

# DO YOU AGREE WITH JESUS?

**QUESTION: Will Jesus return to establish an earthly kingdom?**

One of the prevailing philosophies in religious society is that Jesus will return in the end times to establish his kingdom in Jerusalem and rule upon the throne of David. Most envision a peaceful thousand year reign that will precede the battle of Armageddon. Let us consider this thought together, and determine whether the kingdom of Christ has yet to be established, or whether it is a present reality.

Man has always misunderstood the nature of the kingdom of the Messiah. The Jews longed for an earthly king who would deliver them from the hand of Roman oppression and restore the glory to Israel. On one occasion, they attempted to force the hand of Jesus and make him their king (John 6:15). James and John, according to the wishes of their mother, desired that they be given seats on either side of Jesus in his kingdom (Matthew 20:20-28). Even after the death, burial, and resurrection of the Savior, the disciples were awaiting the restoration of the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:6).

Time and again Jesus sought to correct their understanding of the nature of his kingdom. When the Jews brought false accusations against Jesus in order to have him put to death, among the allegations was that he was attempting to establish an earthly empire. They claimed he was a threat to Caesar (Which is what they really wanted from him, but when he refused such, they instead used this against him!). Amid these accusations, Jesus declared the true intent of his kingdom: "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" (John 18:36). He earlier stated that there would be "some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power" (Mark 9:1). The truth is, Jesus established his kingdom in the lifetime of those who walked with him. The kingdom/church (see Matthew 16:18-19) was established on the day of Pentecost, after the resurrection of our Lord, as recorded in Acts 2.

Do you have a question that you would like for us to consider together, or a comment regarding what has been written? If so, please contact us at [sixthavenue@bellsouth.net](mailto:sixthavenue@bellsouth.net), or write to us at the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ, 1501 Sixth Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, 35501.