

The Promises of God - Lesson 12

Introduction:

1. In this lesson we are continuing our study of "God's promise to establish His kingdom."
2. We have examined a number of key prophecies from the Old and New Testaments.
 - a. (Daniel 2:44) God would set up His everlasting kingdom when the kings of the 4th kingdom ruled [the Roman Empire was the 4th kingdom to rise to power].
 - b. (Isaiah 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-8) God's kingdom would be established "*in the last days*" in Jerusalem where the Lord's law would go forth.
 - c. (Joel 2:28-32) In conjunction with deliverance being found in Jerusalem, God's Spirit would be poured out on all flesh.
 - d. (Matthew 3:1-2) John said that the kingdom was "*at hand*" [Tiberius Caesar was ruling the Roman Empire -- Luke 3:1-2].
 - e. (Matthew 4:17) Jesus said that the kingdom was "*at hand*."
 - f. Matthew 16:13-19
 - 1) Jesus said He would build His church on a "*rock*" [the fact that He is the Christ].
 - 2) Jesus said that "*the gates of Hades*" would not prevent His church from being built.
 - 3) Jesus spoke about His "*church*" and the "*kingdom*" interchangeably.
 - 4) The "*keys of the kingdom*" would be given to Peter.
 - g. (Matthew 16:28) The kingdom would come during the lifetimes of some of those present on that occasion.
 - h. (Mark 9:1) The kingdom would also come "*with power*."
3. By determining when these prophecies were fulfilled, we can know **when** and **where** God's kingdom was established.

Discussion:

- I. THE "*POWER*" THAT JESUS MENTIONED IN MARK 9:1 IS SIGNIFICANT
 - A. (Acts 1:8) This "*power*" was the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles.
 - B. The apostles were "*filled with the Holy Spirit*" on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
- II. THE LOCATION OF THE APOSTLES IS SIGNIFICANT
 - A. (Acts 1:4-5) Jesus commanded the apostles not to depart from Jerusalem.
 - B. (Acts 1:12) The apostles went to Jerusalem, and they remained there until Pentecost.
- III. THE TIME ELEMENT FOR THE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED ON PENTECOST IS SIGNIFICANT
 - A. The events recorded in Acts 2 occurred:
 1. about 3 years after John and Jesus said that the kingdom was "*at hand*"
 2. about 1 year after Jesus said that the kingdom would come during the lifetimes of those standing before Him.
 - B. Tiberius was still ruling as Caesar [the kings of the 4th kingdom were ruling].
- IV. SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OCCURRED ON PENTECOST (ACTS 2)
 - A. (vs.1-4) We have shown that the apostles were baptized in the Holy Spirit -- they received the "*power*" that Jesus said would accompany the establishment of His kingdom.
 - B. (vs.5-13) The people present had gone to Jerusalem from many different areas.
 - C. (vs.14) Peter was the spokesman on this occasion.
 - D. (vs.15-21) Joel's prophecy was fulfilled.
 - E. (vs.22-35) The main point of Peter's sermon was that Jesus had overcome the gates of Hades when He was resurrected from the grave.
 - F. (vs.36) Peter's conclusion was that Jesus is both Lord and Christ [the rock upon which Jesus said He would build His church].
 - G. (vs.37-40) Peter revealed "*the keys of the kingdom*."
 - H. (vs.41) About 3,000 people from all over the world found deliverance from their sins.
 - I. (vs.47) The church, God's kingdom on earth, was in existence after these events occurred.
 - J. Eventually, the Lord's law went forth from Jerusalem (Acts 8:1, 4).
 - K. Conclusion: God's kingdom was established in Jerusalem (**where**) on Pentecost (**when**).