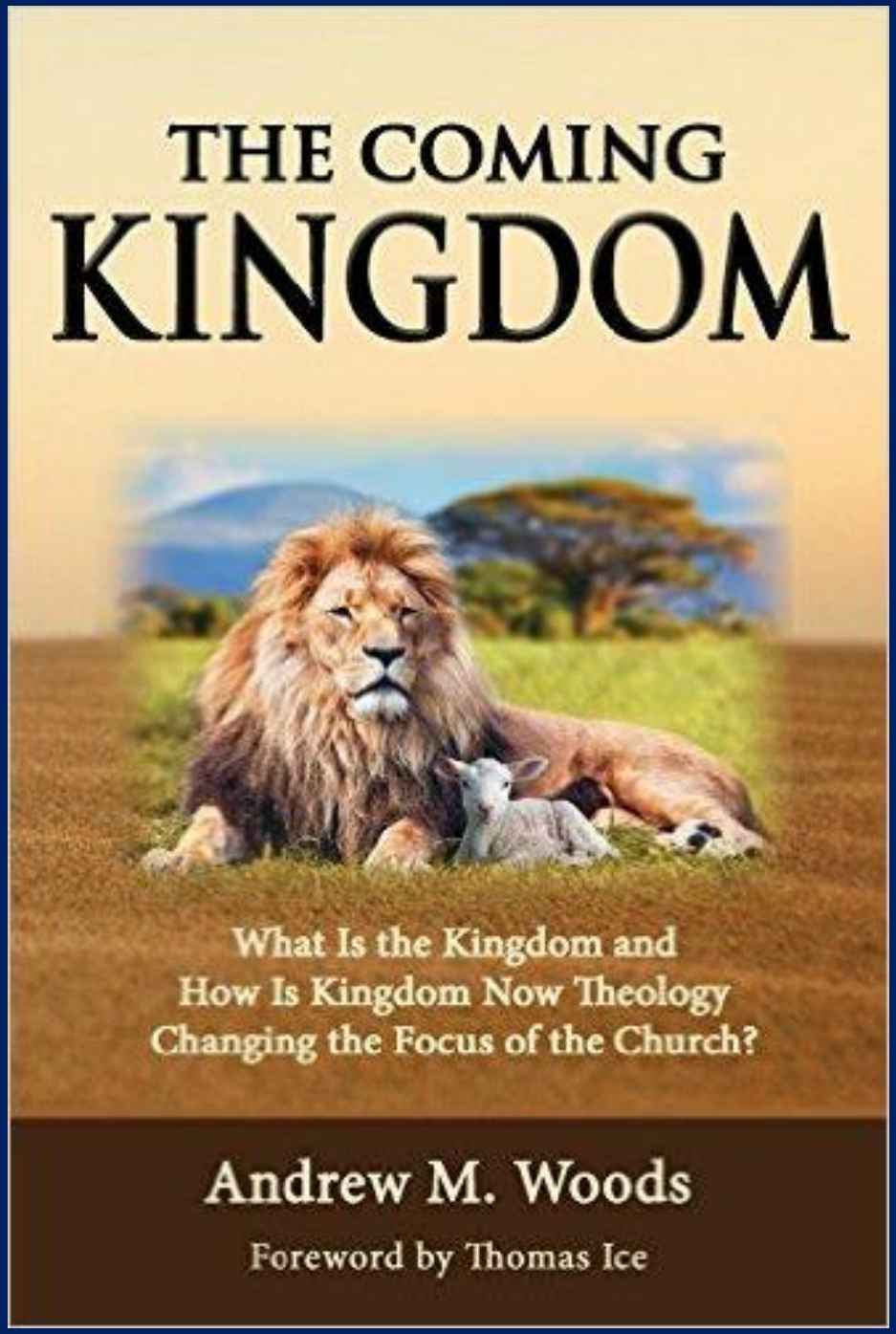

THE COMING
KINGDOM
What Is the Kingdom and
How Is Kingdom Now Theology
Changing the Focus of the Church?
Andrew M. Woods
Foreword by Thomas Ice

The Coming Kingdom

Chapter 8



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

Adjunct Professor of Bible & Theology – College of Biblical Studies

Kingdom Study Outline



1. What does the Bible Say About the Kingdom?
2. The Main Problem with Kingdom Now NT interpretations
3. Why do some believe that we are in the kingdom now?
4. Why does it matter?



