

Two Gospels by Bob Thompson

The facts contrasted in the following entries will help any honest, attentive student of the Word to know why—

1. It is not true that the “gospel of the kingdom” in Matt. 24:14 (which was preached by Christ, the 12 Jewish apostles, and the 70 disciples – Mark 1:14-15; Lu. 9:2; 10:9), AND the “gospel of Christ” (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15: 1-5) are the same gospel.
2. It is not true that the Davidic, Messianic kingdom of God announced by John, the 12 and the 70 during Christ’s earthly ministry, came at Pentecost, as the so-called “Church of Christ” teaches.
3. It is not true that “the gospel of the kingdom of God” preached by Christ, the 12 and the 70 is God’s commission to the church today, as the so-called “Church of Christ”, “7th Day Adventists” and the so-called “Jehovah’s Witnesses” believe.
4. It is not true that God’s earthly people, Israel, have been irrevocably cut off from God’s favor, that they “will never again be a chosen re-gathered people” as the three above-mentioned religious organizations claim. These three sects likewise falsely teach that they each respectively are “spiritual Israel”.
5. It is not true that Christ is today spiritually reigning over the Davidic kingdom which He announced to Israel, and that He will not therefore physically and literally return to earth to reign, as the “Watchtower Society” and the so-called “Church of Christ” teach.

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1. The word “GOSPEL” means “glad tidings” or “good news”. Thus, “THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM (Mark 1:14-15) was the “good news” to the nation of Israel that her King (the promised Messiah), as well as the promised Davidic kingdom, was “at hand”.

THE MIRACLES which Christ, the 12, and the 70 performed in

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“THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST” Rom. 1:16, is the “good news” to everyone who will receive it, of “how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures: and that He was seen...” 1 Cor. 15: 1-5.

THIS GOSPEL of personal salvation from sin is the gospel that was preached

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Palestine, convinced every honest, humble, godly Jew that the kingdom promised and prophesied by the prophets had indeed “COME” – as Christ told them it had in Matt. 12:28; that it was actually “IN YOUR MIDST” – as He told the ungodly, rebellious Scribes and Pharisees in Luke 17:21 – (Note marginal reading here).

MATTHEW 11:12-14; 23:37-39 – Christ’s offer of the kingdom to Israel was truly bona fide.

But.....ISRAEL’S UNBELIEF kept the Lord from enjoining these earthly blessings upon her at that time. (See Matt. 21:43; 23:37-39; Rom. 11:20; Acts 13:46-47; 18:4; 28:28).

IT WAS PURELY A NATIONAL QUESTION, not an individual one.

Thus the few who did receive their “Messiah” could become “the sons of God”. As we read in Jn. 1:11-12: “He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

2. The expression “kingdom of heaven” is used interchangeably with “the kingdom of God” in the gospel accounts. Compare Matt. 10:7 with Luke 9:2.

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to Abraham (Gal. 3:8). Christ preached it to Nicodemus as recorded in John 3: 1-21. All the prophets of God preached it, and all who have been saved since Adam are those who have believed it – Gal. 3:7,9; Heb. 11:4; Acts 10:43; 4:12; Isa. 28:16; Rom. 4:1-12; 10: 9-11, 16. It is God’s universal call to all men in all ages.

TODAY ANY SINNER MAY LOOK BACK TO THE CROSS AND BE SAVED! The moment he submissively and humbly acknowledges all that the Word has to say about his sinful condition, receiving Christ’s death “baptism” (Luke 12:50) on Calvary as an altogether sufficient sacrifice to God for his sins, and believes that God the Father raised Christ from the dead, as the Scriptures declare, then he is instantly and forever saved and sealed by the Holy Spirit. Rom. 3:9-28; 5:19; 10:8-13; Eph. 1:13-14; John 3:18-19. BELIEVERS WHO LIVED BEFORE THE CROSS LOOKED FORWARD to the fulfillment of Christ’s death and resurrection for their sins (as did Abraham) and so, receiving it by faith, were likewise saved. – Rom. 4:3, 6-8.

“THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST” – Rom. 1:16, that brings “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” (Rom. 14:17) to all who believe it from their hearts, is

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3. Christ said in Matt. 24:14: “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and **THEN SHALL THE END COME.**” As I understand the scriptures regarding the preaching referred to in Matt. 24:14, Israel, now temporarily set aside because of her “unbelief” (Rom. 11:20; Acts 28:28) will not again be given the “gospel (glad tidings) of the kingdom” until the Church of this present dispensation has been raptured out – 1 Thess. 4:16-18; 2 Thess. 2:6-12. After the Church is gone, this message will be preached by part of the remnant of Israel (probably the 144,000 of Rev. 7:4; 14:3-4) “for a witness unto all nations” (Matt. 24:14). This preaching will in turn cause the Jews to “be hated of all nations for My name’s sake,” as Christ prophesied in Matt. 24:9. If the Jews are hated today, it certainly is not for Christ’s sake, for as a nation they themselves despise Christ. I believe this message of “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand” will be preached during the “the time of Jacob’s trouble” – Jer. 30:7, otherwise known as “the days of tribulation” – Matt. 24:21, 29; Rev. 7:14. These “tribulation” days will close with “the DAY
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the same as “the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24); “the gospel of salvation” (Eph. 1:13); and Paul’s “my gospel,” so-called because Paul neither received it of man, neither was he taught it, but he received it by “the revelation of Jesus Christ” – Gal. 1:12; 2 Tim. 2:8; WHICH IS THE SAME GOSPEL AS:

