

The Church is the Kingdom

Perhaps sometimes one might wonder if Christ's Church and His Kingdom are two different things? In this lesson, we will look at Bible scriptures to help us understand if Christ's church and Christ's Kingdom are one in the same. We will examine what the Bible tells us, to help us determine if these are two different entities or two different names for the same entity.

Church / Kingdom established as prophesied

Isaiah 2:1-3 "The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." God, through Isaiah, told us way back between, 740 B.C.-701 B.C., that the Lord would establish His house in Jerusalem.

Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." God, through Daniel, told us sometime between 604 B.C. and 532 B.C. that, in the time of the Roman kings His kingdom would be set up.

Luke 24:44-49 "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Jesus Himself, told us beginning in Jerusalem, that repentance and remission of sins would be preached in His name among all nations.

Acts 2:1-5 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven." and **Acts 2:47** "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." and **Acts 8:4** "And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havock of the

church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.” So, over 700 years before the church was established in Jerusalem, Isaiah wrote that the Lord’s church would be established in Jerusalem. Around 600 years, before the church was established in the time of the Roman Empire, Daniel wrote the church would be established during the Roman Empire. Daniel also told us that what God established during the Roman Empire would be His kingdom. Jesus Himself said preaching in His name would begin in Jerusalem. The Lord’s church was established in Jerusalem, as the Bible told us it would be. It spread forth from Jerusalem, even in the face of persecution, to go over the whole world. Saul, before he became the apostle Paul, was a major catalyst for the church to spread beyond Jerusalem, ironically. Jesus’s church or His Kingdom, which are one in the same were established exactly like God, through His Word, told us it would be.

The Scriptures speak of coming Kingdom which refers to the Church

Matthew 3:1-3 “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” John the Baptist taught his followers that the kingdom of Heaven was at hand, which means it was near to the time it would be established. The Lord’s church was established not long after the time of John the Baptist. The coming kingdom John preached about was Christ’s church.

Mark 9:1 “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.” Jesus told us, some of the people that were hearing His voice would not die until God’s kingdom was established. We either have some 2,000 year old people wondering around, or God’s kingdom was established within the lifetime of some of the people Christ was talking to. The coming kingdom Jesus talked about was His church. Christ’s church, and His kingdom, are one in the same.

Christ’s Kingdom / Church is not physical

John 18:36 “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.” and **Romans 14:17** “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” Jesus told us His kingdom was not physical. Christ’s kingdom is spiritual. There was no need for the crusades, holy wars, or any other form of killing in the name of a physical kingdom. All the untold numbers of people, that have died in these causes did so unnecessarily. Christ’s church is His kingdom, and His church is spiritual not physical.

Church / Kingdom are entered the same way

John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” and **Acts 2:38-47** “Then Peter said unto

them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Being born of water, or baptized, is the way in which one enters both the kingdom of God, and the Lord's church. Christ's church and His kingdom are one in the same.

Church = Kingdom

Matthew 16:15-19 "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Jesus Himself, said He would build His church on the rock of believing in Him as being the son of God. Christ also said He would give Peter, and the other apostles the keys to His kingdom. The Church of Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven are the same. (Note the church is not built on Peter, but rather the confession Peter made, that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God.)

John 3:3-5 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Not only is baptism the entrance into both Christ's church and kingdom, but not being baptized bars entrance into both. The Church of Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven are the same.

Conclusion

Hopefully, in this lesson, with the use of Bible scriptures, we have come to understand that Christ's church and Christ's Kingdom are one in the same. Through examining what the Bible tells us, we can determine these are two different names for the same entity. Thus, Christ's church and Christ's Kingdom are the same thing.