

THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. The kingdom has arrived in its fullness with the establishment of the church.
- B. The purpose of this lesson is to identify who is in the kingdom and when it arrived.
- C. By looking at various passages in the Gospels and Acts we can piece the puzzle together.

II. DEFINING THE WORD.

- A. W.E. Vine says that the word, *kingdom* is an abstract noun denoting sovereignty, royal power, or dominion. As a concrete noun it means a territory or people over whom a king rules.
- B. To be in the kingdom of God is to live under His rule and reign. This kingdom was a territory known as the promised land under the old covenant, but now, God's kingdom is of a spiritual nature.
 Luke 17:20,21 the kingdom of God is in your midst
 John 18:36 Jesus said His kingdom was not of this world

III. MEMBERS OF THE KINGDOM.

- A. Those in the kingdom are listed in Hebrews 12:22-24;
 1. God the Father.
 2. Jesus the Son.
 3. The angels.
 4. Spirits of righteous men made perfect (the OT faithful).
 5. The church.
- B. As far as we are concerned to be a member of the church is to be a member of the kingdom. As God adds the saved to the church, He adds them to the kingdom as well.
 Colossians 1:13,14 transplanted from one spiritual kingdom to another
 Acts 20:28 Jesus purchased the church with His blood
 Revelation 5:9,10 Jesus purchased the kingdom with His blood; hence the church = kingdom

IV. THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM.

- A. The kingdom did not come during the Old Testament time.
 Matthew 3:1,2 John said the kingdom is near or at hand
- B. The kingdom did not come at the beginning of Jesus' ministry.
 Matthew 4:17 Jesus said the kingdom is near or at hand
- C. The kingdom did come during the lifetime of the apostles, it is not yet to come.
 Luke 9:27 The kingdom did arrive sometime in the first century
- D. The kingdom will come with power in the apostles' lifetime.
 Mark 9:1 the kingdom will arrive with observable power or in a powerful way
- E. Notice the following from Luke 24:44-49;
 1. The place of the beginning is Jerusalem.
 2. Repentance for the forgiveness of sins to be preached.
 3. This message will be preached to all nations.
 4. The apostles are to wait in Jerusalem for the promised power.
- F. Peter will have the "keys to the kingdom."
 Matthew 16:13-20 Peter is given the instructions or wisdom on how to enter the kingdom
- G. It will not be an earthly kingdom with territorial boundaries.
 Acts 1:4-8 the kingdom is not an overthrow of the Roman Empire
- H. The promised power comes at Pentecost (baptism of the HS).
 Acts 2:1-4 the power mentioned in Mk. 9:1 is the baptism of the Holy Spirit

- I. Every nation is represented in Jerusalem.
Acts 2:5 see again the prophecy of Jesus in Lk. 24:46-49
- J. Peter preaches repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
Acts 2:15-36 Peter preaches the first gospel sermon
- K. Peter announces the keys to the kingdom.
Acts 2:38 Peter tells the penitent Jews how to enter the kingdom of Christ
- L. The promise is also to the Gentiles, they will be added later beginning with the household of Cornelius.
Acts 2:39; 10:1-48 Later, Peter will give the Gentiles the same keys

V. **MATCHING.**

Based on this lesson and the scriptures discussed, match the following phrase or central idea on the left with the appropriate scripture on the right. You may wish to review all the scriptures listed above before taking this test.

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| <u>H</u> | 1. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit. | A. Matt. 3:1,2. |
| <u>I</u> | 2. The first gospel sermon. | B. Matt. 4:17. |
| <u>F</u> | 3. "Who do the people say I am?" | C. Luke 9:27. |
| <u>J</u> | 4. The keys to the kingdom. | D. Mark 9:1. |
| <u>E</u> | 5. Jesus prophesies the kingdom. | E. Luke 24:44-49. |
| <u>D</u> | 6. The kingdom comes with power. | F. Matt. 16:13-20. |
| <u>A</u> | 7. John the Baptist begins preaching. | G. Acts 1:3-9. |
| <u>C</u> | 8. The kingdom arrives in apostles' lifetime. | H. Acts 2:1-4. |
| <u>B</u> | 9. Jesus begins to preach the gospel. | I. Acts 2:22-37. |
| <u>G</u> | 10. The apostles are still confused. | J. Acts 2:38. |

VI. **NEXT LESSON.**

The next lesson is entitled, "How to Become a Christian." In preparation take time to read through the book of Acts and count the number of conversion stories you find. Anything about them have something in common?

VII. **NOTES.**
