

Lesson 10 – J.R. Graves
Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen
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Historico-Prophetic – Matthew 21:33 – 45

Possible Question: What institution did Christ refer to by the phrase “Kingdom of God”?

1. It must be visible and local or it could Not be visibly removed and change place
 - Could Not be all of the saved seeing this is the Family of God, Eph 3:14-15.
2. It cannot refer to the system of religion entrusted to the Jews through Moses
 - The design of that system has been consummated and abolished from the earth
3. It cannot refer to the nation of the Jews initiated by the covenant of circumcision
 - By command, circumcision was restricted to the Jews, unable to be transferred
4. Must be the Kingdom spoken of by Daniel in Dan 2:44
 - John the Baptist came as the herald of this Kingdom, saying it was at hand
 - The Lord also proclaimed its presence by also declaring it was at hand

Universally admitted that Churches are the only executives of Christ's Kingdom

- Statement of A.P. Williams confirms this, pg 117
- E.J. Fish stated the same teaching, pg 117
- H. Harvey explains the same position on pg 117

Work of John the Baptist

- Christ sent John before His face to make ready a people prepared for Him
- John did this by preaching repentance and faith then baptizing professors
- Christ received this material; organized it into His Church Kingdom on earth

Texts Proving the Presence of Kingdom during Ministry of Christ on the Earth

1. Both John the Baptist and the Lord declared the Kingdom to be at hand, Mat 3:2
2. Matt 11:12, ... the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence ...
 - No way an invisible kingdom could be assaulted and sought to be destroyed
 - This scripture says that this violence started in the days of John the Baptist
3. Luke 16:16, ... until John: since that time the Kingdom ... is preached ...
4. Matt 21:31-32, ... publicans and harlots go into Kingdom of God before you ...
5. Luke 17:20-21, ... Kingdom of God is within (in the midst, among) you...
6. Luke 11:20, ... cast out devils, no doubt the Kingdom of God is come unto you..

The Prophecy

1. The Lord foretold that His Kingdom, which was given to the Jews at the first, would be taken from them.
2. A few years after His crucifixion, this was literally fulfilled.
3. The gospel of the Kingdom was taken from them and given to the Gentiles.
4. Acts 13:46 presents how Barnabas and Paul turned from the Jew to the Gentile
5. During the ministry of Christ, the Kingdom was solely the Jews
6. In this day, it can No wise be said the Jews possess the Kingdom
 - Rom 11:25, teaches the Gentiles will possess it until their time is fulfilled
7. A time will come when the Jews shall return to Christ
 - They will have to be convicted and converted just like Paul
8. Prophecy showing conversion of Jews to Christ
 - Matt 23:39, foretells of Jews humbling themselves to the Lord
 - Zach 12:10, foretells of the Jews mourning over the Lord Jesus
 - Zach 13:1, foretells of the fountain for cleansing being opened for the Jews

Questions:

1. Why can the Kingdom NOT refer to the system of religion entrusted to the Jews through Moses?
2. What is universally admitted about the Churches related to the Kingdom of God?
3. How did John the Baptist make a people ready for the Lord?
4. What has been preached since John according to Luke 16:16?
5. In the prophecy of the reading lesson, what was foretold would happen to the Jews regarding the Kingdom?
6. If the Kingdom was taken from the Jews, to whom was it given?
7. How long will the Gentiles be the sole possessors of the Kingdom?