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2. The Main Problem with Kingdom Now NT interpretations
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1. Kingdom Throughout the Bible

1. **Eden**	6. Old Testament Prophets
2. Abrahamic Covenant	7. Post exile
3. Mosaic Covenant	8. Offer of the King / Kingdom
4. Divided Kingdom	9. Rejection of the Offer
5. Times of the Gentiles	10. Interim Age



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REJECTION OF THE OFFER OF THE KINGDOM

1. Why did Israel reject the offer of the kingdom?

2. What was the turning point?

3. Was the kingdom re-offered in Acts?



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1. Why did Israel reject the offer of the kingdom?

a. Christ's kingdom was not just political but also moral and ethical in tone

b. Israel pursued righteousness by self righteousness rather than by transferred righteousness available though faith alone



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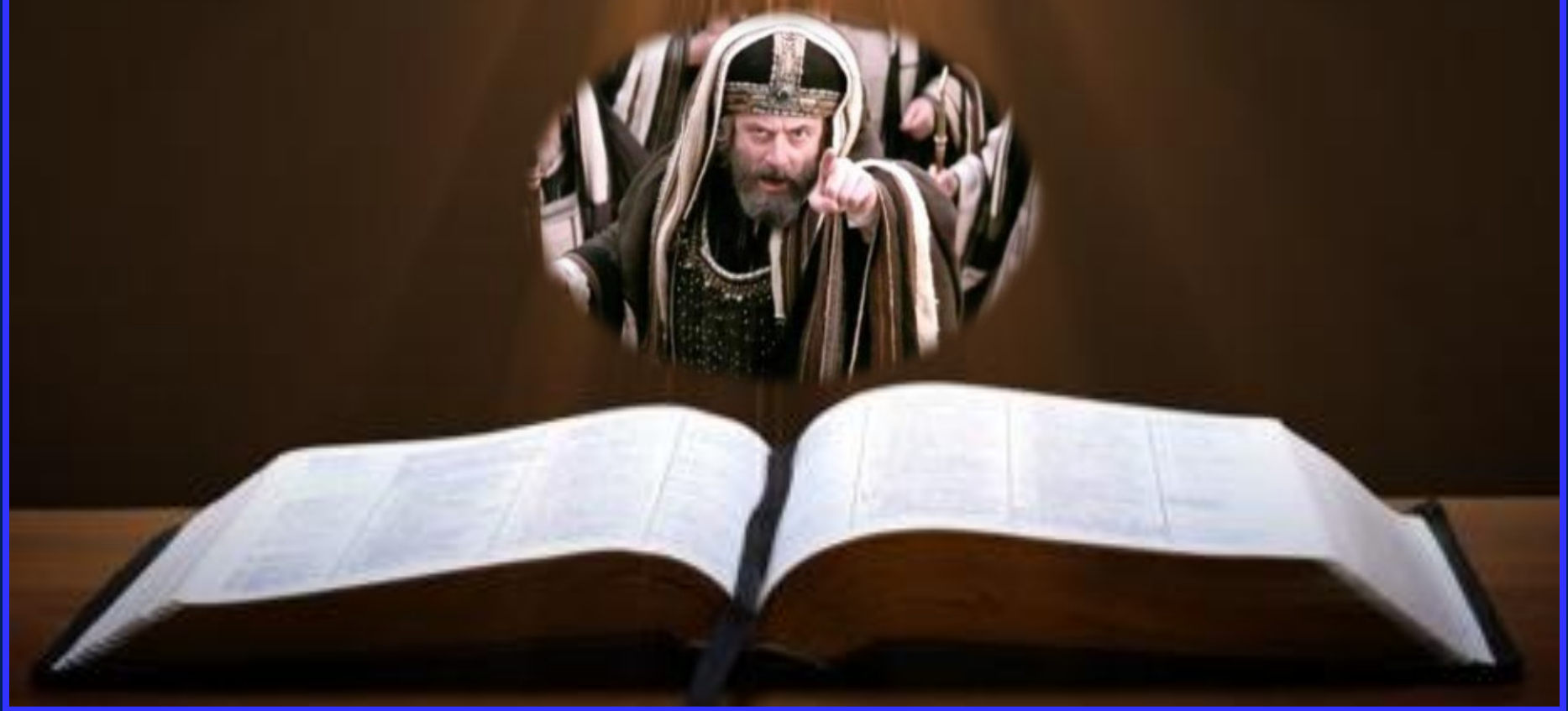
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Matthew 12:24 (NASB)

"But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."



Matthew 24:14 (NASB)

"This **gospel of the kingdom** shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."



