

The Kingdom of God



The 1,000 Year (Millennial) Reign of Christ on Earth

Mark 1:15

“the kingdom of God is at Hand”

- “at hand” means “come near”
- There was 2 comings of Christ prophesied.
 1. 1st Coming, Jesus is establishing a **Spiritual Kingdom** of the heart, revealed by revelation and indwelling of the Holy Spirit of those who believe (Luke 17:20-21). Provides the power to overcome evil and avoid its eternal consequences.
 2. 2nd Coming, there will be a **Physical Earthly Kingdom** (Rev. 20:1-6) where Jesus will reign as King in Jerusalem, and after 1,000 years God will create a new heaven and a new earth that will last forever (Rev 22-1-5).

The Spiritual Kingdom & The Church

- Jesus defined His ministry in terms of the “**Kingdom**” in Mark 1:14-15 and Jesus also is the first to use the term “**Church**”.
- Kingdom of God (used in Mark) and Kingdom of Heaven (used in Matthew) are synonymous.
- **All individuals who put their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord are in the KINGDOM OF GOD,**
- **The collection of believers are the CHURCH. The church is not a building or a “religion”.**
- **Therefore this kingdom is about people on the earth now who are saved.**

The Spiritual Kingdom & The Church

- The **Parables of Matthew 13** apply to both the Spiritual Kingdom & the Church, (not the physical Kingdom on Christ's return). Each parable begins with the words **“the kingdom of heaven is like...”**
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1. **Parable of the Sower** – the seed is the Word and believers are the sowers. 3 kinds of bad soil, 1 good soil
 2. **The Wheat & Tares** – both good and bad in the church, but will be separated at the end of the age
 3. **The Mustard Seed** – church starts off small, but grows big
 4. **The Leaven** – is hidden in the meal, starts small from within & grows big
 5. **The Treasure hid in a field** – Field is the world purchased by Christ at the priceless cost of His blood in order that He might have the treasure
 6. **Pearl of Great Price** – Kingdom of God is of the greatest value, like a pearl
 7. **The Dragnet** - both good and bad in the church, but will be separated at the end of the age

The Spiritual Kingdom = Believers who have the indwelling Holy Spirit

Luke 17:20-21 ²⁰ Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹ nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, **the kingdom of God is within you**” (within you means “in your midst” – in Jesus Himself)

Romans 14:17 ¹⁷ for **the kingdom of God** is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the **Holy Spirit**.

John 3:3-5 “... **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”
⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**”

Acts 1:5 ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the **Holy Spirit...**”

