“The Kingdom”

Daniel 2:36-45

Introduction

I. Unfortunately, there is a lot of confusion when it comes to the kingdom of Christ.
   A. There are some who affirm that the kingdom already exists, and that individuals can be a part of it today.
   B. Others teach that the kingdom has yet to be established and that its existence is still in the future tense.
   C. Which one is correct? Can we know?

Discussion

I. Long ago, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, dreamed of the coming of a kingdom that would be unlike any kingdom before or after its establishment (Dan. 2:31-45).
   A. It was during this dream that other kingdoms were described as well.
      1. The first kingdom described was that of Babylon (Dan. 2:37-38).
      2. The second kingdom described was that of Medo-Persia (Dan. 2:39).
      3. The third kingdom described was that of the Grecian Empire (Dan. 2:39).
      4. The fourth kingdom described was that of the Roman Empire (Dan. 2:40-44).
   B. While describing the Roman Empire, a fifth kingdom is mentioned that would be established during the existence of the Roman Empire (Dan. 2:44).
      1. It is this kingdom that is the main focus of our study.
      2. This is the kingdom of Christ (evidence follows).
         a. Christ's kingdom would never be destroyed.
         b. Christ's kingdom would not have succession of kings.
         c. Christ's kingdom would conquer all other kingdoms.

II. History tells us that Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream was accurate.
   A. When Jesus physically dwelt upon the Earth, the Roman Empire was the ruling authority of record (Luke 20:21-25; John 19:12,15).
   B. While alive, both John and Jesus foretold of the imminent establishment of kingdom of heaven/God (Matt. 3:1-2; Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:14-15).
   C. Jesus also had His original twelve disciples preach the same message of the kingdom's imminent establishment (Matt. 10:7).
   D. According to Jesus, the kingdom would be established in the lifetimes of some in the first century A.D. (Mark 9:1).
      1. Jesus also mentioned that the kingdom's beginning would come with “power.”
      2. If we can identify when the “power” came, then we can identify the establishment of the kingdom (more will be shown later).
   E. The kingdom of Christ is not an earthly/physical kingdom (John 18:36-37).
      1. There are many who are waiting for the Christ to set-up a physical kingdom in the city of Jerusalem.
      2. Sadly, those individuals reject the very simple and plain teaching of Jesus.
   F. Jesus verified that the kingdom is synonymous with the term church (Matt. 16:18-19).

G. On the first Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ, the “power” came that Jesus said would accompany the establishment of the kingdom (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:6-8; 2:1-4).
H. From that time forth, those obedient to the Gospel of Jesus Christ were added to the church (Acts 2:41,47).
I. The apostle Paul equated being added to the church with being “translated” into Christ's kingdom (Col. 1:13).
J. The apostle John stated that he was in the kingdom when he wrote the book of Revelation (Rev. 1:6[A.S.V], 9).
K. With all of this evidence, it is clearly taught in Scripture that the kingdom of Christ has already been established!
L. Jesus cannot currently be the “King of kings” if He does not currently have a kingdom over which to reign (1 Tim. 6:15).

Conclusion

I. The church of Christ is the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar's dream that will endure.
II. Any person that would like to be a part of this kingdom is instructed on how to gain entrance (John 3:1-5).