

GETTING STARTED

HOW TO ARRANGE AND CONDUCT A HOME BIBLE CLASS

(By Norton Dye)

INTRODUCTION

The seed of the kingdom (church) is the word of God (Luke 8:11). It should be our purpose to plant this seed in as many hearts as possible. Sometimes we fail to reap a harvest of souls because we fail to plant and water the seed as we should (1 Cor. 3:5-7). We must be faithful in both planting and watering the seed if we expect God to give the increase.

People Don't Care How Much You Know Until They Know How Much You Care!

- I. YOUR PROSPECT LIST** – With name, address, and phone number of each prospect. Notebook. Write it down!
- A. People who attend services. Visitors. They have some interest or they would not be here. PRAY!
 - B. Parents whose children attend Bible class or Vacation Bible School.
 - C. People who work with us or around us, and have been impressed with the kind of life we live.
 - D. People who ask questions about the church of Christ. Be careful not to compare churches with churches.
 - E. People who are religious, but in some religion unknown to the Bible. Always ask, “What does the Bible say?”

85% of all sales are made after the 5th call or visit.

II. YOUR VISITATION PROGRAM

85% of all salesmen make 1 – 3 calls and quit!

- A. Plan to set aside one part of a day or evening each week to visit or call on someone who is not a Christian.
- B. Pass a compliment or express appreciation for them in some way (sincerely).
- C. After talking about other things for a short time, bring up the subject of religion and Bible study; tell them how much it has helped your life.

III. MAKING YOUR APPOINTMENT

- A. Ask a leading question:
 1. “Do you like to study the Bible?” or “Would you like to know more about the Bible and the church in it?”
 2. If the answer is “Yes,” or “I would if I could understand it....,” then you have an opening to explain this series of lessons that has helped you to understand the Bible and the church which is described in it.
- B. Tell briefly about this short series of Bible lessons you would like to study with your prospect in his home at his convenience.
 1. An informal study – where all are relaxed and free to ask any questions. No question is “dumb.”
 2. A survey course – giving a skeleton outline of the Bible and what it can do for us in simple terms.
 3. About one hour per week at a time and place of your prospect’s convenience.
- C. Ask another leading question:
 1. “What day or evening of the week would be most convenient for you?” (Encourage a positive response.)
 2. “How about Friday of next week at 7:30?” “When would be a good time for you?” “May I call you then?”
- D. Express your appreciation again and leave with a promise to return at the appointed time.
- E. If you just cannot teach them yourself, then arrange the time and place and ask someone else to come teach it.

“Those who think they can and those who think they can't are both right most of the time.”

IV. TEACHING YOUR HOME BIBLE CLASS (After Prayer and Preparation)

- A. With the filmstrips or videos.
 1. Show the film or video with narration.
 2. Discuss it and answer any questions from the Bible.
- B. With an outline or chart. (My preference)
 1. Preferably around a table with a Bible for each person.
 2. Give each person an outline. Look up and read all scripture references.
 3. Have them read with you in their own Bibles. (Rom. 10:17)
 4. Discuss the application of each passage thoroughly. **The power is in God’s word! (Heb. 4:12)**
- C. Answering questions.
 1. Always give the answer from the Bible (have them read it).
 2. If a question is not on the subject, or is covered in a later lesson, or if you don’t know the answer, make a note of it with the promise to answer it at another time. **KEEP YOUR PROMISES!**

CONCLUSION

Be prompt, be courteous, be prepared, and be faithful in planting and watering the seed of the kingdom. God will surely give the increase!

HANDLING ACCURATELY THE WORD

2 Timothy 2:15

The Bible is a library of 66 books.
It is the story of God dealing with man from creation to eternity.