The Future Kingdom of God

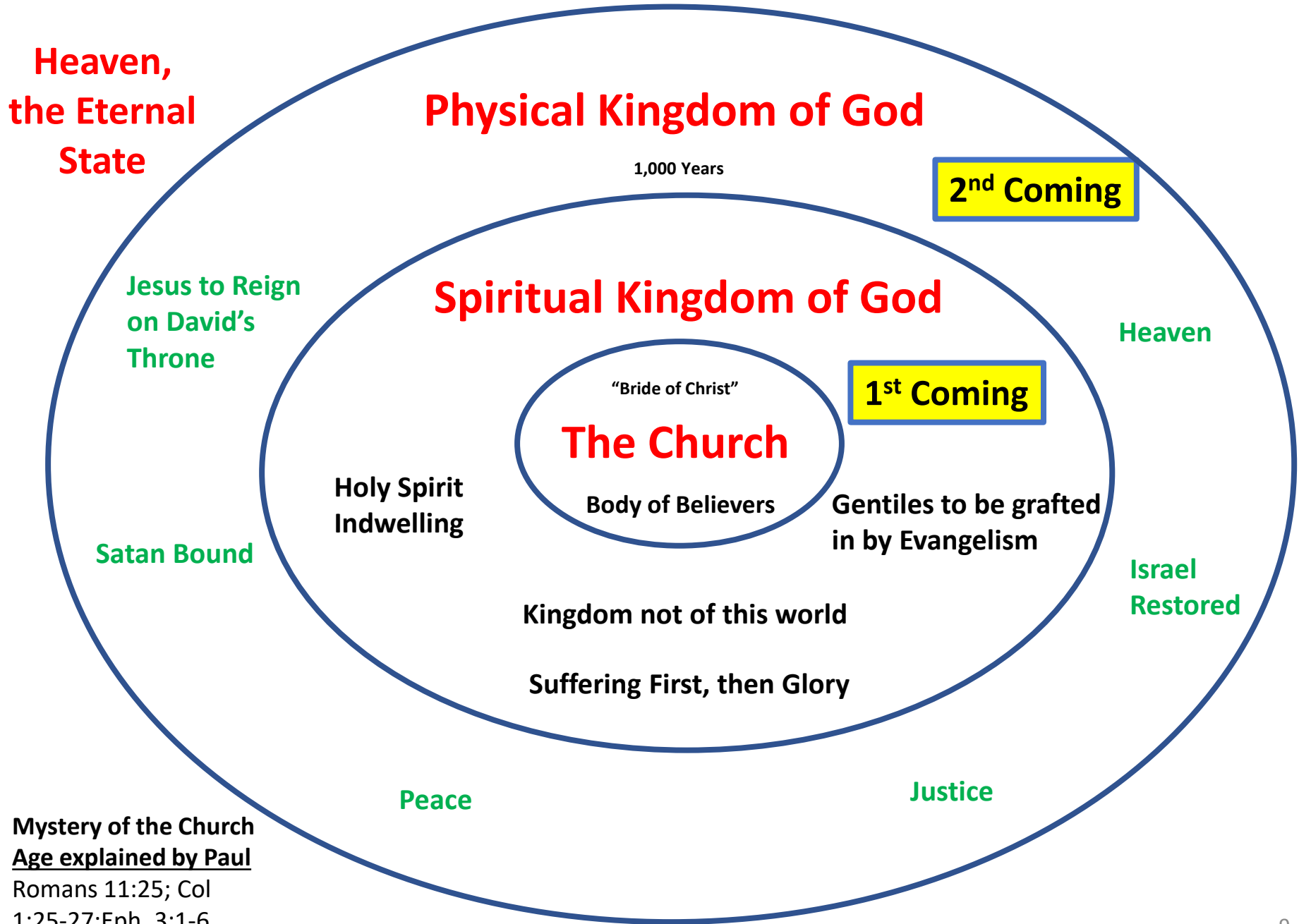
- The Bible speaks of another future Kingdom, established when Christ returns to earth and rule as king in Jerusalem, sitting on the throne of David (Luke 1:32-33)
- This must happen to fulfil the unconditional covenants God made to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3; Deut. 30:1-10) and David (2 Sam. 7:10-13)
- At the second coming, these covenants will be fulfilled as Israel is re-gathered from the nations (Matt. 24:31), converted (Zech. 12:10-14), and restored to the land under the rule of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
- Revelation 20:2-7 gives the precise time period of a 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth (the millennial kingdom). Even without these scriptures, there are countless others that point to a literal reign of the Messiah on the earth.

Is The Future Kingdom a Literal Event?

- If we believe that the 300 prophecies of the 1st Coming of Christ were literally fulfilled, then it follows logically that we must also believe the 1,800 prophecies of His 2nd Coming to be literal.
- How much easier is it to believe that Christ, who is the Almighty God, will come as a glorified King than to believe He would come as a helpless babe in Bethlehem's manger?
- The events of Christ's 1st coming are now historical fact.
- Do not believe any teaching that "spiritualizes/allegorizes" Christ's return to reign. This is a false teaching that denies the clear truth of the Bible.

