

# The Kingdom of Christ — Almost 2,000 Years Old

---

by Bill Crews

## Many people assume that:

1. Jesus came to earth to establish an earthly, physical kingdom.
2. This kingdom was to be, first for the Jewish nation, then also for the Gentiles.
3. Jesus would have had to throw off the yoke of the Roman empire by means of a carnal war.
4. Jesus would afterward reign from the city of Jerusalem as the capital of His kingdom.
5. In this sense He would have been sitting on the throne of David.
6. Because the Jewish nation, as a whole, rejected Him, He could not set up His earthly kingdom.
7. Jesus then postponed His kingdom and established His church, a spiritual organism, instead.
8. When Jesus returns (His second coming), He will at that time successfully establish His kingdom.
9. All Jews living on the earth at that time will become Christians and constitute the nucleus of His kingdom.
10. All the righteous dead of all ages will have been raised from the dead and become part of His kingdom.
11. Jesus will then reign from Jerusalem, not forever, but for 1,000 years.

## That is a lot of assuming in view of the fact that:

1. Almost 2,000 years ago John the baptizer (Matthew 3:2), Jesus Himself (Matthew 4:17), the twelve apostles (Matthew 10:7), and the seventy disciples (Luke 10:9) **all preached** that the kingdom of heaven was “*at hand*” or had “*come nigh unto*” them.
2. Jesus placed a time limit on the actual establishment of His kingdom. He declared that some of those hearing Him speak would not taste death (would not die) until they had seen “*the kingdom of God come with power*” (Mark 9: 1 ); seen “*the Son of man coming in His kingdom*” (Matthew 16:27); seen “*the kingdom of God*” (Luke 9:27), all parallel passages.
3. When Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered, “*The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, There! for lo the kingdom of God is within you.*” It is therefore the rule of Christ in the hearts and lives of Christians, not physical and geographical.
4. When Pilate asked Jesus, “*Art thou the king of the Jews?*” and “*What hast thou done?*,” 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*” (John 18:33-36).
5. Paul stated that the saints at Colosse (who were in the church) had been translated into the kingdom of God’s Son (Colossians 1:13). How could they be in what had not been established?

If you will read John 18:37, you will see that the Lord’s kingdom is *spiritual* in nature, not *physical*. If you will read Peter’s sermon in Acts 2:22-36, you will learn that David, foreseeing the fulfillment of God’s promise to set a descendant of his upon his throne in an everlasting kingdom, prophesied or foretold the resurrection of the crucified Jesus from the dead. Jesus, in other words, had to die and be raised in order that He might reign over God’s people under the new covenant, just as David had reigned over God’s people under the old covenant. And Peter also declared that Jesus had ascended into heaven to sit at the Father’s right hand where He has been made both Lord and Christ. **He reigns now and from heaven**, just as Daniel 7:13-14 had foretold. Daniel in his vision saw “*One like the Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days (to the Father in heaven, not to the earth — BC), and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should serve Him.*”

continued on page 320703