

The Promises of God - Lesson 11

Introduction:

1. In this lesson we are continuing our study of "God's promise to establish His kingdom."
2. Previously, we pointed out from a key prophecy in Daniel 2:44-45 that God's kingdom:
 - a. would be established when the kings of the 4th world empire ruled
 - b. would last forever -- it will never be destroyed
 - c. would be like a stone that became a great mountain and filled the earth.
3. The Old and New Testaments contain additional prophecies relating to this promise that deserve our careful attention.

Discussion:

I. OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES

A. Isaiah 2:2-4

1. Isaiah did not specifically use the word "kingdom."
2. However, he did mention:
 - a. something that would occur *"in the last days"*
 - b. *"the mountain of the Lord's house"* being established
 - c. the Lord's Word going forth *"from Jerusalem."*

B. Micah 4:1-3

1. Notice how similar this prophecy is to Isaiah's.
2. What was this prophecy about? (see Micah 4:6-8)

C. Joel 2:28-32

1. Joel did not specifically use the word "kingdom."
2. However, he did mention:
 - a. something that would occur at a later time
 - b. God's Spirit being poured out upon all flesh
 - c. deliverance being found in Jerusalem by those who would call on the Lord's name.

II. NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECIES

A. Matthew 3:1-2

1. John announced that the kingdom was near.
2. (Luke 3:1-2) When John made this announcement, Tiberius Caesar was ruling as the head of the Roman Empire [the 4th world empire].

B. Matthew 4:17

1. Jesus preached the same message that John preached.
2. As Jesus sent His apostles out on the limited commission, He instructed them to preach the same message (Matthew 10:7).

C. Matthew 16:13-19

1. (vs.18) Jesus said:
 - a. that He would build His church on a *"rock"* [the fact the He is the Christ, the Son of the living God]
 - b. that *"the gates of Hades"* would not prevent His church from being built.
2. (vs.19) Jesus:
 - a. spoke about His "church" and *"the kingdom of heaven"* interchangeably
 - b. said that *"the keys of the kingdom"* would be given to Peter.

D. Matthew 16:28

1. The Lord's kingdom would come during the lifetimes of some of the people present on that occasion.
2. (Mark 9:1) God's kingdom would also come with *"power."*