The Future Kingdom of God

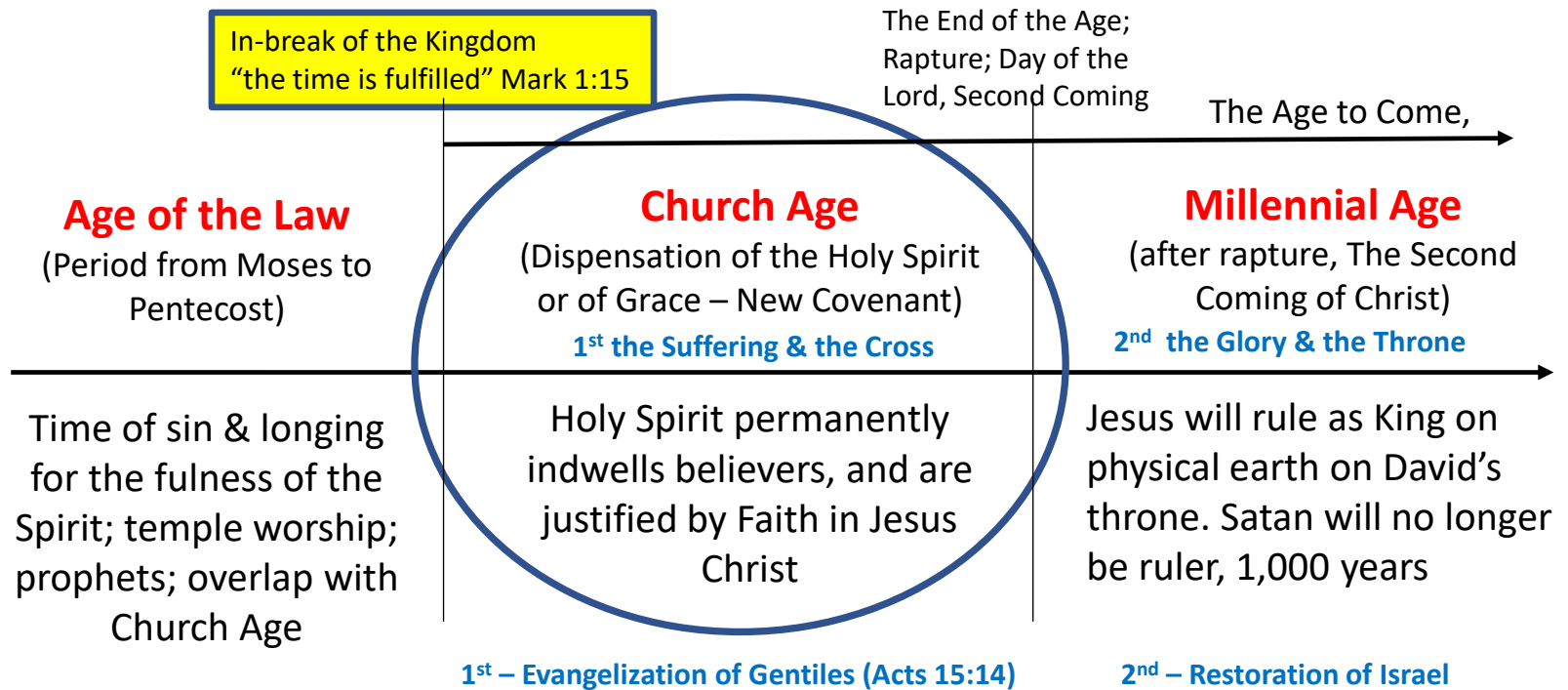
- **The Old Testament prophets only spoke about this FUTURE Kingdom**, and they wrote extensively about it. The prophets did not see or understand the Cross and the church age which is characterized by the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- When asked, Jesus confirmed that the future Kingdom of Israel which was prophesied, would be come to pass, but on His second coming
 - **Acts 1:6-7** - ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “**Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?**” ⁷ And He said to them, “**It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.**”
 - **Acts 15:14-16** - God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. ¹⁵ And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: ¹⁶ ‘**After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David**, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up;



Mystery of the Church
Age explained by Paul

Romans 11:25; Col
1:25-27; Eph. 3:1-6

The Church Age



- OT prophets couldn't see the Church age, while they foresaw a Messiah of suffering & rejection, they also saw One of Earthly Glory & Power – confusion & mystery.
- A New Age was announced by Jesus – The Church Age (Matt. 16:18; Acts 9:31; Eph 1:22-23; 1 Cor. 10:32)
- Paul explains "**the mystery**" of the Church Age - "To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col 1:25-27; Eph. 3:1-6; Rom. 8–the Olive tree). To separate a people for His name (called the Church, Acts 15:14).
- The end-time fulfillment of the twofold OT promise of the restoration of Israel to their land if they repent, and the Salvation of the Gentiles. Paul reverses the order, first the conversion of Gentiles, and then restoration of Israel (Rom. 11: 25-27)
- **The Church Age will be brought to an end by a series of prophesied events**, mainly the **Rapture** (1 Thess. 4:17; the judgements of the 7th week of Daniel called the **tribulation** (Rev. 7:14), and the **return of the Lord Jesus Christ** from Heaven to Earth in power and glory (Rev. 19:11, 17)