Transition from Public to Private Ministry		
	Public	**Private**
Scripture	Matt. 1–12	Matt. 13–28
Focus	Nation	Remnant
Miracles	Proof to nation	Training for remnant
Offer	Prominent	Disappears
Teaching	Discourse	Parabolic
Interim program	Not mentioned	Prominent
Crucifixion; Resurrection	Not mentioned (4:17)	Prominent (16:21)

Matthew Outline

Pedigree of the king (1–2)

- Preparation of the king (3–4)
  - Pedagogy of the king (5–7)
    - Power of the king (8–9)
      - Program of the king (10)
        - Progressive rejection of the king (11–12)
      - Preparation of the king's disciples (13–20)
    - Presentation & rejection of the king (21–23)
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Proof of the king (28)

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John 19:15 (NASB)

"So they cried out, 'Away with *Him*, away with *Him*, crucify Him!' Pilate said to them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, '**We have no king but Caesar**.'"



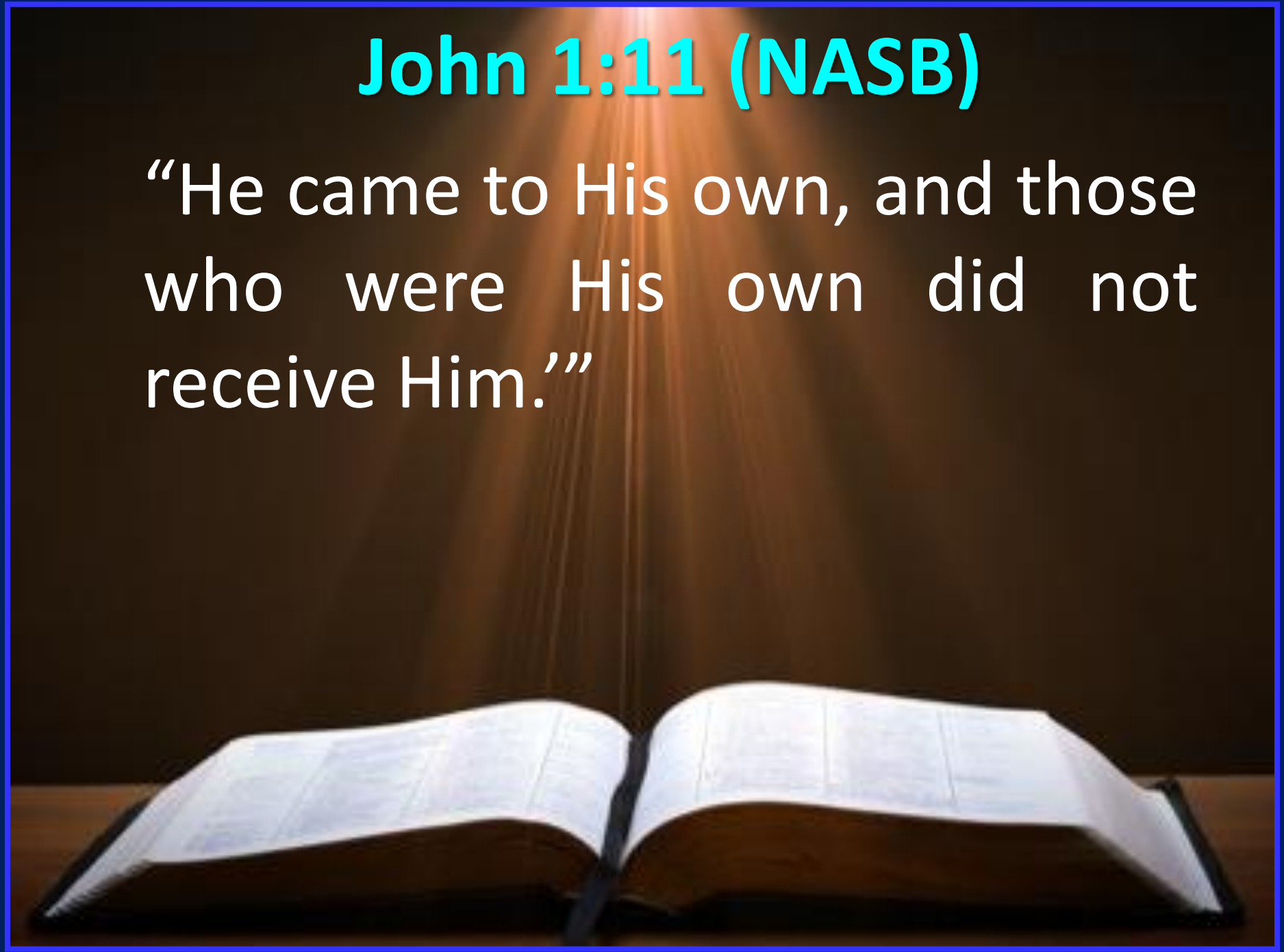
Luke 19:14 (NASB)

“But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘**We do not want this man to reign over us**.’”



