

The Kingdom, Now or in the Future?

By Tony Melton

Are you waiting for Jesus to come and set up his kingdom and reign on earth for 1000 years? This belief has been preached so much over radio, television, and from pulpits throughout the land that many people never question its validity.

Could it be possible that Jesus set up his kingdom the first time he came to earth? The apostle Paul seemed to believe this was the case as he wrote the Christians at Colosse, saying: “. . . He has **delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son** of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:12-14). Surely, Paul was not mistaken when he said that some of the Colossians had been conveyed or translated into the kingdom of Christ. Did Paul think that the kingdom had not arrived?

The apostle John confirmed Paul’s word saying, “I, John, both your brother and companion **in the tribulation and kingdom** and patience of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:9). Here again, we have another apostle who claimed that not only he, but others were in the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Did John believe that the kingdom was coming some 2000 years in the future? John was probably one of the disciples that Jesus told: “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here **who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power**” (Mark 9:1).

Jesus fulfilled His promise and the kingdom did come, but multitudes of people do not recognize it, because it is a spiritual kingdom, not an earthly one. Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here” (John 18:36). Jesus never planned on setting up a terrestrial kingdom, but rather a spiritual one. Had Jesus desired a worldly kingdom surely his followers would have engaged in carnal warfare in order to keep Jesus their King from being crucified.

Today, you should not be waiting for Jesus to set up His kingdom, but rather to find out how you can become a part of it.