Col. 1:23 – “...and be not moved away from the hope of THE GOSPEL, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.” THIS GOSPEL is obviously different than “the gospel of the kingdom” in Matt. 24:14, since this gospel of Col. 1:23 has ALREADY been preached “to every creature which is under heaven,” and YET THE END HAS NOT COME! See also Col. 1:6.

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KING Who will someday sit on an earthly throne, in an earthly Jerusalem, reigning over an earthly people “with a rod of iron.”

6. The following references plainly describe the kingdom that was announced and offered to Israel in the four gospel accounts, and which must yet be literally established in Palestine if these prophecies are to have their fulfillment: 2 Sam. 7:10-16; Isa. 9:7; 11:6-11; 35:1-10; Amos 9:13-15; Joel 2:18-29; Daniel 2:31-25, 40-44; 7:14; Isa. 2:1-5; 4:1-6; 10:20-22; 14:1-3; 19:17-25; 25:8-9; 26:1; 45:14-17; Jer. 3:17-18; 30:1-10; 31: 1-17; 31:27-40; 32:37-44; 33:6-26; Ezek. 11:17-20; 28:24-26; 34:22-31; 36:16-38; 37:15-28; chapters 40 thru 48; Hosea 2:14-23; 14:4-7; 3:5; Joel 3:17-21; Micah 4:1-8; 5:7-15; 7:16-20; Habakkuk 2:14; Zephaniah 3:8-20; Zech. 2:4-13; 6:12-13; 12:10; 13:6; 14:1-21 – read this through carefully; Lu. 1:30-33. (see also Romans 11:26-28; 9:4-5; 8:21; Psalm 72:6,7,8,11; Matt. 24:27-31; 35:31-33; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 3:19-21; Rev. 2:25-28; 5:10; 19:11-16; (Rev. 19:17-19 with Matt. 24:27-28; Acts 26:6-7; 28:30).

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from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God.” If this “MYSTERY” was hid in God until Paul was commissioned to preach it, then the old scriptures have nothing to say on the subject, nor could it have been included in the message of John, Christ, the 12 or the 70 to Israel. See Eph. 3:1-9; Romans 16:25-27.

The prophetic promises to Israel of their Messianic kingdom (given opposite this page) and compared with the following references, will clearly show that THE KINGDOM preached in the four gospel accounts by John, Christ, the 12 and the 70, (which kingdom is mentioned in Matt. 16:19) AND THE CHURCH which Christ told Peter He would build upon a rock (Matt. 16:19) ARE NOT THE SAME THING. (The kingdom is earthly and still future. The Church is purely spiritual, it began at Pentecost, and it will continue until 1 Thess. 4:16-17 is fulfilled.) 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19-23; 1 Peter 2:5; 2 Cor. 5:7

HEREIN LIES THE HEART OF THIS STUDY: These and similar references depict the future Edenic kingdom promised to earthly Israel, and graphically enumerate the physical blessings God will yet bring to pass in this earthly kingdom promised to her. This is the kingdom John heralded as he cried: “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.” This kingdom Christ preached, and empowered His 12 apostles and the 70 to preach and confirm with signs and miracles. This is the kingdom Christ offered to Israel. This is the kingdom Israel refused. And this is the kingdom that will not be restored until the church is completed and caught up, until “the times of the Gentiles” has run its course, until Israel repents (Acts 3:19-21; Joel 2:17-18; 3:1,17) **THEREBY** making possible “the fortunes of Israel” to be literally realized in a literal, earthly Jerusalem by God’s earthly nation Israel. **THUS ANYONE WHO FAILS TO READ AND STUDY THESE KINGDOM PROMISES FOR THEMSELVES**, closes the door to one of the great blessings God has for those who honestly study His Word. May God help us to obey 2 Tim. 2:15.

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7. The succeeding verses show that national, earthly, Israel, though temporarily cut off from God’s favor and blessings (Rom. 11:20,25-29), has never ceased to be a nation before God, and that Israel will yet inherit all of the physical promises made to her. Gen. 13:14-17 with Acts 7:5. Jer. 31:31-37; 33:22-26- Isa. 11:11; 14:1; 60:15-22; 61:4-6; Jer. 30:1-11; READ ROMANS 11:25-29, NOTE VERSE 28.

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Having now been baptized “into Christ” as true believers, we have been “...made to sit together IN HEAVENLY PLACES... and are (already) blessed with all spiritual blessings...” in Christ. Eph. 1:3; 2:6.