OLD TESTAMENT (OLD WILL, COVENANT, AGREEMENT)

LAW OF MOSES	HISTORY OF JEWS	POETRY	MAJOR PROPHETS	MINOR PROPHETS
GENESIS	JOSHUA	JOB	ISAIAH	HOSEA
	JUDGES	PSALMS	JEREMIAH	JOEL
EXODUS	RUTH	PROVERBS	LAMENTATIONS	AMOS
LEVITICUS	1 SAMUEL	ECCLESIASTES	EZEKIEL	OBADIAH
NUMBERS	2 SAMUEL	SONG OF SOLOMON	DANIEL	JONAH
DEUTERONOMY	1 KINGS			MICAH
	2 KINGS			NAHUM
	1 CHRONICLES			HABAKKUK
	2 CHRONICLES			ZEPHANIAH
	EZRA			HAGGAI
	NEHEMIAH			ZECHARIAH
	ESTHER			MALACHI

NEW TESTAMENT (NEW WILL, COVENANT, AGREEMENT)

GOSPELS	HISTORY	LETTERS TO CHRISTIANS
MATTHEW	ACTS	ROMANS
MARK		1 CORINTHIANS
LUKE		2 CORINTHIANS
JOHN		GALATIANS
		EPHESIANS
		PHILIPPIANS
		COLOSSIANS
		1 THESSALONIANS
		2 THESSALONIANS
		1 TIMOTHY
		2 TIMOTHY
		TITUS
		PHILEMON
		HEBREWS
		JAMES
		1 PETER
		2 PETER
		1 JOHN
		2 JOHN
		3 JOHN
		JUDE
		REVELATION

PATRIARCHY

FAMILY RELIGION

Old Father = Ruling Leader

JUDAISM

(about 1500 years)

NATIONAL RELIGION

Moses = Ruling Leader

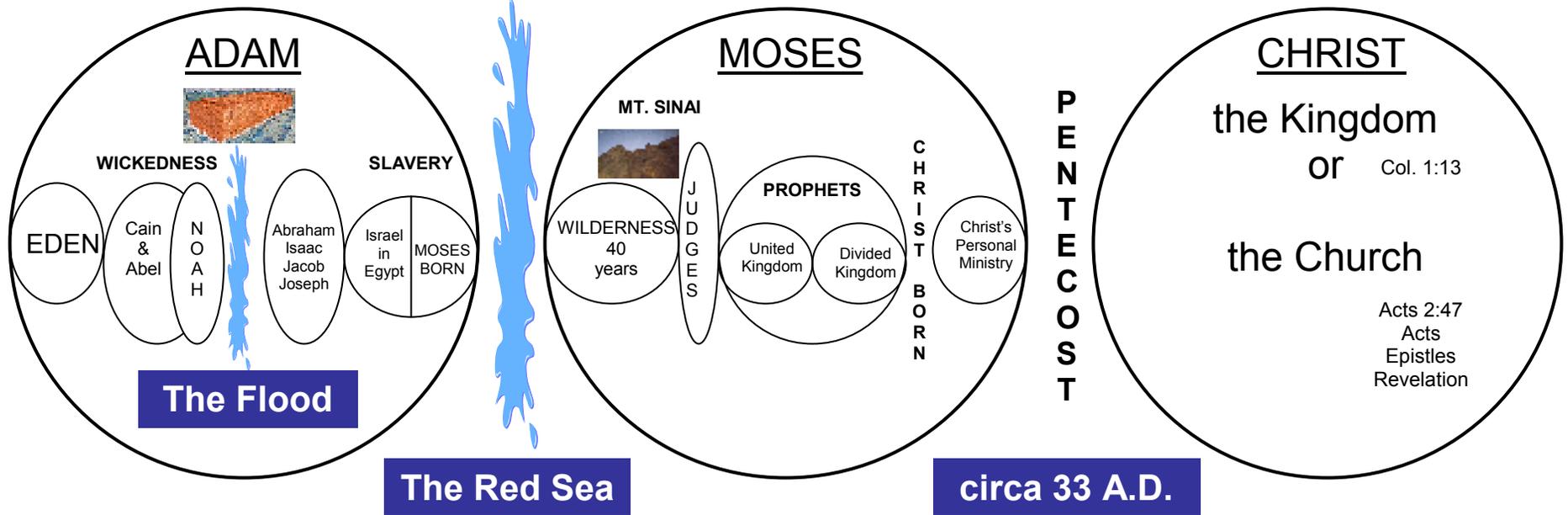
CHRISTIANITY

(We live in this age/time.)

INTERNATIONAL RELIGION

Jesus Christ = Ruling Leader

Genesis 1-----to-----Exodus 14-----to-----Acts 2-----to-----Revelation 22



EVIDENCES

There is both **INTERNAL** and **EXTERNAL** evidence that the Bible came from God, the Creator.