The Kingdom is in the Future & is not The Church

- The distinction between the Church, Israel and the Kingdom is very plainly taught in [Romans 11](#). Israel is compared to an Olive Tree, but because of unbelief the branches were broken off, and the Church, the wild olive branches are grafted in. (Amillennialist's ignore Romans 11).
- But the day is coming when Israel as a nation will return to God, accept Christ as the Messiah, and be grafted in once more, when the time of Gentile is fulfilled ([Romans 11:25-26](#))
- **Therefore, the Kingdom is yet to be established in the future when Israel accepts Christ as Messiah.**
- Matt. 16:18 – **“Upon this rock I will build my church”** – this is not identified with the Kingdom, but is the companion of Christ in his sufferings (Col 1:24)

Selected Prophecies of the Future Kingdom of God

Isaiah 9:6,7

⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of **His government and peace** *There will be no end,*

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,

To order it and establish it with **judgment and justice** From that time forward, even forever.

This prediction will only be fulfilled when Jesus Christ returns & establishes His Kingdom on earth.

There has never been peace on earth, hence this is a future Kingdom

Christ is the legal successor to David's throne & He will be the next King of Israel!

Selected Prophecies of the Future Kingdom of God

Luke 1:31-33

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and **bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.**

This prediction was fulfilled when Jesus Christ came to earth 2,000 years ago.

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the **Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.** ³³ **And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,** and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

This is future, unfulfilled prophecy.

What right have we to interpret verse 31 literally, then spiritualize verses 32 & 33?

Selected Prophecies of the Future Kingdom of God

Matthew 19:28

28 So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

The **regeneration** speaks of a time when things are made anew in a **future Kingdom**

Again, Jesus states that He will sit and rule from David's Throne

Jesus says the 12 Apostles will sit with Him on 12 thrones, judging. This of course has never taken place and is **still future**. It will be literally fulfilled when the King comes back in the Millennium, or stated here, “the regeneration”

Selected Prophecies of the Future Kingdom of God

Matthew 27:11,37

- ¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, “**Are You the King of the Jews?**”
- Jesus said to him, “***It is as you say.***”
- ³⁷ And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him:
- **THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

Pilate acknowledges that most people thought Jesus was the prophesied Messiah, the King of the Jews who would rule on David's throne

Jesus clearly say He is the King...but He was not treated like a king at all in His death. This can only be understood in light of His return.

Jesus was born a King. He died a King. And He will return to rule over His Kingdom in every sense. The will be a future Kingdom!

Selected Prophecies of the Future Kingdom of God

THE LORD'S PRAYER - Jesus asked us to pray "**thy Kingdom come, thy will be done**"

Luke 22:16

¹⁶ for I say to you, **I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.**"

Mark 14:25 - THE LORD'S SUPPER (Matt. 26:29; Luke 22:16-18)

²⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, **I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.**"

- This is a prayer that has never been answered, otherwise we would not continue to pray for it.
- It says that when the Kingdom comes, the will of God will be done on earth.
- This is not the case today. This is Satan's world now.
- Not until Christ returns to bind Satan and rule on the throne will His will be done on earth.

2nd Coming

Prophecies of the Jews & Israel are Critical to understanding the Return of Christ & The Kingdom of God

- **The Kingdom of God is directly related to Israel** since the prophecies must be fulfilled of Israel back in the land before Jesus returns to Jerusalem.
- God told us that the **Jews would be scattered** among the nations of the world (Ezek. 22:14-15; Hosea 3:4; Mark 13:2), **then regathered** in the latter days (Is. 11:11-12; Jer. 16:14-15; 23:3-8; Ezekiel 37:1-10; Zech 10:8-10) and then **restored in the Kingdom of God (LITERALLY – CANNOT SPIRITUALIZE)** Gen. 13:15; 17:8; 1Chr. 17:9; Ps. 105:8-11; Isa. 60:21; Jer.3:18; 7:7; 30:3; 31:8-9; Ezek 37:25; 39:25-29; Amos 9:11-15; Rom 8- 11.
- If we are to accept the literal fulfillment of the dispersion & regathering, then we must also accept the restoration of Israel and the covenant with Abraham.

