

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

## IN THIS PRESENT AGE

It was in the fullness of time (Eph. 1:10; Gal. 4:4) that Jesus came from heaven and preached this eternal kingdom (Matt. 25:34).

The first time that God's Kingdom is mentioned in the Bible is from \_\_\_\_\_, "The Lord will reign forever and ever."

... His kingdom is not to be understood \_\_\_\_\_

(as when we speak of the kingdom of England), but in the

sense of His royal dominion, exercised over \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ alike—over nature as we have

seen in His curbing of the Red Sea, and over men, both in His

vindication of those who put their trust in Him and in His

judgment on their enemies.

( F. F. Bruce 1978, 5)

## JESUS SETS UP THE STONE KINGDOM OF DANIEL

When Jesus said in Mark 1:15, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand,” time-wise He had to be referring to a prophecy in the Old Testament relating to a kingdom that God would establish \_\_\_\_\_.

This prophecy we find in Daniel 2:44-45:

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall \_\_\_\_\_; 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. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.

This “stone kingdom” would never be destroyed; it would stand *forever*, not just \_\_\_\_\_. Daniel foretold, and history has revealed, that there were four successive nations that ruled the then-known world up to the time when this stone kingdom would be set up. Those nations were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

In Matthew 21:42-44, Jesus declared that He was the stone that Israel had rejected: “‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone which \_\_\_\_\_ rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this \_\_\_\_\_ will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.’”

This stone is the same stone spoken of in Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45, which hit the image on its feet and ground it to powder. The stone broke the other kingdoms into pieces and consumed them, and then the wind like that of a summer threshing floor blew them away, \_\_\_\_\_. The stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth, just as Daniel predicted.

Dispensationalism teaches that \_\_\_\_\_ of the image did not come under the falling stone, which—they claim—are to be the future revival of the Roman Empire.

But the Bible clearly teaches that the toes were crushed with the image and blown away by the wind of the threshing floor so that no trace of them was to be found.

The Roman Empire is \_\_\_\_\_.

- This Messianic Stone was prophesied in Genesis 49:24. In this prophecy, Christ is called “the Shepherd, the \_\_\_\_\_.”
- The Psalmist declared the stone would be rejected by Israel (Ps. 118:22).
- Jesus used this Psalm to state that this was being fulfilled in Himself (Matt. 21:42-43). Although rejected, the stone would become the chief cornerstone.
- Peter declared in Acts 4:11-12 that this prophecy was fulfilled in Christ. “This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’”
- Likewise, in Romans 9:32-33, Paul declares that Christ was the stone the Jews stumbled over.

**You cannot stumble over something that has not yet come.**

The bottom line is that—in 1 Peter 2:6-8, Peter clearly declares that the stone \_\_\_\_\_ laid in Zion as the foundation of our Kingdom! Fulfilled Prophecy cannot be irrelevant!

## CHRIST’S KINGDOM IS ESSENTIALLY A KINGDOM OF SALVATION

The kingdom that Jesus preached \_\_\_\_\_ the reign<sup>1</sup> of God through salvation in experiencing the new birth (John 3:3-5). Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would reign by \_\_\_\_\_ the saving power of God: “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” (Isa. 52:7).

In Romans 10:15, Paul quotes this passage of Isaiah as being fulfilled in the saving message! It has been fulfilled!

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<sup>1</sup> reign n: royal authority; the dominion of a monarch [synonym: sovereignty]

This saving element constitutes one aspect of the Messiah's reign: "For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ . . . so that as sin reigned in death, even so \_\_\_\_\_ might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 5:17, 21).

Another element of God's reign is seen in the \_\_\_\_\_ of His eternal, \_\_\_\_\_ law.

After the believer experienced the new birth in Christ, God's law would be written on his or her heart (Ezek. 36:19-27 with Heb. 10:11-17 and 1 John 3:24 and 2 Corinthians 3:3; **Jeremiah 31:31-34 with Hebrews 8:10**; 2 Cor. 3:2-3). This is the fulfillment of what the prophets of the great renewal, Ezekiel and Jeremiah, spoke of! The reign of the kingdom of God that Christ inaugurated.