PRESCIENTIFIC STATEMENTS in the Bible. Statements of truth about the universe that were unknown to man for hundreds of years after they were written in the Bible by “holy men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Pet. 1:21

Gen. 1:9-10 – All the seas are in “one place” (connected by water). Written 1500 B.C. How did Moses know? 3000 years later (1521 A.D) Magellan’s ship sailed around the world for the first time.

Gen. 9:4; Lev. 17:11, 14 – The life of all flesh is in the blood.

Job 26:7 There is an empty space in the north. Astronomers today confirm this fact. Earth hangs on nothing. Nothing tangible holds up the earth. When this was written many false theories were taught about what held up the earth. None of these theories is found in the Bible. The Bible is a book of truth!

Isaiah 40:22 – Earth is circular. God sits “above the circle / sphere of the earth.”

Psalms 19 – David wrote that there are two revelations of God.

1. The **WORKS** of God, vv.1-6, Studied by scientific observation.
2. The **WORDS** of God, vv.7-14, Learned by reading the scriptures.

RULES OF INTERPRETATION

Five Questions to Ask as you Read the Scriptures

1. **WHO SPEAKS?** Is it God (Gen. 2:17), or the devil (Gen. 3:4) A good man? An evil man?
2. **TO WHOM?** Are these verses spoken to one in our condition? Jews? Gentiles? Christians?
3. **WHAT IS THE CONTEXT?** The writer’s subject? Verses before and after?
4. **WHAT DO OTHER SCRIPTURES SAY ON THIS SUBJECT?**
We need to read all God says on a subject before we can draw a valid conclusion.
5. **AM I OPEN-MINDED? UNBIASED? WITHOUT PREJUDICE?**
Do I truly desire to know the TRUTH, even if I must change some of my thinking?

WHERE CAN I FIND IT?

READ GENESIS & EXODUS to learn about the creation, the first sin, promises of a Savior, the world-wide flood, origin of the nations, Abraham’s faith, the Hebrew (Israelite, Jewish) nation. First 2500 years.

READ MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE & JOHN to learn about the birth, life, teaching, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

READ ACTS to learn about the **CHURCH OF CHRIST** and how people were saved and added to the Lord’s people. The **CHURCH OF CHRIST = PEOPLE WHO OBEY CHRIST**.

READ LETTERS TO CHRISTIANS (Romans – Revelation) to learn how Christians are to live.

WHY WE NEED THE BIBLE

Introduction:

Do YOU believe there is a God, a Supreme Creator? Why?

1. Something cannot come from nothing. Whence the Universe? (Gen. 1:1; Psa. 19:1)
2. Every effect must have an adequate cause. (Heb. 3:4; Rom. 1:20) Prescientific evidence. Reasoning from the effects in the universe, we believe the Cause must have had:

I. THE NATURE OF GOD – The Supreme Creator of the Universe.

- A. INTELLIGENCE – The design of the universe demands a Great Designer.
- B. POWER – to use intelligence to full advantage.
- C. LOVE – provision of all necessities for earth creatures indicates concern.
- D. CHOICE (Free Will) – No one forced Him to create. He chose to create.

All these we can learn about the Creator by observing the effects of His creation. But we cannot know HIS WILL FOR MAN: Why are we here? Where are we going? We need a more complete revelation of God to man. THE BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE THIS REVELATION WE NEED!

II. THE NATURE OF MAN – As revealed in the Bible and by observation.

- A. Man was created in the image (likeness) of God. (Gen. 1:26-27; Isa. 45:21; John 1:1-3, 14)
 1. But, God is a spirit. (John 4:24)
 2. And a spirit has no flesh and bones. (Luke 24:39)
 3. Therefore, it is not the flesh, but the spirit of man that was made in the image of God. Both male and female.
- B. Man, like God, (only not as perfect) also has:
 1. INTELLIGENCE – He can reason, understand and know things above all other creatures.
 2. POWER – To use his intelligence to a greater advantage.
 3. LOVE – And other emotions directed by his intelligence.
 4. CHOICE (Free Will) – To choose what he will do. Must always have at least two ways to go.
 - a. Life is made up of choices: How we live here and where we go hereafter is a matter of our choice.
 - b. Our intelligence is not perfect. Sometimes we need help in choosing. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S ANSWER.