Luke 21:24 (NKJV)

24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

- Jesus predicted this, and it came true! Jews were scattered and Jerusalem was trampled for 2,000 years until just 1948, when they were regathered! (Fig Tree)

Modern False Interpretations

- Many Bible teachers do not believe in the literal Millennial reign of Christ on His second Coming and believe that the Kingdom of God is here now, operating in the Church.
- These teachers incorrectly interpret the 1,000 years in an allegorical or figurative manner, thinking it means just “a long period of time,” and not a literal, physical reign of Jesus Christ on the earth.
- This often leads to denying the covenants mentioned above and believing that the Church has replaced Israel in God’s plans.
- These “**amillennialists**” spiritualize or allegorize many other important areas of the Bible, interpreting the Bible any way they feel rather than believing in the what the Word of God actually says. While they claim to still believe in a 2nd Coming of Christ, they never teach on it since that would involve dealing with prophecy.

What is the Purpose of the Church?

- **Amillennialism results in a “church” mission** that is focused on social programs and personal spiritual growth that changes with the culture.
- They often do not prioritize evangelism or Bible studies and they do not see discipleship as really having to possibly lose your life for Christ. They also normally deny the need for repentance and never speak about sin, judgement and hell.
- People who do not interpret the Kingdom of God literally think it’s their mission to make the world a better place by promoting Christian values of compassion, feeding the poor, saving the environment and social justice to usher in the Kingdom of God.
- **This type of church would not be recognizable to the Apostles of Acts.**
- Jesus clearly says the world will not get better, but much worse before He returns.
 - “as it was in the days in the Noah, so it will be...” Matt. 24:37
 - “But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” 2 Timothy 3:13 (1-13)
 - “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” (Matt 24:12)
- The wheat and tares grow together until the end of the age and only a small percentage of people will be saved. There are less Christians today than even 50 years ago. The world will never get better, but only worse.

Social Service vs. Preaching the Gospel

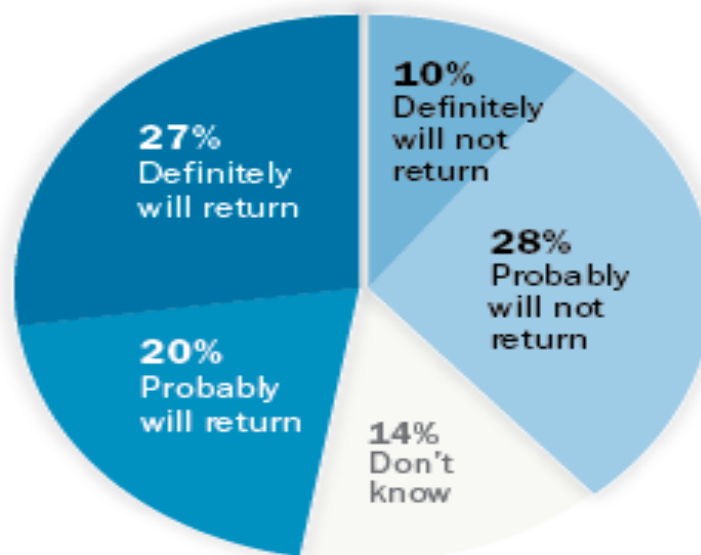
- Up until 150 years ago, social service was entirely unknown, and the Gospel message was the priority of the church.
- Today, you will rarely hear a single sermon on the Return of Christ, Death, Judgement, Heaven, Hell, Righteousness, Missions, or Eternity, but...social service, motivational speaking and self-help is the priority.
- The social Gospel was never advocated by Jesus. It's actually easier to lead the downtrodden to Christ than a rich person because the worse off a person is, the easier it is to make them realize their need for a Saviour.
- Let Jesus save a person and they will have a desire to improve their poverty situation.
- **The first work of the church is to “preach the Gospel to every creature”**
- **Liberal-Minded Bible teachers** have created a “church” that not only does not understand the fundamental teachings of Jesus and the Bible, but also doesn't believe them. These are the **false prophets** prophesied of the end times that will lead to the **“great falling away”** of the faith.

