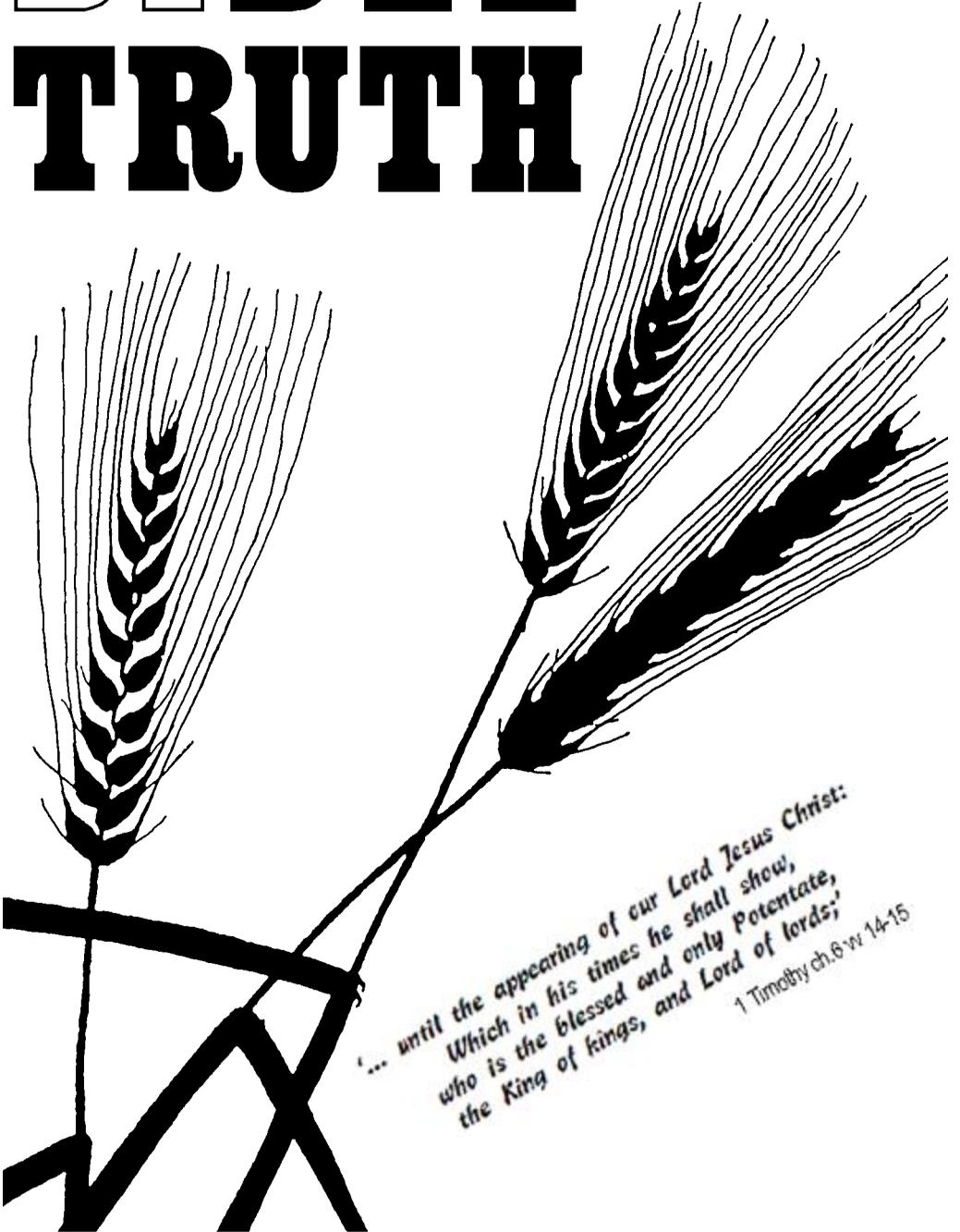


# BIBLE TRUTH

No. 266  
April / June 2012



*... until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
Which in his times he shall show,  
who is the blessed and only Potentate,  
the King of kings, and Lord of lords;  
1 Timothy ch.6-w 14-15*

# WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

by Pastor Dr Jory Brooks

Today a great confusion exists among the various Christian denominations concerning the timing and nature of the Kingdom of God. There are two main theories. One is Amillennialism, which makes the case that God's prophesied Kingdom of righteousness is found in the body of Christ, the Church of the present day. The other, Premillennialism, makes God's Kingdom to be solely future after the return of Christ to this earth. But a third view has also been proclaimed by knowledgeable Bible believers, who point out that it is both present —

‘Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son’, Colossians ch.1 v.13

and future —

‘But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom’.

Matthew ch.26 v.29

We believe that the Kingdom of God is an everlasting kingdom throughout history, and is not limited to one era.

‘Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.’

Psalms 145 v.13

‘And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?’

Daniel ch.4 vv 34-35

‘For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.’

2 Peter ch.1 v.11

## **An Everlasting Kingdom**

Nineteenth century Bible scholar, John Peter Lange, in his monumental 24 volume *Bible Commentary*, has this to say about God's Kingdom.

‘A kingdom of God has existed ever since God has created and governed the world, but it has passed through different periods ... exhibited manifold forms ... Viewed in this light, the whole history of the world itself is simply the history of the restoration and transformation of the world into the Kingdom of God.’

(X.2; XVIII:14)

God's Kingdom began in the Garden of Eden when God ‘walked in the garden’ in their midst (see Genesis ch.3 v.8), and all things were in perfection. There was no sorrow, no death, no suffering, no want of any good thing (Genesis ch.2 vv.8-9). Although mankind lost that first chance at ‘heaven on earth’, the whole subsequent history of the world comprises man's attempt to regain the peace and plenty that was lost in Eden. The New Testament closes with its re-fulfillment on earth (Revelation chs 21 & 22).

## **The Kingdom Stages**

God interacted among mankind throughout the history of the Old Testament. Since the major focus of the Old Testament was on Passover and the Temple rituals, this period may be called, the Passover stage of the Kingdom. Centuries later, a new age dawned with Christ's resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world to dwell in the lives of believers; this was the Pentecostal stage of the Kingdom. And, at a future day when Christ's coming (epiphany) occurs, and His presence (parousia) is with us, mankind will witness the dawning of the final stage of the Kingdom of God. Christ will tabernacle with us in an earthly Kingdom, which may be called, the Tabernacles stage. These three ages are in fact stages of the Kingdom of God on earth, and are symbolized in ritual form by the three ancient festivals of Old Testament worship: Passover, Pentecost (the Feast of Weeks), and Tabernacles. These ceremonial days ‘are a shadow of things to come’, i.e. prophetic (see Colossians ch.2 v.17).

‘For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.’

Hebrews ch.10 v.1

## **God's Kingdom Today**

The Kingdom in existence today operates internally within the lives of believers.

‘For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.’

Matthew ch.18 v.20

‘Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.’

Luke ch.17 v.21

This stage is necessary, because men's hearts had to be converted before nations could be converted. Yet, the internal Kingdom can be discerned only by those who understand the Spirit's infilling in believer's lives. Today, Christ reigns in the midst of His enemies in the hearts of His people. But the time is coming, upon His return, in which the Kingdom of God will hold physical sway over the entire earth. Until that time, we are to proclaim God's Word to the unregenerate world, whilst learning and upholding the principles of ‘Kingdom Living’ as outlined in the Bible. As Christ said,

‘But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’

Matthew ch.6 v.33

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