

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

PART TWO of FOUR

The Jewish leaders were so jealous of Jesus and fearful of losing their authority that they missed the fulfillment of the very prophets that had been taught to the people for over 600 years. A hope had been planted in the hearts of the people by the prophet Daniel that God would establish his kingdom under the rule of one called the son of man and that the son of man's rule would begin during the kings of the Roman Empire. (**Dan 2:44; 7:13-14; Acts 13:27-34**)

Daniel 2:44 (NASB)

⁴⁴ **"In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom** which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

There was considerable expectation among the Jews of Jesus day because they knew that they lived in the time which the son of man was prophesied to come and rule. Someone was coming and the people were looking for both Him and His kingdom. When first John and then Jesus appeared with the message that the time was fulfilled and the kingdom of God was at hand, it was inevitable that huge crowds would come to investigate their message (**Mt 3:1-2, 5-6; Mk 1:14-15**).

Mark 1:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ and saying, "The **time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand**; repent and believe in the gospel."

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The expression "***at hand***" meant the Kingdom of God, foretold in the prophets, was about to come at that time and in that generation. This is exactly what Jesus told his disciples when he said they would live to see the Kingdom come with power (**Mt 16:28; Mk 9:1; Lk 9:27**).

Mark 9:1 (NASB)

¹ And Jesus was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are **some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.**"

After Jesus was resurrected he told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high and that this power would come when the Holy Spirit came upon them. (**Lk 24:44-49; Acts 1:8**).

Acts 1:8 (NASB)

⁸ but **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Peter preached that the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles was proof that when Jesus was raised he sat on the throne of David and was in heaven ruling as King (**Acts 2:29-36**).

The Kingdom and authority that the Jewish leaders had violently tried to hold onto was taken from them and given to Jesus. The transition of rule had been completed and Jesus' followers now comprised the Kingdom of God on earth (**Mt 21:42-45; Mt 28:18-20; Eph 1:20-23**).

From this time forward citizens were being added to the Kingdom under the rule of the son of God. The Kingdom of prophecy had come and the members of the church are its citizens on earth. (**Acts 2:47; Col 1:13; Rev 1:4-6, 9; 5:9-10**).

Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)

¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and **conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,**