We are seated in the glory with Christ on the strength of what “the Lamb of God” accomplished for us on Calvary and His glorious resurrection. Rom. 5:19. Because Christ “was obedient unto death”, thus satisfying every just and holy demand that the law had against our sins: (the spiritual phase or aspect of “the kingdom of God” which is “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” - (Rom. 14:17, CAN NEVER BE TAKEN FROM US! The blood of Jesus Christ and the sealing of the Holy Spirit have secured it forever.

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8. The kingdom preached and offered to Israel by Christ during His earthly sojourn was physical, political, Jewish, Palestinian, Davidic. It came to Israel without “outward show” of pomp and splendor (Lu. 17:20-21; Matt. 12:28), but with sufficient “kingdom miracles” to prove to any humble Jew that it was indeed there. (Matt. 10:7-8; Lu. 10:9-19). When Israel rejected her King, this kingdom was TAKEN FROM HER. –Matt. 21:43.

9. This gospel of “the kingdom of God” offered Israel abundance of physical blessings which, when she receives it, will make her the most sought after (not the most persecuted) nation on earth. Zech. 8:22-23; Isa. 4:1-2; Isa. 35 and 60.

10. This kingdom will have in it EATING AND DRINKING. Lu. 22:29-30; Joel 2:22-26.

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John 3:16; 5:24; 10:27-29; (Eph. 1:4 with Rom. 8:28-30; 11:29) Eph. 4:30; (Heb. 7:25 with Heb. 9:24 and Rom. 8:34); (2 Tim. 2:19 with Matt. 7:21-23 – note words “I never knew you” in 7:23); Rom. 6:23; 8:35-39; 11:6; Phil. 1:6; (Romans 8:18 with Col. 3:3); 1 Peter 1:4-5; Heb. 10:14; 13:5; 1 John 5:13; (1 Pet. 1:23 with 1 Jn. 3:9 and Col. 3:9-11); Psalm 37:23-28. NEVERTHELESS OUR SECURITY IN CHRIST GIVES US NO LISENCE TO SIN! See 1 Cor. 11:31; Heb. 12:11. “...he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons”. – Col. 3:25. See also Gal. 6:7 and 1 Cor. 3:12-15.

The Christian’s blessings are primarily spiritual since we are physically promised nothing beyond our needs, while we are told that “we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” Eph. 1:3; Phil. 4:19.

“...the righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” is “NOT MEAT AND DRINK”.

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11. This kingdom has an earthly priesthood. Exek. 44:9-16, 22-24.
12. This kingdom is both physical and Jewish: --Jer. 31:1-40; 33:14-26.
13. The kingdom promised to Israel will be granted to her under the Abrahamic (Gen. 13:14-17; 17:6-8), Davidic (2 Sam. 7:10-16) and New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-12).
14. When this kingdom is received by the Jews, and Christ sets up His literal throne in Jerusalem, then “the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” See Isa. 11:9.

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Our priest is in heaven. Heb. 9:11; 7:25 to 8:2.

In Christ “there is neither Jew nor Gentile...male or female, for ye are all one in Christ.” Gal. 3:28; 2 Cor. 5:7.

Salvation from the penalty of sin and the gift of eternal life is given to all who believe in the gospel – under the Abrahamic covenant: “In thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.” (Gen. 12:2. Compare with Gal. 3: 14-16). ALL MEN IN EVERY AGE who have been saved from their sins have been saved under this covenant WITHOUT WORKS. See Acts 10:43; 15:11; 2 Tim. 1:9; Romans –chapt. 4. Gen. 12:3; 15:6; with Gal. 3:6-9, 14; John 1:11-13; Psa. 34:18; Isa. 66:2; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 3:21-22; Psa. 51:16-17. Titus 3:5 (note words “we” and “us”). This verse includes Paul who was born under the law). GOD HAS NEVER HAD MORE THAN ONE PLAN FOR SAVING SINNERS.

Though the spiritual form of “the kingdom of God”, which is “...righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” (Rom. 14:17) has already been received by every true believer, millions in the earth today are still ignorant of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul warns of those in the last days who would be “...ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”. – 2 Tim. 3:7.

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15. When Israel penitently receives the Lord Jesus Christ as her King and His kingdom is established in their land, then persecution will cease forever for the Jews, and “they shall no more be pulled out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God”. Amos 9:15; Jer. 31.

16. When this kingdom is granted to Israel, then “they shall look upon Him Whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him.” Zech. 12:10.

17. When Christ returns to save His people Israel, He will physically plant His feet “on the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the East...” - Zech. 14:4.

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“They that will live godly in Christ Jesus SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION”. 2 Tim 3:12. “For unto you (Paul wrote) it is given on behalf of Christ; not only to believe on Him, but also to SUFFER FOR HIS SAKE.” --Phil. 1:29.

We in the “body of Christ: do not have the privilege of actually seeing Christ during our stay on earth, but rather: “Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory!” --1 Peter 1:8.

When Christ comes for His Church, He will not come to earth but we are to meet Him in the air. Read 1 Thess. 4:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-53.
