and spiritually.

FOOTNOTE:-

Some people make a distinction between the throne of David, the throne of Solomon, and the throne of the Lord. These concepts are used interchangeably in 1. Chronicles 29:23:-

"Then Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord as king instead of David his father..."

ALLAN ASHURST

THE BIBLE

No book in the world compares with the Bible. It is unique. It is, quite simply, a revelation from God. I try to read it daily. To me, it is food and drink for a hungry and thirsty soul. Without it I would die. Therefore, I want to tell you a great deal about this