III. THE NATURE OF THE BIBLE – Written to reveal God's will to man; to help us choose right.

- A. It is INSPIRED (God-breathed) and furnishes ALL WE NEED to know and do what is right. (2 Tim. 3:16-17) Profitable for:
 1. Doctrine / Teaching – Teaching us about God and His way for us.
 2. Reproof – Showing us where we are in error – when we're on the wrong track.
 3. Correction – showing us the right way – how to get back on the right track.
 4. Instruction in righteousness – training or disciplining us in right living.
"IT COMPLETELY FURNISHES US UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK!"
- B. We MUST therefore give diligence to learn what it says – 2 Tim 2:15

IV. THE NATURE OF SIN – The Bible reveals that ALL have sinned (Rom 3:23), and that the wages of sin is DEATH (Rom 6:23; Isaiah 59:1-2). What is sin?

- A. Transgression of law – I John 3:4
 - B. Unrighteousness – I John 5:17
 - C. Violation of conscience – Rom 14:1-9, 13-15, 21-23
 - D. Not doing good by planning according to God's will – James 4:17
- WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF SIN?*

God's answer is *CHRIST* (Heb 5:8-9) – "*the author of eternal salvation to all those who OBEY Him*" in Believing (John 8:24), Repenting (Luke 24:47), Confessing Him as LORD (Rom 10:9-10), being Baptized (immersed in water) for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5, 17-18), and being Faithful even unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Conclusion: The Bible is a *PERFECT BOOK* revealed by a *PERFECT MIND*, that we might learn how to attain to the *PERFECT LIFE* in Christ.

(Assignment: Read Genesis 1-2)

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

I. RESULTS OF THE FIRST SIN – Gen. 3:7-19 Guilt, Shame, & Fear were the immediate results.

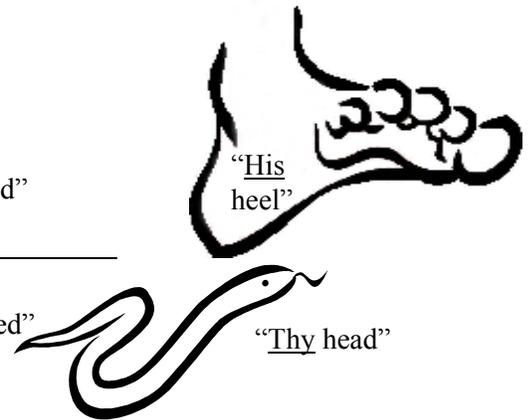
- A. Punishment for the serpent (v. 14) **GOD**
- B. Punishment for the woman (v. 16) **KEPT**
- C. Punishment for the man (vv. 17-19) **HIS PROMISES**

II. THE FIRST PROMISE OF THE CHRIST – Gen 3:15

- A. The woman _____ “Her seed”
(God’s child)

ENMITY (hatred) _____

- B. The serpent _____ “Thy seed”
(Satan’s helper)



C. *CHRIST* (the seed of woman – Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25) *WOULD CONQUER AND DESTROY THE POWER OF SATAN* (the serpent) *BY HIS OWN DEATH ON THE CROSS* (the bruise on the heel).

III. FOLLOWING THE PROMISE – From Adam to Noah

- A. The first sons: Cain...Abel...Seth-----eventually-----Christ.
- B. Genesis 5 – A list of 10 generations: from Adam to Noah.
- C. Genesis 6 – Wickedness in the days of Noah. (Read and discuss chapter 6)
 - 1. The “sons of God” (of Seth – see Gen 4:26) married the “daughters of men” (Cain’s)
 - 2. God promised a flood to destroy the wicked; He gave man 120 years to repent.
 - 3. God made a covenant (agreement) with Noah – Gen. 6:8-9, 18 & 22.
 - 4. *GOD KEPT HIS PROMISES*.....The flood came (Gen 7:11-24), and only **8** were saved.
 - 5. God gave the rainbow as a sign of His promise never again to destroy the earth by water. (The earth is now reserved for a destruction by fire – II Peter 3)

