

## The Kingdom of God By Trey Sullins

Can you imagine a kingdom which spans the whole globe which shall never be destroyed and all while breaking and consuming all other kingdoms? The prophets through which God spoke in times past often prophesied a kingdom just like this which would come in the future. This kingdom would be established by God (Daniel 2:44) and would serve Him. This is especially important to those who love God today because this kingdom is the church and there are many reasons why we can know this is the case.

The prophecies of this kingdom's establishment all align to the time in Acts 2 when the church was established. Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 goes through several different kingdoms which would come and go throughout the years. The Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and Grecian Empires are all listed in proper order. However, the final kingdom of man that is mentioned in Daniel 2:40-43 is referencing the Roman empire. In verse 44 it is in the days of this empire which the God of heaven would set up His kingdom. The only kingdom established by God during that time was the church and in Acts 2 we find the Roman government was the world power of the day.

The language about the kingdom identifies it as the church. Consider some of the numerous examples. John the baptizer in Matthew 3:1-2 said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" The wording "at hand" means that something was near or about to happen. John's mission was to prepare the way for Jesus (Matthew 3:3). While a big part of Jesus' mission was to prepare the world for the church through teaching, performing miracles, and dying on the cross. The only kingdom John could be talking about was the church which came just after the death of Jesus in Acts 2. Throughout the Bible we find the language of the kingdom and church being used interchangeably. In Matthew 16:19 Jesus says, "And I will give you the keys of the **kingdom** of heaven" and again in Matthew 18:3 He said, "unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the **kingdom** of heaven." In Colossians 1:13, the Bible declares God has "conveyed us into the **kingdom** of the Son of His love." Notice the past tense language "conveyed" which reveals that when these words were written this action had already taken place. Another powerful passage is in Matthew 16:28 "Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom." In the context Jesus was talking to His disciples and teaching them about true service to God. Once more He uses the word kingdom in reference to His coming church but notice also that some of those who were with Him in that moment would still be alive when the church was established! Again, the only way this could be the case is if the church is the kingdom and was established in Acts 2. The kingdom of God is the true church and it is the one established in Acts 2 which follows the Bible and the Bible only! Today we can find this true church by finding a church that has a scriptural name, scriptural worship, scriptural organization, scriptural works and does not change these things with man-made creeds and doctrines.

The simple facts from the word of God are that the kingdom came in the first century and it is alive even to this day. Jesus someday, will deliver it to God the Father in the end (1 Corinthians 15:24). What this means to us is we have to make sure that we are a part of His kingdom by applying God's word, not man's created doctrines, we can become Christians and enter into the kingdom (Acts 2:47). Then we must live faithfully according to the word of God to ensure that we maintain

our salvation in the kingdom. Let us always make sure that we are faithful Christians in the kingdom of God!