

HOW DO YOU FIT INTO THE KINGDOM ARRANGEMENT?

Note to the speaker:

All of Jehovah's Witnesses should be able to explain the Kingdom clearly. Today we fit into the Kingdom arrangement by actively supporting the worldwide preaching work

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES AND THE KINGDOM—A DIFFERENT TEACHING (4 min.)

The Kingdom is a Bible teaching uniquely proclaimed by Jehovah's Witnesses (*w79* 7/1 18; *w80* 1/15 9)

If you compared your beliefs with those of the churches, Kingdom would likely be a primary difference (*g88* 12/22 18, 24)

Jesus said that the Kingdom would be the key element of our preaching in last days (Mt 24:14)

Could you effectively show a person precisely what the Bible says about the Kingdom? (*rs* 225-33)

We could all state basic beliefs: Kingdom is a government in heaven with Jesus as King since 1914; 144,000 are taken from earth to be joint king-priests to reign over a paradise restored on earth

But could you now establish from Bible each of these points?

As we discuss each point, consider whether you could prove it from Bible

WHO QUALIFIES AS KING OF THE KINGDOM, AND WHEN? (20 min.)

Could you show from the Bible that no man on earth, but only someone in heaven, could qualify as King of the Kingdom? (*go* 91-2)

The king of the theocratic Kingdom would have to be of David's line (Ps 89:35, 36)

No man alive in this generation can prove he has the legal right to David's throne (*it-1* 909 ¶4)

Jesus was of that line, but he is not alive on earth, so how could he be the King of the Kingdom?

Prophecy in Daniel chapter 7 establishes that Kingdom rule is given to someone in heaven

Daniel's prophecy indicated that Kingdom rule would come far down in the stream of history (Da 7:1-8; *go* 93-8; *gm* 127-8; *w86* 10/1 7)

The four beasts coming out of the sea represented human rulerships (Read Daniel 7:15-17)

Babylonian Empire had, like a speedy, powerful lion, devoured nations and peoples but then was defeated
Like a bear, Medo-Persian World Power was hungry for conquest and pushed into three directions before Greece overcame it

Grecian World Power began with Alexander the Great and swiftly expanded, like a bounding leopard
After Alexander died, four generals took over parts of his domain

Fourth beast at first represented Roman Empire but also depicted rise of Anglo-American World Power (Read Daniel 7:23-25) (*w88* 5/15 24-6)

Roman Empire, like a crushing, devouring, fearsome beast, took over the Grecian Empire

"Ten horns" symbolized the sum of various nations and governments resulting when the Roman Empire gradually broke up

One prominent outgrowth of this breakup was Great Britain

Like the 'small horn,' by 1763 Britain had defeated the navies of Spain, Netherlands, and France

The 'small horn' of Daniel 7:8 has come to represent the Anglo-American World Power

We are considering this history just briefly to get setting for important information about the King of Kingdom

Daniel provides us with a vision of court action in heaven regarding the kingship of God's Kingdom (Read Daniel 7:9-14) (*go* 98-107)

Jehovah God is the Ancient of Days; this vision impresses us with his lofty position

We are living at time when the 'small horn' exercises influence

Former "beasts" have been permitted to exist in the form of remnants of their territories

"Son of man" is introduced; who is he, and what is described as happening to him?

You might answer, 'The "Son of man" is Jesus,' but could you give Bible backing for that view?

Inspired record at Matthew 26:63-65 (read) identifies the Son of man as being Jesus (*w88* 1/1 10)

Daniel's description harmonizes with Revelation 1:7, where Jesus is the one coming on clouds

When does he come and receive kingship and a kingdom? How does Daniel's vision help us to know?

This event must be after the rise of Anglo-American World Power ('small horn') in modern times

Fulfillment of other Bible prophecies shows that at about the outbreak of World War I, Jehovah gave his Son kingship to rule in heavenly Messianic Kingdom

An encouraging feature of Daniel's prophecy is that it shows that the Messianic Kingdom will destroy human kingdoms (Da 7:14, 26)

But what about the taking of some humans to heaven to rule? Could you support that from Bible?

HOW CAN HUMANS SHARE KINGDOM RULE? (9 min.)

