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Christ's Kingdom is Coming!



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #132 ~

It's all about God's kingdom and God's glory, right? Of course it is! That's the way it always has been and that's the way it will always be. *"The Lord is King forever and ever… I will praise Your name forever and ever… Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom"* (Psalm 10:16; 145:2,13). From Genesis to Revelation this is what we need to know and be excited about. Since the beginning, God has been building His kingdom, and everything is going precisely according to His plans. *"His kingdom endures from generation to generation… He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth."* Daniel 4:34-35, Psalm 33:10-12

Most of the Old Testament is about God building His kingdom through Abraham and his descendants, through the Israelites. They had some success, and a lot of failure, but God was sovereign, working all things according to the purpose of His will – and His kingdom kept growing. We know that God also had the future in mind, for an important aspect of the Old Testament are the promises He made to His people about the

coming Messiah, the coming King, and His coming kingdom on earth. Now this Messiah and King refer to the same person, to the Son of God, the One we call Jesus. Psalm 47, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 53

At the perfect time, this Jesus, this Messiah, was born, the Son of God also becoming the Son of Man. When Jesus was grown up, He announced that the kingdom of God was at hand, and that's because He was the King. But His primary purpose at that time was not to establish His kingdom on earth, but to die to pay for the sins of ones God had chosen to save. And that's what Jesus did, fully satisfying God's justice, enabling God to have mercy on sinners. All people who repent of their sins and believe that Jesus suffered and died for them, thereby paying the penalty for their sins, are born again, forgiven, and spiritually enter into the kingdom of God. Mark 1:15, John 3:3

Sadly, most of the Jews rejected Jesus, for they didn't want Him to be their Savior, they just wanted Him to be their King. But this rejection of Jesus was all part of God's divine plan, for the church then became His means to build His kingdom. Since that time and up to the present day, this gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached all over the world (Acts 1:8). Might we be like Paul, who was *"solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus"* (Acts 28:23). It's now close to 2000 years after Christ's 1st coming, and we should be thrilled that hundreds of millions of people have experienced the gracious love of God, having been rescued from the domain of darkness, and transferred to the Kingdom of God's Son (Colossians 1:13). During this entire church age, Jesus Christ has been faithfully building His church, thereby, building God's kingdom, not in a physical way, but in a spiritual way. Jesus said it this way, *"The kingdom of God is within you."* Luke 17:21

But this is not just a church age, it's also an evil age, for there's calamity, deception, distress and hate all around the world. Godless people are fighting against God, wanting power and control for their own glory, but not for His glory. They are not seeking God's kingdom,

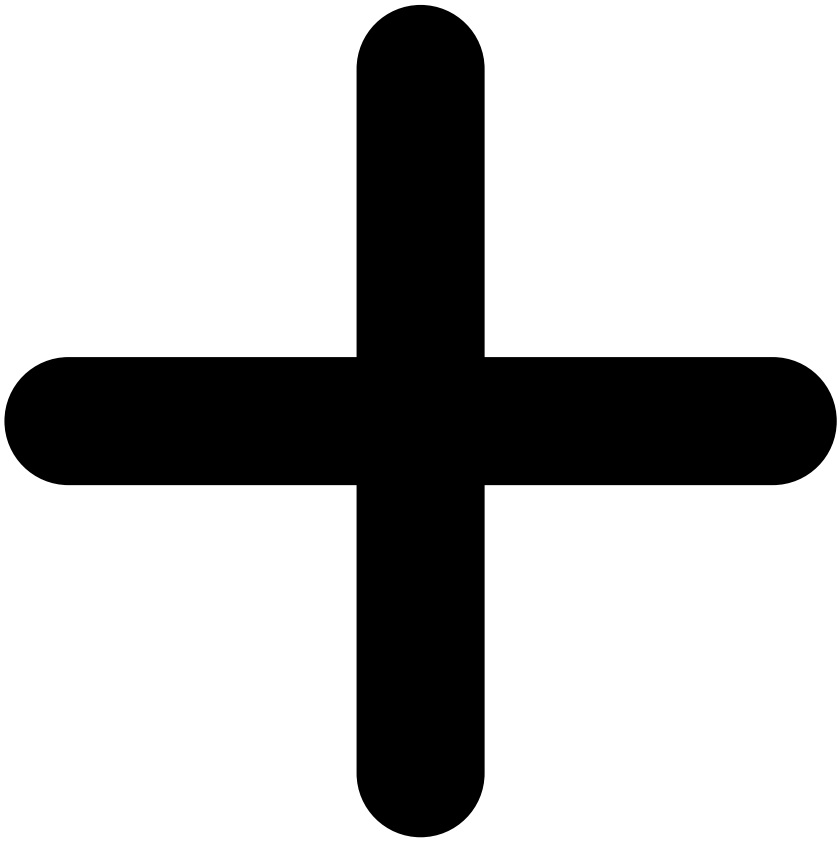
they want their own little kingdom. But God has purposed and planned to send His own Son, the King of kings, to establish His kingdom on earth, and He will not be thwarted, He will not be stopped. Psalm 2, Revelation 11:15

Since we live in the end-times, we know we will soon *"see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory"* (Luke 21:27). The first thing to happen at Christ's coming is that Christians will be raptured, safely and quickly taken up from the earth to be with Him. Immediately after that, God will pour out His wrath, justly punishing the unbelievers still living on earth. Then a remnant of Jews will be redeemed, at which time Christ the King will return. *"In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives... the Lord will be King over all the earth."* Zechariah 14:4, 14

What God promised again and again, will finally come true. We need to wake up and be excited about what God is doing, for it won't be long before we see Him fulfilling His promises. This evil age that's been going on since the time of Adam and Eve, along with this church age, will soon and suddenly come to an end. Not long after that, we will see our King wisely, lovingly, justly and perfectly ruling over the earth. Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord, and *"the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord."* Philippians 2:10-11, Habakkuk 2:14

During the millennial kingdom age, this earth will be dramatically, wonderfully, beautifully and magnificently different than now. Everything, spiritually, physically, relationally, and socially, is going to change for the better. That's because Jesus Christ will be completely in charge of His earthly kingdom for 1000 glorious years, and we, being perfect, will be perfectly ruling with Him. Might we be seeking God's spiritual kingdom, praying for His visible kingdom to come, waiting for the return of the King, and saying, *"Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen."* Matthew 6:10, 14, 33

P.S. Your understanding of God’s kingdom is very helpful for you being able to see the big picture, and your role in God’s work in the world. Therefore, I would encourage you to read two previous posts about God’s kingdom, The Kingdom of God and Kingdom Instructions for the Church.



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