IV. FOLLOWING THE PROMISE – From Noah to Abram (Genesis 11:1-9)

- A. Genesis 11 – Another list of 10 generations, from Noah to Abram (Genesis 11:10-26)
(20 generations after the promise of Gen 3:15, which was yet unfulfilled)
- B. Genesis 12:1-7 – In the days of Abram, the world was again wicked. God separated Abram and made *FOUR GREAT PROMISES TO HIM*:
 - 1. A great name (v. 2) – a name with real significance.
 - 2. A great nation (v. 2) – at this time Abram had no children and no prospect of any.
 - 3. A great land (v. 7) – the land of Canaan was promised to Abram’s seed.
 - 4. “*In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*”
- C. The first 3 promises were fulfilled by God in Old Testament times.
 - 1. Abram’s name was changed to Abraham – “father of a multitude” (see Gen. 17:5)
Today the name of Abraham is respected by Christians, Jews, and Muslims alike.
 - 2. A great nation came through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), and the 12 sons of Israel (see Exodus 1:1-7; Deut. 4:6-8).
 - 3. The land of Canaan was occupied by the Jews (Joshua 21:43-45; 23:14).
God gave them **ALL** the land which He promised to give them.
- D. The fourth promise: “In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed,” is a spiritual promise fulfilled in the New Testament, to be studied next time.

CONCLUSION: God kept His promises to Adam and Eve, to Noah and his family, to Abraham and his family. *GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES!* He still has the same power and willingness to keep His promises to us in the New Testament (Heb. 6:13-20). Faith in this truth is the basis of our hope.

(Assignment: Read Genesis 22 and Galatians 3)

FAITH MUST OBEY

In the previous lesson, we read the promise that God made to Abraham in Genesis 12:3, *“In thee shall all nations of the earth be blessed.”*

We did not find the fulfillment of this promise in the Old Testament.

We must now begin to trace this promise to its fulfillment in the New Testament.

I. ABRAHAM’S GREAT TEST OF FAITH (Read and discuss Genesis 22)

- A. Abraham had faith (belief in God) even before he was tested and obeyed.
 - 1. Verse 5 – *“I AND THE LAD will go yonder . . . AND COME AGAIN to you.”* (See Heb. 11:17ff)
 - 2. Verse 8 - *“My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering.”*
- B. But it was AFTER HE OBEYED that the angel said, *“NOW I KNOW that thou fearest God.”*
Evidently, God wanted Abraham to demonstrate his faith by obedience.
- C. The promise of Genesis 12:3 is then repeated in 22:18. *“IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED.”*

II. FAITH + OBEDIENCE = THE PROMISED BLESSING

- A. God used this principle in dealing with Abraham. (Discuss).
- B. God still uses the same principle in dealing with man in the New Testament age.
 - 1. Faith without works (obedience of faith) is DEAD! (James 2:14-24)
 - 2. The doctrine of salvation by faith only is FALSE!

III. HOW CAN ALL NATIONS BE BLESSED IN THE SEED OF ABRAHAM?

- A. What is the seed of Abraham referred to in the promise?
 - 1. Is it all the seed of Abraham (plural), or one seed in particular (singular)?
 - 2. Genesis 22:18 does not tell us what “seed” of Abraham God had in mind.
 - 3. Paul answers the question (Gal. 3:16) *“and to thy seed, which is CHRIST.”*
 - a. Christ was the literal, fleshly seed of Abraham (Luke 3:23-24).
 - b. Thus, when God promised in Genesis 22:18 *“In thy seed . . .”*, He could have said the same like this:
“In CHRIST shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.”
- B. But how can all nations be blessed in Christ? (Abraham’s seed)
 - 1. By having a faith like Abraham’s, we become His children (seed) – Gal. 3:6-9. This was the gospel preached to Abraham beforehand in the promise.
 - 2. Abraham’s faith was an OBEDIENT FAITH – and our faith must be obedient.
 - 3. The Galatians became children of God BY FAITH when they were BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST (Gal. 3:26-27).
“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . .”(Mark 16:15-16)
By FAITH (in Christ) plus BAPTISM (obedience of faith) equals INTO CHRIST.
(This is the same principle God used in dealing with Abraham.)