John 1:11 (NASB)

“He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.’”



Daniel 9:26 (NASB)

"So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until **Messiah the Prince** *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. [26] Then after the sixty-two weeks **the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing**, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.'"



Six Parts of a Suzerain-Vassal Treaty in Deuteronomy

- Preamble (1:1-5)
- Prologue (1:6–4:40)
- Covenant obligations (5–26)
- Storage and reading instructions (27:2-3; 31:9, 24, 26)
- Witnesses (32:1)
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Deuteronomy 28:49-50 (NASB)

"The LORD will bring **a nation against you from afar**, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand, 50 a nation of fierce countenance who will have no respect for the old, nor show favor to the young."



Israel's Judgments

- Division of the kingdom in 931 B.C. (1 Kgs. 12)
- Assyrian judgment in 722 B.C. (2 Kgs. 17)
- Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. (2 Kgs. 25)
- Roman judgment in A.D. 70 (Luke 19:41-44)



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Acts 2:40-41 (NASB)

“[40] And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, ‘**Be saved from this perverse generation**!’ [41] So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.”



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Acts 1:6-7 (NASB)

“So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are **restoring the kingdom to Israel**?’ 7 He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.’”



3. Was the kingdom re-offered in Acts? No!

a. The king was absent (Acts 1:9-11)

b. Irreversible language found in the Gospels (Matt. 12:31-32; 21:42; 22:7)

c. A new age in the kingdom's absence has already been disclosed (Luke 19:11-27; Matt. 13; 24–25)

d. "Kingdom" is mentioned 45x in Luke's Gospel but only 8x in Acts

e. Expression "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" is absent from Acts



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Isaiah 9:6-7 (NASB)

6 **For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders;** And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.7 **There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore.** The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.



Luke 1:32-33 (NASB)

Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.



Deuteronomy 17:15

"**you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses**, *one* from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman."



Acts 3:19-21 (NASB)

“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 and that He may send **Jesus, the Christ** appointed for you, 21 whom **heaven must receive** until *the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”



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Matthew 21:43 (NASB)

"Therefore I say to you, **the kingdom of God will be taken away from you** and given to a people, producing the fruit of it."



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Matt 24 / Rev 6 Parallels

Prediction	Birth pangs (Matt 24)	Seal judgments (Rev 6)
False Christ	24:5	6:2
War	24:6	6:3-4
Famine	24:7	6:5-6
Death	24:6-7	6:7-8
Martyrs	24:9-13	6:9-11
Earthquakes	24:7	6:12-17
Evangelism	24:14	7:1-9

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Acts 28:30-31 (NASB)

"And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, [31] **preaching the kingdom of God** and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered."



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Messengers of the Kingdom In Matthew



- John the Baptist – 3:2
- Jesus Christ – 4:17
- 12 Apostles – 10:5-7
- Seventy – Luke 10:1, 9

Toussaint, *Behold the King*, 18-20

Matthew 3:1-2 (NASB)

“Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ‘**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**.’”



Matthew 4:17 (NASB)

“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**.’”



Matthew 10:5-7 (NASB)

“These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of *the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; 6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, preach, saying, ‘**The kingdom of heaven is at hand**.’”



Luke 10:1, 9 (NASB)

“Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come…and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ‘**The kingdom of God has come near to you**.’”



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Origin of the Universal Church

- Matt 16:18 – future tense
- Eph 2:14-15; 3:9; Rom 16:25-26; Col 1:26-27 – mystery
- Eph 1:20-22 – Christ's headship over church after Ascension
- Eph 4:7-11 – spiritual gifts after Ascension
- 1 Cor. 12:13 – Spirit's baptizing ministry
  - Acts 1:5 – above to begin after Ascension
  - Acts 11:15-16 – above began in the past
  - Acts 2 – only place for beginning of Spirit's baptizing ministry

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Kingdom Gospel vs. Personal Gospel

	Kingdom Gospel	Personal Gospel
Biblical example	Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:5-7	Acts 16:30-31
Target audience	National Israel (Matt. 10:5-7)	All nations (Matt. 28:18-20)
Type of salvation offered	National	Personal and individual
Portrayal of Christ	National savior and king	Personal savior
Kingdom expectancy	Imminent	Absent
Contribution to God's program	Appearing of the kingdom	Building of the church (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 11:25b)

