

Waiting in Hope for the Kingdom

Introduction and Review

- Last week we looked at general eschatology from the perspective of the NT.
- Believers waited in hope for Christ in the NT before His birth & He was revealed to all who would believe (Lk. 2:8-20, 25-26, 36-38).
- Many unbelieving religious people had false & selfish expectations for a Messiah before Christ was born: Priestly & Royal (Mk. 14:61).
- God confirmed the truth about Christ for all believers with doubts before & after the resurrection (Lk. 7:18-23; 24:13-27; Jn. 20:24-28).
- Many unbelievers refused to accept the truth about Christ before & after the resurrection (Mk. 14:61; Mt. 28:11-15; Rom. 1:18-32; 2Pe. 3:1-7).

I. The Kingdom of God is Present (Lk. 17: 20-21)

A. Expectation

People were looking for a Messiah (Lk. 17:20a). There was a legitimate & biblical expectation for a godly Messiah (Ps. 110:1-7; Zech. 6:9-13). This eternal Priest (Ps. 110:4) was also the eternal King (v. 5-7).

B. Present reality

Jesus confirmed that He was the expected Messiah & that the kingdom of God was present for those with spiritual discernment (Lk. 17:20b-21; 11:20). The kingdom had appeared small & insignificant to many, but it would become dominant in the earth (Mt. 13:31-32). The NT confirms that Jesus was the priestly Messiah (Heb. 7:20-22ff).

The kingdom of God is present today for those with spiritual discernment.

II. The Kingdom of God is in the Future (Lk. 17:22-37)

A. Expectation

There was also a legitimate & biblical expectation for a royal or king Messiah (Jer. 23:5-6; Is. 11:1-9; Is. 9:6-7; Dan. 7:13-14). This Messiah would defeat all His enemies, bring peace to the earth & rule with righteous judgment. .

B. Future reality

This answer is for “disciples” (v. 22a). The consummation of the kingdom: is in the future (v. 22b-c), will not come secretly (v. 23-24), will not come before the crucifixion (v. 25), will come unexpectedly for many (v. 26-30) & will bring judgment on everyone not prepared (v. 31-37).

The kingdom of God will be fully revealed when Christ returns!