Christian Stats

**53% of
“Christians”
Don’t
Believe
Jesus will
Return!**

Will Jesus Return Soon?

Percent of U.S. Christians who say Jesus will return to earth in the next 40 years



Pew Research Center survey, April 21-26, 2010, Q 56aF1. Full question wording: I'm going to read you a list of things that may or may not happen in the next 40 years. Please tell me how likely you think it is ... that Jesus Christ will return to earth. Do you think this will definitely happen, will probably happen, will probably NOT happen, or will definitely not happen?

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Pew Research Center

According to a 2006 survey by Pew Research Forum, **79% of Christians in the USA say they believe the return of Christ will happen someday.**

By 2010, only 4 years later, the same study reported that only 47% believe in the Return of Christ, down from 79%!

<https://frankviola.org/2013/07/01/secondcoming/>

Millennial Reign of Christ

1. **Jesus will reign as King** over the world - [Rev. 11:15 b](#); [Zech 14:9](#)
2. **Satan will be Bound** – [Rev. 20:1-3](#)
3. **Justice** - there will finally be justice throughout the world, [Jer. 23:5](#)
4. **The Earth will become fruitful** - [Isaiah 35:1-2](#); [Ps. 67:6](#) – there will be an abundance for everyone
5. **Animal instincts** will be changed - [Isaiah 11:6-7](#)
6. **Perfect Safety** on the Earth – [Ezekiel 34:25](#)
7. **People will experience Long Lives** – as in the days of the early OT – [Isaiah 65:20](#)
8. **No More War** – [Isaiah 2:4](#)
9. **World Evangelized** – [Habakkuk 2:14](#)
10. **Israel Restored** – [Ezekiel 36:24](#)
11. **Jerusalem will become Center of Worldwide Worship** – [Micah 4:2](#)
12. **Saints will Share in the Reign with Christ for 1,000 years** – [Dan 7:18](#); [Rev 20:4](#)

What the Prophets Saw of the Kingdom

- **All the Old Testament Prophets saw consistent visions of the future Kingdom of God, even though they were written hundreds of years apart. To not take what they say literally would be to greatly dishonour God.**
 - **Hosea 1:10-11, 2:18-23, 3:4-5**
 - **Joel 2:28-32**
 - **Amos 9:11-15**
 - **Micah 4:1-8**
 - **Zechariah 2:10, 3:10, 6:12-13, 8:3-8, 8:20-23, 9:10, 12:10, 13:1; 14:8-31**
 - **Malachi 3:1-6, 4:1-2**
 - **Isaiah 2:1-4, 11:1-13, 12:1-6, 27:6, 33:17, 33:20-24, 35:1-10, 40:1-2, 40:9-11, 51:3, 52:9-13, 59:20, 60:1-2, 60:18-20, 65:17-25**
 - **Jeremiah 23:5-6, 30:10-11, 32:37-41, 33:15-26**
 - **Ezekiel 34:23-30, 36:23-38, 37:24-25**
 - **Daniel 2:44, 7:27, 7:14**
 - **Psalms 2:6, 22:27-28, 102:13-16**

Views of the Early Church Fathers

- The historical attack on dispensational premillennialism ignores the overwhelming evidence **that the church fathers of the first three centuries AD were uniformly premillennial, not amillennial or postmillennial.**
- In the area of eschatology, the progression of doctrinal understanding leading up to the paradigm shift to amillennialism involved two basic interpretive errors that remain with us today.
 - 1. That the church replaced Israel as the people of God** (due to Destruction of 70AD, the Jews refusal to accept Jesus, Gentile growth in the Church. God had permanently cut the nation of Israel off as his people as a result of her disobedience and idolatry in the Old Testament and her rejection and crucifixion of Jesus in the New. The faithful of the church age became the "new Israel" of God. They, along with the patriarchs and saints of previous ages, would inherit the promises given to national Israel.
 - 2. Allegorizing the Text (to the extreme)**- Clement became the leader of the Alexandrian school in AD 190. He saw the literal meaning of Scripture as being a "starting point" for interpretation. **Origen**, Clement's successor, took allegorizing scripture to new levels, and for many years after 300AD amillennialism was believed by many.

