

# **Arlington Church of Christ**

**'The Kingdom'**

# Following the Scriptural Trail





## Psalm 2:6-12

**“I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.”**

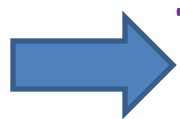
**<sup>7</sup> I will proclaim the LORD’s decree: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have become your father.**

**<sup>8</sup> Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. <sup>9</sup> You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.” <sup>10</sup> Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. <sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling. <sup>12</sup> Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

**The ‘King’ of the kingdom is the Son of God**

## Isaiah 2:1-4

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: <sup>2</sup> In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. <sup>3</sup> Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.



The kingdom will not come by force or by war  
and will begin in Jerusalem

The kingdom began as prophesied on Pentecost as Peter preached the first sermon in Jerusalem and 3000 people were baptized into Christ.

Peter quotes the prophet Joel saying that the events of that day fulfilled the prophecy -

**Joel 2:28-32** “**And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.** <sup>29</sup> **Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.** <sup>30</sup> **I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.** <sup>31</sup> **The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.** <sup>32</sup> **And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls**

**Acts 2:17-21** “**In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.** <sup>18</sup> **Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.** <sup>19</sup> **I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.** <sup>20</sup> **The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.** <sup>21</sup> **And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved**

**(Prophecy quoted on Pentecost concerning the events happening then)**

# When are the 'last days' when the kingdom will be established?

Note the world empires given in Nebuchadnezzar's dream – the fourth one is said to be the one in which the kingdom will be established.



## **Daniel 2:28-45**

**but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come.....<sup>31</sup> “Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance.<sup>32</sup> The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,<sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.<sup>34</sup> While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.<sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.**

**<sup>36</sup> “This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.<sup>37</sup> Your Majesty, .... You are that head of gold. ....**

**39 “After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. 40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. 41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. 42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.**

**44 “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.**

**GOLD**

**Babylonian Empire**  
**606 B.C.**

**SILVER**

**Media-Persia**  
**536 B.C.**

**BRONZE**

**Greek Empire**  
**330 B.C.**

**IRON**



**Roman Empire**  
**27 B.C.**



## Daniel 7:13-14

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

## Luke 3:1-6

**In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar**  
—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea,  
Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch  
of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of  
Abilene—<sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and  
Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of  
Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the  
country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of  
repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is  
written in the book of the words of Isaiah the  
prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,....’<sup>6</sup> And all people will  
see God’s salvation.

## Luke 3:15

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

The people knew that the 'kingdom' and the Messiah were supposed to come during this empire. They knew the prophecies.

Luke 3:15

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

**Matthew 3:1-3**

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”** <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, **‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’**

Luke 3:15

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

Matthew 3:1-3

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

**Matthew 4:17**

**From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**



John 18:36-37

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

<sup>37</sup> “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, **the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.**”



The ‘kingdom’ is a kingdom of TRUTH. (Following God’s word) =>

**John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.**

## **Luke 17:20-21**

**Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, <sup>21</sup> nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.”**

**The ‘kingdom’ is not a physical outward place, but a spiritual decision within your heart to follow the expressed Words of God in the Bible.**

**This is why when the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, he told them as part of the answer ---**

**Matthew 6:10**

**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**



The 'kingdom' is **where God's will is done** -

To do God's will is a personal decision to obey what he has set out in the Bible. When one does that they become part of the church – so the church is to be the place where God's will is done (His Word is followed) - if a 'church' is not following only the scriptures and instead including the teaching of men or a reinterpretation of God's Word – it is NOT where God's Will is being done and therefore is NOT the Kingdom of God or the true 'church'.

**Matthew 6:10**

**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**



The 'kingdom' is **where God's will is done** -

**Romans 12:2**

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.**

**We have to learn to think like God, see things as He does!**

## Matthew 16:18-19

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.<sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven.”

Note: Peter was given the ‘keys’ to the kingdom – he gets to open it to the people – but he doesn’t get to ‘make the rules’ – he is just to announce what God has already determined.

## Matthew 16:18-19

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven.”

## Mark 9:1

And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

## Luke 23:50-51

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, <sup>51</sup> who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God.

Remember – it had been preached that the kingdom of heaven was near!

## Acts 1:4-8

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” .....

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



# Revelation 1:9

I, John, **your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom** and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.



Revelation 1:9

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

**Colossians 1:13**

**For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,**

## Revelation 1:9

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

## Colossians 1:13

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

## Acts 28:23

**They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus.**

# 1 Thessalonians 2:12

encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives  
worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and  
glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:12

encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

**Acts 14:22**

strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. **“We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,”** they said.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:12

encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

## Acts 14:22

strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.

## Acts 8:12

But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

## Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

## Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

**<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> ““In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams..... (Joel 2:28-32).**



## Acts 2:25-31

David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,  
I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest in hope,

<sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
you will not let your holy one see decay.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

<sup>29</sup> “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.

## Acts 2:25-31

David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.

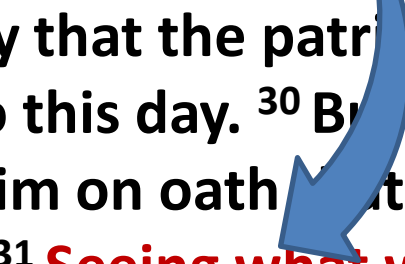
Because he is at my right hand,  
I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest in hope,

<sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
you will not let your holy one see decay.

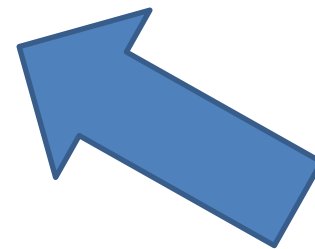
<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

<sup>29</sup> “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.



## Acts 2:33-36

Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”” <sup>36</sup> “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”



Acts 2:37- 41, 47

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “**Brothers, what shall we do?**” <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.**”

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

<sup>47</sup> **And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

**So the 'church' (the Christians) is the promised 'kingdom of God' on earth – so long as it is doing the will of God by following His Word. The Lord who knows the hearts of people is the one who 'adds' people to the church (writes their name in the book of life).**

**In heaven , the kingdom will continue in the perfect presence of the Lord - His will being carried out continuously in one eternal day.**