Daniel's vision indicates not only that Jesus (Son of man) will receive Kingdom rulership but also that others will share this (Read Daniel 7:18, 27) (*kc* 143)

Bible shows that some of Jesus' followers were called to share in Kingdom rule (Read Revelation 1:9)

Apostle John was inspired to provide much information about the sharing of humans in Kingdom rule (*go* 108-14)

He wrote that 144,000 humans would be taken to heaven to share rulership with Jesus (Read Revelation 14:1; gist of verses 3-5)

What if someone said that we should not take 144,000 as literal number? (*go* 111; *rs* 167)

The Lamb referred to was Jesus, "the Lamb of God"; Revelation 14 indicates only one Lamb, which is a literal number, so it is reasonable that number 144,000 is literal too (Joh 1:29; *g62* 9/8 27-8)

They are "firstfruits" of mankind; firstfruits are a small representative selection

Jesus could call them a "little flock," since 144,000 humans taken to rule with Jesus would be few compared to world population (Lu 12:32)

Revelation 7:4-8 also mentions these sharers in Kingdom rule (*go* 112-14)

Though they are said to be from 'tribes of Israel,' they are not all fleshly Jews (*re* 116-19)

Names of the 'tribes' differ from original 12 tribes of natural Israel, indicating that Revelation 7 is not referring to Israelites according to the flesh (*w62* 400-401; *it-2* 1125)

Revelation 5:9, 10 (read) shows that they are actually from many nations

Logical that Revelation is referring to those who are Israelites inwardly (Quote Romans 2:29)

How do humans become sharers in Kingdom rule?

God calls humans to heaven to share Kingdom rulership with Jesus (*go* 115-20)

They must be baptized in water and anointed with holy spirit (Read John 3:3, 5) (*go* 113-14)

Thus they are "born again," born not as humans but as spiritual sons of God (*g88* 2/8 26-7)

After being called to be joint heirs with Christ, these must be faithful till death (Re 2:10)

God, through Jesus, then raises them to life in heaven to rule with Christ (Re 20:4-6)

Most of us do not have calling to rule with Christ, so how do we fit into Kingdom arrangement?

We have good reason to look forward to time when entire earth will benefit from heavenly rulership (Da 7:27)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW TO FIT IN? (12 min.)

Bible plainly shows that the vast majority of faithful humans will enjoy eternal life on earth

The fact that only a little flock goes to heaven suggests that the rest will be rewarded elsewhere

God's purpose for man is that he live on earth (Ge 1:28)

Human death was to come only if humans were disobedient (Ge 2:17)

Psalms 37:11, 29 indicates that the earth will be ruled in righteousness

This agrees with Revelation 5:9, 10

We are approaching a critical time as far as our fitting into the Kingdom arrangement is concerned (Read Matthew 25:31, 32) (*w95* 10/15 23-8)

Separation and judging will be on the basis of support or nonsupport of Christ's anointed "brothers" (Read Matthew 25:34-40)

Jesus was not describing the new world, for anointed will not then be naked, hungry, or in prison

Supporters are those who recognize and cooperate with Christ's anointed brothers in their vital preaching work in this time of the end

All of us can ask: 'Do I feel that I am wholeheartedly manifesting my support of the Kingdom work? Am I working hard in doing all I can to proclaim the Kingdom?'

Reward for supporters will be inheriting earthly realm of the Kingdom (*go* 166; *w85* 2/1 22-3)

Nonsupporters chose not to fit into the Kingdom arrangement; these will receive adverse judgment (Read Matthew 25:41-46) (*go* 167-71)

They refuse to acknowledge Christ's "brothers," who are preaching Kingdom; do not support this vital work

This is a serious matter; there is no middle ground or straddling of the fence; when final judgment is rendered, person will be either "sheep" or 'goat'

Now is the time for us to manifest our absolute allegiance to the Kingdom and to support it enthusiastically

Means not being casual about attending meetings nor self-sparing as to sharing in public Kingdom-preaching arranged by the congregation

By proving our sincere faith in Jesus as King and Ransomer, we will be fitting in now and be in line for the blessing mentioned at Matthew 25:34

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