

The Kingdom of Christ Is the Church of Christ

It is the contention of Premillennialists that Christ came to set up His kingdom in the first century, but because of Jewish rejection, He postponed the kingdom and set up the church as a secondary plan till the time would be right to come with His kingdom. Note: to the Premillennialist, the church and kingdom are not the same. Here are the problems with that idea.

I. Passages regarding the kingdom.

- A. Daniel's Prophecy (Daniel 2:1-44)
 - a. It would be established during the days of the Roman Empire.
 - b. Rome came into dominance in 63BC and continued till 476AD.
 - c. If the kingdom was not established then, Daniel misspoke.
- B. Nathan's Prophecy (2 Sam. 7:1-13).
 - a. Notice that Nathan predicted it would be established while David was still dead.
 - b. Peter claims that Jesus is on David's throne, and David is still in the grave.
 - c. If the Premillennialism were true, David would be raised at the Rapture, and Jesus would not come in His kingdom until after David had been raised from the dead!
- C. Testimony of John the baptizer.
 - a. Mt. 3:1-2 – *Repent for the kingdom is at hand.*
 - b. If it hasn't happened yet, John misled us.
 - c. Though the phrase "at hand" can be used prophetically, contextually speaking John was emphasizing its nearness.
- D. Jesus sealed it.
 - a. Mt. 16:13-18, 28.
 - b. Notice church and kingdom are used synonymously.
 - c. Notice it would happen within that generation.
- E. The apostles claimed to be in it.
 - a. Paul stated it in Colossians 1:13.
 - b. John in Revelation 1:9.
 - c. The Hebrew writer described the church as the kingdom (Heb. 12:22-28).
- F. The church is not "Plan B."
 - a. Eph. 3:1-11.
 - b. It was always in the mind of God to add Gentiles to the kingdom, but only revealed fully by the 1st century church.