Jesus never promised a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The reason the Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah was because they were looking for a king that would deliver them from Rome and set up a \_\_\_\_\_ over all the earth—with Israel as the dominator. When Christ did not comply, they refused to see Him as their Messianic king (Luke 4:28-32), and therefore (they believed) had the right to reject Him.

Dispensationalist, Charles C. Ryrie in *The Final Countdown* says the following about the kingdom: “Obviously, at His first coming Christ did not even establish a kingdom in Palestine . . . . Therefore we are forced to conclude that the kingdom will be set up \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_” (Ryrie 1989, 23).



Where is this implicitly stated in the Bible? It would nullify the entire New Testament account of the kingdom that Jesus set in motion!

In fact, the Scripture does verify the fact that Christ did set up His kingdom at the time when Rome, the fourth kingdom of Daniel, was in power. At His trial, Jesus said that He was the king and that He \_\_\_\_\_ (John 18:36-37). This kingdom was not to be left to another people. It was to stand forever, and nowhere in the Bible is it said that this kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ once it was started. After all, Jesus came into this world to battle sin and the kingdom of Satan, not to battle Rome (Matt. 1:21; 4:8-10).

## WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

There are three types of categories related to the groups under God's dominion. First is the \_\_\_\_\_, which is local (Philemon 2, 3 John 9). There are many \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal. 1:9). Second is the \_\_\_\_\_, which includes believers both in Heaven and on Earth throughout all time (Eph. 3:14-15). Third is the \_\_\_\_\_ which presides over all the earth. Parts of the world are in rebellion against this Kingdom (1 Cor. 15:25).

The New Testament depicts the kingdom fully present

The fact that Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ reigning is seen in 1 Corinthians 15:25-27. Spiritually, all things are now under Christ's feet (1 Cor. 15:27; Eph. 1:20-22), but we do not see them that way as yet. But we do see Jesus (Heb. 2:5-10).

Furthermore, the New Testament writers seem to extend the kingdom to include the final \_\_\_\_\_ of creation itself at the resurrection and redemption of the body (Rom. 8:18-23). This, no doubt, will be expressed in the eternal kingdom:

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God has been and is an eternal king over the entire universe.

He \_\_\_\_\_ the stars of the heavens in their courses (Pss. 8:3; 104:19). He \_\_\_\_\_ for man—the just and the unjust—by sending rain and supplying crops. All countries are under His \_\_\_\_\_ eye, and some are pulled down or built up according to His will (Jer. 18:1-9).

God had an eternal plan for man long before the ages began (Eph. 3:11; 2Tim. 1:9; 2Thess. 2:13-14). This plan is revealed in His redemptive relationship \_\_\_\_\_ through His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Originally, God gave kingship to Adam when He placed Him in the garden. He was given \_\_\_\_\_ (kingship, Genesis 1:26) over all living creatures. Adam forfeited this kingship by disobeying God. However, the promised seed of the woman, the Messianic Christ, came to \_\_\_\_\_ the dominion that Adam lost (Ps. 8:4-8; Heb. 2:6-9).

From eternity to eternity, God's kingdom is expressed in three phases: the Old Covenant as seen in Israel, the New Covenant as expressed in Jesus Christ, and the eternal or eschatological kingdom.

