

## **Things Hard To Understand (#7)**

### **“What is the kingdom?... When will it begin?”**

**Text:** Matthew 16:16-18

#### **Introduction:**

1. Each of us no doubt has been exposed to a multitude of teachings relating to misconceptions of the kingdom and its beginning. (Rapture, tribulation, Christ’s return to earth, return of Israel to Jerusalem as God’s favored people, rebuilding of the temple, etc!)
2. The truth of the matter is that the kingdom is already here! How can we say such? 1 Peter 4:11; Acts 17:11 and Colossians 3:17 are but a few of the passages which mandate that such claims be upheld only with an examination of God’s Word. Thus let’s see what His Word says.

#### **Discussion:**

##### **I. Pertinent Old Testament Prophecies**

1. 2 Samuel 7:12-16 – the ruler of the kingdom to be in David's lineage
2. Isaiah 2:1-4 (Micah 4:1-4) – the kingdom to begin in the last days, at Jerusalem, all nations would flow into it, the law would go forth
3. Daniel 2:28-45 – the kingdom to begin in the days of Roman kings
4. Joel 2:28-29 – the kingdom to begin in the last days with power from the Holy Spirit

##### **II. Pertinent New Testament Promises**

1. Matthew 3:2 (Mk. 1:1-8) - John, the kingdom is at hand
2. Mark 1:14-15 - Jesus, the kingdom is at hand
3. Matthew 16:13-19 - Jesus, the kingdom is promised
4. Mark 9:1 - Jesus, the kingdom to be established in life-time of hearers

##### **III. THE Question: Have These Been Fulfilled, Or Are They Yet Future?**

1. “Last days” –
2. In Jerusalem –
3. Days of the Roman empire –
4. Power of the Holy Spirit displayed –
5. The law to go forth –
6. All nations flow into it –
7. The king to be of David’s lineage –
8. During the days some with Christ lived –

#### **IV. Some things to consider:**

1. Mark 9:1 – Was Jesus a liar, lunatic or Lord? (Or some VERY old people here!)
2. Matthew 16:19 – If Peter used the “keys” to get people into the church instead of the kingdom (and they are different) he is nothing better than a burglar!
3. Luke 22:30 – The Lord said His table was in His kingdom, yet Paul talked of the church partaking of the Lord’s table (1 Corinthians 1:2; 10:21 and 11:20). Who was wrong - Jesus or Paul... or are the church and the kingdom the same?
4. Colossians 1:13 – Paul wrote the Colossian Christians about being “translated” into the “kingdom” – was he in error?

#### **Conclusion:**

1. What is the Kingdom? ... God’s Word identifies it as the church!
2. When will it come?... God’s Word tells us it came on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2
3. Another important question – am I a member of it? My eternal destiny is at stake!
  - (1) John 3:3-5; Acts 2:37-47
  - (2) 1 Corinthians 15:24

Next Week: What about Revelation 20 - the 1000 year kingdom promised?