

Jesus And The Kingdom

In Christianity today, there are many who teach and preach that the “kingdom” of Christ is yet to come. In response, millions of believers are content with that assertion and look to the future for Christ to come and establish His kingdom either here on earth or in heaven at a later date.

I mentioned in last week’s article that the kingdom of Christ is here and now, and asked if you have found it. Reader, you have either found the kingdom and would like to help someone else to find it also, or you haven’t found it yet and need some assistance. In either case, let’s examine a few scriptures and see what Jesus and others have to say on the issue.

In Matthew 16 Jesus asked His apostles, *“Who do men say that the Son of man is?”* The response was varied. Some said He was John the Baptizer, some said Elijah, others said Jeremiah or one of the prophets. But when Jesus asked the apostles who they said He was, Peter said, *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* Jesus then verified Peter’s response as truth. He also said to Peter, *“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.”*(Matt. 16:13-18)

The very next words from Jesus were these; *“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.”* (Matt.16:19) We can discuss that binding and loosing at a later time, but notice in this verse that Jesus refers to the “kingdom of heaven” and that Peter would have the keys to it. In other words, Peter was going to be able to “open the kingdom”. How then, would that happen and when would it take place? In verse 28 of this chapter Jesus said, *“Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”* Now common sense tells us that one of three things must be true. Either Jesus was mistaken, or the kingdom has already come, or some of those people who were standing there with Jesus at that time are still living and are really old by now.

We can be assured that Jesus was not mistaken. And surely we know that there are none of those same folks still living today, so the truth we can glean from these verses is that the “kingdom of Christ” has already come. But when did that happen? Peter used the “keys to the kingdom” to open up the church when he preached the first gospel sermon, which is recorded in Acts chapter 2. We’ll talk about that next time. In the meantime, spend some time with God’s Word and let it be a ‘lamp to your feet and a light to your path’. (Psalm 119:105)