## ON THREE PHASES

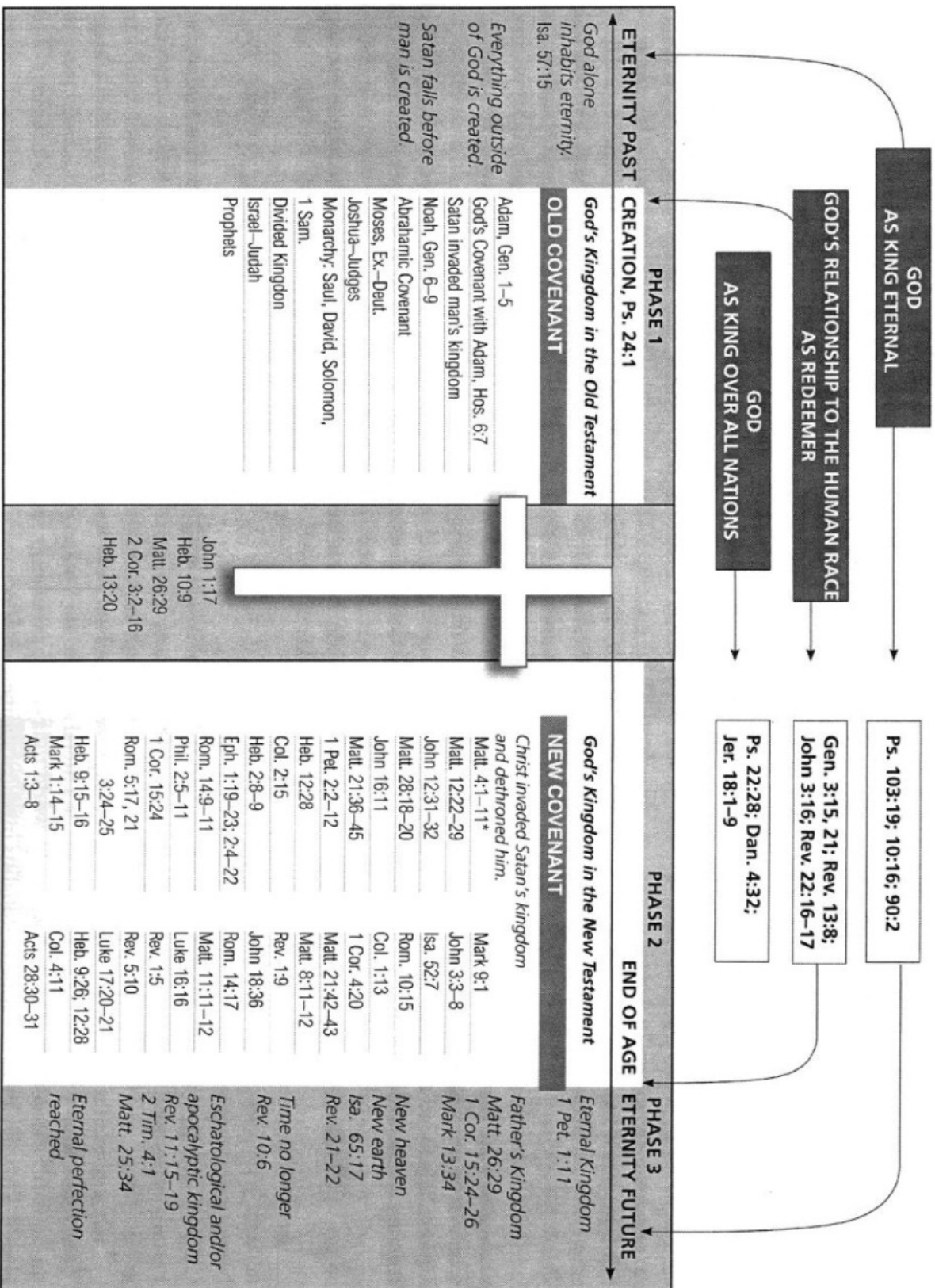
First, God's kingdom on earth began with the nation of Israel.

Exodus 19:6 states, "And you shall be to Me a \_\_\_\_\_ of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

The New Testament aspect of the kingdom of God began with \_\_\_\_\_. Mark 1:14-15 states, "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.'" In Luke 16:16, Jesus says, "The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it." Matthew 11:12-13 states, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."

For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.” This phase of the kingdom will end when Christ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ His redemptive kingdom to God the Father (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN THREE PHASES



(Note: the chart should read: "God's relationship to the human species," as there is one species but many races.)

The third aspect will be the eternal or eschatological kingdom that begins after Jesus returns the second time. Jesus called it the kingdom of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 26:26-29; 13:43; 25:34; 1 Cor. 15:24).