

# THE KINGDOM'S ESTABLISHMENT (1)

By Keith Greer

In today's religious world, no subject is more misunderstood than the truth concerning the **KINGDOM OF GOD**. Before He created the world, God fashioned a plan to save His creation. There now exists in heaven an everlasting kingdom where the Lord Jesus is reigning at His Father's right hand. There, He is awaiting the time when He will redeem the faithful and bring them to be with Him forever. Let us discuss the kingdom, which was established on earth, over which Christ reigns, and of which we can be citizens. Regarding this kingdom, we need to be aware of two important points – when and where it was established. Why? Many religious people believe and teach that the kingdom is a future entity. They believe it will be established on the earth, and that the Lord will reign here for 1,000 years. Let us see if that is correct...

**Old Testament Prophecies.** The Old Testament contains prophecies concerning the kingdom. "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." {Isaiah 2:2,3} Isaiah the prophet foretold that the kingdom would be established in the "latter days" and that the word would go forth from Zion.

"And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions...And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, 'Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.'" {Joel 2:28,32} Joel prophesied that God would pour out His Spirit on "all flesh" and that "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**Daniel supplied the time frame.** "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} Daniel revealed that the kingdom would arrive during the fourth world empire and that it would never be destroyed.

Jesus promised to build His kingdom and to give its keys to the apostles. "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." {Matthew 16:18,19} Jesus predicted that His impending death would not stop the kingdom from being built. He also explained that the apostle Peter would open its doors to the lost. Jesus even hinted at the time frame. "And He said to them, '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} He confidently predicted that some who heard Him teach during His public ministry would see the kingdom come with power – during their lifetime.

Finally, the last instruction Jesus gave the apostles, prior to His ascension, was to wait for power from on high. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." {Acts 1: 8} Despite current teaching, in the religious world, current events do not determine the fulfillment of Bible prophecies. Let us see how these prophecies were fulfilled in exact detail as they were given by God in His word. This will also answer our previous questions.\*\*\*