

THE KINGDOM OF GOD PART THREE

After the resurrection and ascension Jesus was seated on the throne of David as King over the Kingdom of God. But a transition had taken place from the earthly Kingdom with the throne of David in Jerusalem to a Spiritual Kingdom with David's throne in the heavens; **Acts 2:29-36**. The nature of the Kingdom had changed from earthly to spiritual, **1Cor 15:50; Rom 14:17**. The Jewish leaders and the people had looked for a messiah who would rule an earthly kingdom and therefore rejected Jesus as the king. They had misunderstood the mystery of the Kingdom foretold by the Old Testament prophets; **Mk 4:10-11; Acts 13:27; 1Cor 2:6-8**.

On numerous occasions Jesus corrected their misconception of an earthly King and Kingdom. At one point some of the people wanted to force Jesus to be their earthly King but He avoided them for he had not come to be an earthly King; **Jn 6:14-15**. In a prayer he revealed that the citizens of His Kingdom would be in this world but not of it; **Jn 17:9-18**. Their citizenship would be in the heavens not on the earth.

Philippians 3:20-21 (NASB)

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;
21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Jesus stood before Pilate because the Jewish leaders had accused him of being a King who was opposed to Caesar. Jesus informed Pilate that neither His Kingdom nor its citizens were a threat to Rome because His Kingdom's territory was not of this world. (**Jn 18:33-38**).

John 18:36 (NASB)

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." Convinced that Jesus was no threat to Rome Pilate tried to release Him but the Jewish leaders accused Pilate of being against Caesar if he allowed Jesus to live. Thus they prevailed and Pilate gave in to their lies (**Jn 19:12-13**).

The Pharisees asked Jesus when the Kingdom was coming. Jesus, speaking of Himself, said it was within their grasp or midst and that His kingdom would not come with the signs of an earthly Kingdoms emergence. As he had told Pilate, His kingdom was not of this realm.

Luke 17:20-21 (NASB)

20 Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed;
21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

Some thought that the earthly Kingdom of their misconceptions was about to immediately appear but Jesus corrected them with a parable. The parable taught that he must go away to receive his kingdom and that they must remain here and live under his rule. If while he was away they rejected his rule, when he returned, they would be slain (**Lk 19:11-27**).

Jesus did receive that Kingdom and citizens were added to it in the first century (**Col 1:13**).

There were no earthly boundaries to his kingdom but His citizens were found in every nation on earth (**Rev 5:9-10**). When the end comes He will return the Kingdom to the Father, **1Cor 15:24**. Next article we will look at what was required to become a citizens of Jesus' Kingdom.

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