IV. ALL WHO ARE IN CHRIST ARE BLESSED WITH FAITHFUL ABRAHAM (From all nations)

- A. If we are in Christ, we are Abraham’s seed. (Gal. 3:29)
- B. If we are in Christ, we are *“HEIRS ACCORDING TO PROMISE.”* (Gal 3:29)

CONCLUSIONS:

God made the promise to Abraham: *“In thy seed shall all nations be blessed.”*

God kept this promise in Jesus Christ.

And now, people from all nations may share in the blessings of this promise by faithful obedience to the teaching of Jesus.

(Assignment: Read Daniel 1 & 2 for next time.)

WHO IS JESUS?

Matthew 16:13-19

What do “men” say?

What do “YOU” say?

“Upon this rock (Greek - petra)

**JESUS IS THE CHRIST
SON OF THE LIVING GOD**

Prophet

Priest

King

“ . . . I will build My church . . . ”

“and the gates of Hades will not overpower it (her)”
(power of death)

“ . . . give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; ”

“Whatever you bind on earth shall have
been bound in heaven, and whatever you
loose on earth shall have been loosed in
heaven.”

(Same binding and loosing power given to all the apostles in Matthew 18:18)

CHRIST'S CHURCH AND GOD'S KINGDOM

Read Matthew 16:13-20. Discuss.

Note: Jesus promised to build His "church" and give Peter keys to the "kingdom." From this we learn that the "church" (called-out) of Christ was to be a kingdom (king's dominion).

I. THE NATURE OF A KINGDOM

- A. The king has all authority – legislative, executive, and judicial.
- B. A benevolent dictatorship is the most perfect form of government imaginable.
 1. History has made us skeptical of all dictatorships . . .
 2. But Jesus is a benevolent dictator who became poor to enrich us. (II Corinthians 8:9)

II. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN PROPHECY

A. II Samuel 7:12-17 (About 1000 B.C.)

1. David's seed was to:
 - a. Become king (after David's death)
 - b. Build a house for God's name.
 - c. Reign on an everlasting throne.
2. Jesus was to fulfill this prophecy in every respect - Luke 1:32-33.
 - a. Jesus (seed of David) became a king after David's death - Acts 2:22-36.
 - b. Jesus built a house for God's name (the church) - Matthew 16:18; I Timothy 3:15.
 - c. Jesus will reign on David's throne (the same type of universal throne over all of God's people) forever or until the end - I Corinthians 15:24.

(Note: v. 16 – David's throne, kingdom, and house were to be established forever.)

B. Daniel 2:31-45 (About 600 B.C.)

THE DREAM

GOLD →

SILVER →

BRASS →

IRON →
(Feet of Iron & Clay)

STONE →



THE INTERPRETATION

BABYLONIAN KINGDOM

MEDO-PERSIAN KINGDOM

GRECIAN KINGDOM

ROMAN KINGDOM

The little stone which smote the image on the feet and then grew into a great mountain represented THE KINGDOM OF GOD (the church).

A small beginning, described in Acts 2, but a rapid growth, breaking across national boundaries (Acts 10:34).

"In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom . . ."

III. THE KINGDOM OF GOD "AT HAND" (Very near)

- A. Matthew 3:1-2 John the Baptist
- B. Mark 1:14-15 Jesus ("time is fulfilled")
- C. Matthew 10:5-7 The Twelve (Limited Commission)
- D. Luke 10:1, 9-11 The Seventy

84 men were preaching that the kingdom of God was N E A R in A.D. 29-33

IV. THE NATURE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD (Unlike any other kingdom)

- A. Luke 17:20-21 "The kingdom of God is within you."
 1. Not to come with observation (or great pomp and ceremony).
 2. Could not be pointed out, "Lo here" or "Lo there". (Unlimited territory)
 3. A type of kingdom which would exist within (among) all who followed Jesus.
- B. John 18:36-38 "Not of this world". Everything about it is "of God".
 1. Jesus was born to be king – and to bear witness of the TRUTH (Luke 1:33)
 2. Everyone "of the truth" would obey Jesus as their king.
 3. But "WHAT IS TRUTH?" Answer: *GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH!* (John 17:17)

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS TRUTH (HIS WORD) RULING WITHIN ALL WHO OBEY JESUS AS KING.