Views of the Early Church Fathers

- **Hippolytus** (200 AD) is an important figure in the development of [Christian eschatology](#). In his biblical compendium and topical study *On Christ and the Antichrist* and in his *Commentary on the Prophet Daniel* Hippolytus gave his interpretation of the second advent of Christ.
- It is thought Hippolytus was generally influenced by Irenaeus.
- Hippolytus follows the long-established usage in interpreting Daniel's seventy prophetic weeks to be weeks of literal years. Hippolytus gave an explanation of Daniel's paralleling prophecies of chapters 2 and 7, which he, as with the other fathers, specifically relates to the Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans. His interpretation of events and their significance is Christological.
- **He stated that Rome would be partitioned into ten kingdoms and these in turn would be followed by the rise of the dread Antichrist, who would oppress the saints. This would be ended by Christ's Second Advent, the resurrection of the righteous, and the destruction of said Antichrist. After which would come the judgment and burning up of the wicked.**
- **Hippolytus did not subscribe to the belief that the Second Coming was imminent. (he did not believe in a pre-trib. Rapture).**

Socialism vs. Kingdom of God

- Socialism, Communism, Marxism and other state controlled totalitarian ideological forms of government are not supported in the Bible.
- These totalitarian forms of government: tax the people highly, enslave the population under government control, prevent the ownership of private property, and **restrict or eliminate freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of assembly.**
- We know that from the prophecies of God's Word, that as the age draws to a close, totalitarianism will triumph, for the iron will never mix the clay. The Antichrist will rule all nations with iron as the sole ruler and dictator and force the world to conform to his Satanic ideologies and agenda.
- **Beware of “social movements” or “causes” that appear to be noble single issue matters, but whose goal is ideological change and legislation that eliminates the freedom to think, express your opinion, or freely meet to worship God and teach His Word.**
- Throughout history, all totalitarian and socialist regimes have tried to eliminate the Bible and Christianity – this is where our country is headed now. It's a spiritual battle, but largely unseen by most people.

Totalitarianism –Encyclopedia Britannica

- **Totalitarianism**, form of government that theoretically **permits no individual freedom** and that seeks to subordinate all aspects of individual life to the authority of the state.
- In the broadest sense, totalitarianism is **characterized by strong central rule** that attempts to control and direct all aspects of individual life through coercion and repression.
- The totalitarian state pursues some special goal, such as industrialization or conquest, to the exclusion of all others. All resources are directed toward its attainment, regardless of the cost. Whatever might further the goal is supported; whatever might foil the goal is rejected.
- This obsession spawns an ideology that explains everything in terms of the goal, rationalizing all obstacles that may arise and all forces that may contend with the state. The resulting popular support permits the state the widest latitude of action of any form of government.
- **Any dissent is branded evil**, and internal political differences are not permitted. Because pursuit of the goal is the only ideological foundation for the totalitarian state, achievement of the goal can never be acknowledged.
- Under totalitarian rule, traditional social institutions and organizations are discouraged and suppressed. Old **religious and social ties are supplanted by artificial ties to the state and its ideology**. As pluralism and individualism diminish, most of the people embrace the totalitarian state's ideology. The infinite diversity among individuals blurs, replaced by a mass conformity (or at least acquiescence) to the beliefs and behaviour sanctioned by the state.
- **Large-scale organized violence becomes permissible and sometimes necessary** under totalitarian rule, justified by the overriding commitment to the state ideology and pursuit of the state's goal. **In Nazi Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union, whole classes of people were singled out for persecution and extinction. In each case the persecuted were linked with some external enemy and blamed for the state's troubles, and thereby public opinion was aroused against them and their fate at the hands of the military and police was condoned.**