Kingdom Gospel vs. Personal Gospel

	Kingdom Gospel	Personal Gospel
Scriptural foundation	Mosaic Covenant (Exod. 19:5-6; Deut. 28:15-68)	Gen. 3:15; 15:6; John 3:16; Gal 3:16
When preached?	Early Gospels and Tribulation (Matt. 3:2; 24:14)	Church Age
Preached today?	No	Yes
Perpetual availability?	No	Yes
Which Gospels?	Synoptics	John
Cross, atonement, resurrection, Ascension, Holy Spirit, forgiveness of sins	No	Yes

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“Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come…and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ‘**The kingdom of God has come near to you**.’”



Acts 2:23-24, 31-33, 36, 38 (NASB)

23 “this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you **nailed to a cross** by the hands of godless men and **put Him to death**. 24 But **God raised Him up** again, putting an end to the agony of **death**, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power…”



Acts 2:23-24, 31-33, 36, 38 (NASB)

"[31] he looked ahead and spoke of the **resurrection of the Christ**, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. [32] This Jesus **God raised up again**, to which we are all witnesses. [33] Therefore having been **exalted to the right hand of God**, and having received from the Father **the promise of the Holy Spirit**, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear…[36] Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom **you crucified**."…[38] Peter *said* to them, "**Repent**, and each of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins**; and you will receive the **gift of the Holy Spirit**.'"





[A] serious Arminian error respecting this doctrine occurs when repentance is added to faith or believing as a condition of salvation. It is true that repentance can very well be required as a condition of salvation, but then only because the change of mind which...has been involved when turning from every other confidence to the ***one needful trust*** in Christ. Such turning about, of course, cannot be achieved without a change of mind.

Lewis Sperry Chafer, vol. 7, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 265-66.



This vital newness of mind is a part of believing, after all, and therefore it may be and is used as a ***synonym*** for believing at times (cf. Acts 17:30; 20:21; 26:20; Rom. 2:4; 2Tim. 2:25; 2 Pet. 3:9). Repentance nevertheless cannot be added to believing as a condition of salvation, because upwards of 150 passages of Scripture condition salvation upon believing only (cf. John 3:16; Acts 16:31).

Lewis Sperry Chafer, vol. 7, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 265-66.

Acts 2:38 (NASB)

"Peter *said* to them, "**Repent**, **and** each of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for** (*eis*) the **forgiveness of your sins**; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."



Matthew 12:41 (NASB)

"The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented **<u>at</u> [in the face of/because of] (*eis*)** the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here."



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Matthew 23:37-39 (NASB)

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. 38 Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! 39 For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me **until** you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!”



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Eras of Miracles in Scripture	
Cluster	**Confirmation**
Moses	Law
Elijah & Elisha	Prophets
Christ	Offer of the kingdom
Apostles	Church
Antichrist	Satan’s kingdom

Hebrews 2:2-4 (NASB)

“For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was **confirmed** to us by those who heard. 4 God also **testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit** according to His own will.”



3. Was the kingdom re-offered in Acts? No!

a. The king was absent (Acts 1:9-11)

b. Irreversible language found in the Gospels (Matt. 12:31-32; 21:42; 22:7)

c. A new age in the kingdom's absence has already been disclosed (Luke 19:11-27; Matt. 13; 24–25)

d. "Kingdom" is mentioned 45x in Luke's Gospel but only 8x in Acts

e. Expression "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" is absent from Acts



3. Was the kingdom re-offered in Acts? No!

f. Co-mingling of kingdom truth with Church Age truth

g. The timing of the kingdom has already been fixed by the Father's authority (Acts 1:6-7)

h. Peter was merely preaching the personal Gospel in Acts 2

i. Acts 3:19-21 is laying out the condition by which the kingdom will ultimately come to the earth (Acts 3:19-21)

j. The miracles in Acts authenticate the new age of the Church (Heb. 2:2-3) and not the ongoing offer of the kingdom

Conclusion

REJECTION OF THE OFFER OF THE KINGDOM

1. Why did Israel reject the offer of the kingdom?

2. What was the turning point?

3. Was the kingdom re-offered in Acts?



1. Kingdom Throughout the Bible

1. Eden	6. Old Testament Prophets
2. Abrahamic Covenant	7. Post exile
3. Mosaic Covenant	8. Offer of the King / Kingdom
4. Divided Kingdom	9. Rejection of the Offer
5. Times of the Gentiles	**10. Interim Age**

