

“THEY LIVED AND REIGNED WITH CHRIST”: THE GLORIOUS KINGDOM OF CHRIST

Introduction

- 1) **Revelation 20:4** – martyred saints lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years
 - a) It is the joy of all who follow Christ to be joined to Him in His glorious kingdom
- 2) Christ was born to be king (Rev. 12:5; Jn. 18:37)
- 3) All who come to Christ are “receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken” (Heb. 12:28)
- 4) This glorious kingdom reveals much about our King Jesus and who we are to be

I) THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM IN PROPHECY

- A) The scepter shall not depart from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10)
- B) God would set His King on His holy hill of Zion (Psa. 2:4-9; 110:1-2)
- C) In the latter days, the mountain of the Lord’s house would be established (Isa. 2:2-3)
- D) God to set up a kingdom in days of “these kings” [Rome] (Dan. 2:44)

II) THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST ESTABLISHED

- A) Jesus and John the Baptist announce that the kingdom is “at hand” (Mk. 1:15; Matt. 3:2)
- B) Jesus would give the “keys of the kingdom” (Matt. 16:19)
- C) Casting out demons signaled the coming kingdom (Lk. 11:20)
- D) Christ raised to sit on David’s throne at the right hand of God (Acts 2:30-36; Rev. 12:5)
 - 1) Jesus has been given all authority, dominion, glory (Matt. 28:18; Dan. 7:13-14)
- E) Preached the “things concerning the kingdom of God” (Acts 8:12)
- F) Those saved are “translated” into the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13)
- G) We are “receiving a kingdom” which cannot be shaken (Heb. 12:28)

III) THE NATURE OF CHRIST’S KINGDOM

- A) Not of this world (Jn. 18:36)
- B) Spiritual (Jn. 3:3-6; Lk. 17:20-21)
- C) Heavenly (Phil. 3:20)
- D) Greatest manifestation yet of the reign of God (Matt. 6:33; Rev. 11:15)

IV) WITHIN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST IS FOUND...

- A) Divine authority (Matt. 16:19; Eph. 1:15-23; Col. 2:9-10)
- B) Forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:14)
- C) Righteousness, peace, joy (Rom. 14:17)
 - 1) Live our lives according to the faith of Christ – love truth and abhor sin (Psa. 15; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-23 – kingdom “now and not yet”; what we have and what we will inherit)

V) SUMMATION OF REVELATION 16-19

- A) Divine wrath poured out against evil political and religious forces of man’s rebellious earthly kingdom gathered against God and His people of that day (ch. 16)
 - 1) “Battle of Armageddon [Hill of Megiddo]” is symbolic of this battle in the time period of the writing of Revelation (16:14-16)
- B) The scarlet beast and harlot woman – symbolized as Babylon the Great (ch. 17)
- C) The fall of Babylon (ch. 18); Exultation in heaven (19:1-10)

D) Power of Christ's reign confirmed along with the defeat of the beast and false prophet (19:11-21)

V) REIGNING WITH CHRIST (Revelation 20)

A) Satan bound (limited) for "1000 years" (20:1-3)

B) Martyred saints reign with Christ for "1000 years" (20:4, 6)

1) Designated period of the saints' reign with Christ, not the period of Christ's reign itself

2) Christ already reigning prior to this point (1:6; 19:16) and will continue to reign after 1000 years has expired (20:7-11)

C) This is not a reference to a future reign of Jesus on earth, and is not after the second coming of Christ

1) It is NOW as saints today, living and dead, join victoriously with Christ in the kingdom today and awaiting the eternal kingdom (Dan. 7:26-27; Rev. 5:9-10; 2 Tim. 2:10-12a; Rev. 3:21; 22:5)

2) Before the end Satan will make one more attempt to destroy God's people (vv. 7-9), but will be unsuccessful (v. 10)

a) Unknown as to when this will be or what enemies will be involved

Conclusion

Christ will deliver the kingdom back to the Father after the final enemy, death, is destroyed at the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:24-28). God will continue to reign supreme, that He may be "all in all." Is He your ALL? Have you been delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of the Son of God (Col. 1:13-14)?