

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NEAR

Note to the speaker:

Explain the difference between the kingdom mentioned at Colossians 1:13 and that which is referred to at Revelation 11:15. Show how Bible prophecy is being fulfilled in our day, proving that full Kingdom rule over earth's affairs is near

'REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NEAR' (7 min.)

Your life depends on recognizing that Kingdom of God is near

Messianic Kingdom, a heavenly government headed by Jesus Christ, is an expression of God's sovereignty

Those who desire eternal life must be advocates of that Kingdom

Kingdom was theme of Messiah's ministry (Read Matthew 4:17)

At that time, how had 'the kingdom drawn near'?

Jesus, the heir to David's throne, was anointed as King at his baptism (Lu 1:32, 33; 3:21, 22)

Hence, he could tell Pharisees that the Kingdom (as represented by Christ) was in their midst (Lu 17:20, 21; *rs* 226)

Why did Jesus call upon the Jews to repent? (Mr 1:14, 15)

Repentance was required as to their action in relation to the Kingdom (2Pe 3:9; *w75* 12/15 750-1)

They needed to acknowledge God as their rightful Sovereign and his Son as King designate

Today, people need to repent of activities under Satan's sovereignty and to give full allegiance to God's Kingdom

But do we now have reason to believe that the 'kingdom is near'?

Yes, for Jesus gave thrilling prophecies signaling his return as reigning King

What events lead up to the Messianic Kingdom's complete rule over the earth?

JESUS RECEIVED A SPIRITUAL KINGDOM AT HIS RESURRECTION (8 min.)

Christ first received a spiritual kingdom—"the kingdom of the Son of his [God's] love" (Read Colossians 1:13, 14)

Put to death by enemies, he was raised in spirit to be King of the new nation of spiritual Israelites (Eph 1:20-23; *w91* 8/1 11 pars. 11-13)

This "Israel of God" came into existence with outpouring of holy spirit at Pentecost 33 C.E. (Ga 6:16; Ac 2:1-4)

Those of this Israel were "transferred" into Jesus' spiritual kingdom (*it-2* 169; *rs* 232; *w81* 6/15 26-7)

At Pentecost, Jesus began reigning over spiritual Israel, the congregation of spirit-anointed Christians, not over the world of mankind

The total number of such spirit-begotten ones is to be 144,000 (Re 14:3)

While in the flesh, they engage in "the ministry of the word" as "ambassadors substituting for Christ" (Ac 6:4; 2Co 5:20)

Jesus' rule in 'the kingdom of the Son of God's love' will end when the last one of the 144,000 dies and joins Christ in heaven (*pe* 136)

They must serve faithfully under this spiritual kingdom until death in order to rule with Christ in the heavenly Messianic Kingdom (Re 2:10; 5:9, 10)

WORLD RULERSHIP OF "OUR LORD AND OF HIS CHRIST" BEGINS (8 min.)

Time would come when Jesus would receive power as King of God's Kingdom

He would become ruler in "the kingdom of the world," ruling over all humankind on earth (*re* 171-2; read Revelation 11:15-18)

Jehovah, "our Lord," would then begin to exercise his great power to rule over the world of mankind in special sense

Jesus, "his Christ," would share this world rulership

Resurrected Jesus would sit at God's right hand until it was time to begin Kingdom rule amid his enemies (*ws* 22-3; read Psalm 2:1-6)

Major fulfillment of Psalm 2 has been taking place since the end of the Gentile Times in 1914 (*ws* 24-8)

Birth of male child, or Kingdom, then occurred (Re 12:1, 2, 5)

WHAT KINGDOM RULE MEANS FOR OPPOSERS AND FOR SUPPORTERS (10 min.)

There can be no neutrality regarding Kingdom; we are either for the King Jesus Christ or against him (Lu 11:23)

Messianic Kingdom—the "stone" cut out of "mountain" symbolizing Jehovah's universal sovereignty—will soon crush Satan's world system (Da 2:34, 35, 44, 45; *go* 66-70)

Before that takes place, under satanic influence worldly rulers will try to wipe out Kingdom supporters (Re 12:17)

Jehovah will rescue Kingdom advocates; the King Jesus Christ will destroy their foes at Armageddon (Eze 38:18-22; *vs* 152-9)

Enemies of the Kingdom and of Kingdom witnesses will suffer inglorious defeat (Zec 14:12)

“Great crowd” of Kingdom supporters will survive and enter Millennium with prospect of eternal life (Re 7:9, 14, 17)

“SIGN” PROVES KINGDOM RULE IS NEAR (8 min.)

Events show that Christ is present in Kingdom power; thus the end of Satan’s rule is imminent

“Sign” of Jesus’ presence includes events beginning in 1914 (Read Matthew 24:3, 7)

Ride of apocalyptic horsemen is occurring (Re 6:1-8; *re* 89-99)

Grandest proof that Kingdom rule is near is the worldwide preaching work being done by Jehovah’s Witnesses (Mt 24:14)

This is “good news” of the Kingdom already established

Never in history has such Kingdom preaching been accomplished

REMEMBER THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NEAR (4 min.)

Jesus urged: “Keep on the watch” (Mt 24:42)

Are you watching? Can you read “the sign” aright?

Fulfillment of “the sign” shows that the Kingdom of God is indeed near—it has already begun ruling!

This means that the destruction of the old system is at hand

Live for the new world, not for the old world

Exert yourself to make your salvation sure (Lu 13:24; 2Pe 3:13-15)

Zealously share with others in proclaiming: The Kingdom of God is near!

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)