(Assignment: Read Acts 1 and 2)

CITIZENSHIP IN GOD'S KINGDOM

In the previous lesson, we learned about the nature of God's kingdom (the church of Christ). We learned from the Old Testament prophecy that the kingdom of God was to be established in the days of the Roman Empire; that it was "at hand" in A.D. 29-33, and that its nature is spiritual rather than material – a kingdom growing within the hearts of all who obey the truth of God.

We are now ready to learn exactly **WHEN** and **HOW** the kingdom (church) of God was established.

I. SIGNS OF THE KINGDOM

- A. Mark 9:1 The kingdom to come *WITH POWER DURING THE LIFETIME* of some who were then living. This was in A.D. 33 (all 12 of the original apostles were then living).
- B. Acts 1:6-8 The *HOLY SPIRIT* was to come upon the apostles *WITH POWER*... (3 signs)
1. Jesus made this statement in answer to their question about the kingdom.
 2. This was just 40 days after the Passover marking the death of Jesus (Acts 1:1-3). Judas Iscariot was now dead, but some (the 11) who had heard the promise of Mark 9:1 were still living.

II. THE KINGDOM (CHURCH) WAS ESTABLISHED

- A. Text: Acts 2 Time: A.D. 33 Pentecost (Sunday), between 8 and 9 a.m. (vs. 15)
1. vv. 1-4 The Holy Spirit came with power upon the apostles.
 2. vv. 22-36 The kingdom of God, with Jesus as King, also came with power.
- B. Peter's sermon (vv. 22-36) clearly shows that the kingdom **WAS** established then.
- Subject: "*JESUS OF NAZARETH*"
- I. His Life – "*A man approved of God...*" (vs. 22)
 - II. His Death – "*Ye have...by wicked hands...crucified and slain.*" (vs. 23)
 - III. His Resurrection – "*Whom God hath raised up...*" (vs. 24)
- A. Proof of the resurrection:
1. David's prophecy of Psalm 16:8ff (quoted in Acts 2:25-28)
 - a. David not speaking of himself, but of the Christ (vs. 29)
 - b. David knew that God would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne (vs. 30)
 - c. Thus, David foretold the resurrection of the Christ (vs. 31)
 2. The testimony of eyewitnesses: "We (apostles) are all witnesses." (vs. 32)
- B. Result of the resurrection – **JESUS IS KING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD** (vs. 33)
1. Apostles had received the promised Holy Spirit with power. (One of the signs)
 2. David's prophecy about the reign of Christ after His resurrection from the dead was fulfilled in Jesus. Also, the length of that reign is told (vs. 34-35)
- Conclusion: "*THEREFORE LET ALL THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL KNOW ASSUREDLY, THAT GOD HATH MADE THAT SAME JESUS, WHOM YE CRUCIFIED, BOTH LORD AND CHRIST.*" (vs. 36)

III. HOW PEOPLE BECAME CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM (or members of Christ's church)

- A. vs. 37 – They **BELIEVED** what Peter preached about Jesus and asked what to do.
- B. vs. 38 – Peter commanded all who believed to **REPENT** and be **BAPTIZED** for the remission of sins.
- C. vs. 41 – They that gladly received the word were baptized (about 3,000 that day).
- D. vs. 47 – When they had obeyed these commands, "*the Lord*" (King Jesus) "*added*" them to the "*church.*"
- Which church? Answer: Matthew 16:18; the one of which Jesus said, "*I will build MY CHURCH.*"
- It was Christ's church!

Question: If people today hear and believe the same message about Jesus, repent of their sins, and are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of those sins, will the same Lord add them to the same church?

Answer: "*God is no respecter of persons.*" (Romans 2:11; Acts 10:34)

IV. AFTER PENTECOST, A.D. 33, THE KINGDOM (church) IS ALWAYS SPOKEN OF IN EXISTENCE

- A. Acts 8: 12 Philip preached "*the kingdom of God...*" and those who believed were baptized.
- B. Col. 1:13 Christians were "*in the kingdom*" of Christ (about 64 A.D.).
- C. Heb. 12:28 Christians have "*received a kingdom*" which "*cannot be shaken.*"
- D. Rev. 1:9 John was "*in the kingdom*" when he wrote the Revelation.
- E. I Cor. 15:24-26 At the end of time, Jesus will deliver up the kingdom to the Father.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO BE A CITIZEN OF GOD'S KINGDOM?