

Warners Chapel Church of Christ

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Preacher: **Kevin V. Rutherford**



“The churches of Christ salute you” Rom. 16:16

A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

March 12, 2017

THE KINGDOM OF PROPHECY

Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream

God sent a prophesy of the establishment of a kingdom that would stand forever through a dream given to King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2). The kingdoms of men come and go. The kingdom of prophecy will never cease to exist.

Daniel’s God-given interpretation of the dream speaks of the kingdoms of men coming and going, beginning with the Babylonian Empire (Daniel 2:41-46). Historically speaking, the fourth world kingdom/ empire is the Roman Empire. God’s eternal kingdom would be established during the days of the fourth kings (Daniel 2:41-44).

Therefore, God’s eternal kingdom was established somewhere during the time the Roman Empire existed. The Roman Empire no longer exists. Therefore, the kingdom has already been established.

Daniel’s Vision

Daniel had a prophetic vision of the coming of the kingdom (Daniel 7:13-14). Daniel’s vision was from the perspective of heaven. He watched as he saw Jesus coming up to heaven in the clouds. When He had come to heaven he went before God and was given “dominion, glory, and a kingdom.” This is God’s everlasting kingdom that “shall not pass away, and which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13-14). In this prophetic vision we see Jesus Christ being given the kingdom after his ascension. The ascension of Jesus Christ occurred in the first century and is recorded in Acts, chapter one. Therefore, the kingdom of prophecy was established in the first century, during the days of the Roman Empire.

The Preaching of John and Jesus

In the first century John the baptizer was preaching in the wilderness to prepare the way for the preaching and work of Christ. The message he preached was “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:1-2)! The expression “at hand” indicated the kingdom was near. In other words, the kingdom of ancient prophecy was soon to be established when John was preaching. When Jesus Christ began preaching, He spoke the same message (Matthew 4:17). Both John and Jesus lived in the first century, in the days of the Roman kings of the fourth kingdom prophesied of by Daniel. The kingdom was close to being established in the days of John and Jesus.

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John the baptizer died before the kingdom was established (Matthew 14:1-13). Jesus promised the establishment of His church and kingdom shortly after the death of John (Matthew 16:13-20). Jesus said, “I will build my church” and “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 16:18-19). Could it be the terms “church” and “kingdom” refer to the same institution?

The Promise of Jesus Christ

As Jesus Christ spoke to the people and his disciples he said, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power” (Mark 9:1). As Jesus spoke to the first century group of people in front of him he told them the kingdom would come in their lifetime. That would be the first century. That would be “at hand” in relationship to John’s and Christ’s preaching. That would be in the days of the Roman kings. That would coincide with the ascension of Christ.

Notice also from Mark 9:1 how the kingdom would come. It would come with power. The marginal note in the New King James Version shows the word “present” can be translated as “having come.” The King James Version renders it, “till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.” Jesus told the apostles they would “receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon” them (Acts 1:8). The kingdom would come with power and the power would come when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles.

If we can determine when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles, we can determine the time the kingdom was established. Acts 2:1-4 shows the power coming upon the apostles with the baptism of the Holy Spirit that occurred on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ. Therefore, that is the day upon which the kingdom came. This fits within the time frame spoken of in the prophecy of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream that the kingdom would be established in the days of the fourth kingdom. This fits within the time frame of the prophesy in Daniel’s vision of Jesus Christ receiving the kingdom shortly after His ascension into heaven (Acts 1:11). This also fits with the preaching of John and Jesus regarding the fact that the kingdom was at hand or near. In addition, this fits within the lifetime of those to whom Jesus promised they would see the coming of the kingdom.

Conclusion

Through process of gathering numerous facts and details from various passages discussing the kingdom, we must conclude that the eternal kingdom of prophecy is none other than the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This would explain why Paul was able to say Christians in the first century had been conveyed, or transferred into the kingdom (Colossians 1:13). This is why John was able to say to his fellow Christians he was their companion in the kingdom (Revelation 1:9). The church of Christ (Matthew 16:18; Acts 11:26) is the eternal kingdom of prophecy. On the last day, when Jesus Christ returns, Jesus Christ will not establish the kingdom, but rather will take the already established kingdom (the church) and deliver that kingdom to God (1 Corinthians 15:24). At that time the kingdom shall enter heaven where it shall exist forever with all the saved of all the ages.

—Kevin Rutherford



READ THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2017

March 13 - Mark 13:1-20
March 14 - Mark 13:21-37
March 15 - Mark 14:1-26
March 16 - Mark 14:27-53



March 17 - Mark 14:54-72
March 18 - Mark 15:1-25
March 19 - Mark 15:26-47



OUR SICK Please Remember in Your Prayers

Please continue to keep Frank & Jane Shepard, Elwood Flinchum, Mary Tesh, Bob Plunk, Charlie Parker, Wayne & Cathy Hutchins, and Cannon & Shannon Harper in your prayers.

Liam Allen was reported ill this past Wednesday evening.

D. C. Mock had outpatient surgery this past Wednesday. It went well and he is at home recovering.

Gaye Carothers underwent cataract surgery this past Thursday.

Jane Shepard has been scheduled to undergo cancer surgery of the bladder on March 15th. Your prayers are requested.

Charlie Parker is scheduled for heart ablation surgery on March 31st at the Baptist Hospital.

My cousin's husband, **Bob Hoover**, has been diagnosed with stage 4 Esophageal Cancer, which has spread to the liver. He will start chemo treatments this week. Please pray for him and my cousin, Susan. —Mindy

It was reported that **Mary Ruth Comatzner** underwent a heart transplant this past week. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Please pray for **Denise Greene**, a friend of Sandra Church who is dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

Karen Woodbury's second cousin's daughter, **Lilah Cochran**, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia recently. She is only two years old. She is currently in the hospital receiving chemo treatments. The family attends the Collinsville church of Christ in Illinois. **Please pray for Lilah and her family.**

**THE PRAYER LIST IS AVAILABLE ON
THE CREDENZA IN THE FOYER.**



SHUT-INS

**Mildred Barker
Lutrelle Chipman
Di-Ann Moser**

**Dot Pegram
Eva Nelle Sidden**

Please keep the shut-ins in your prayers and check the sign-up sheet to take communion to Dot Pegram if you are able. (sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board)

SOUTHWEST FOOD PANTRY

The food item request for March is pasta/pasta sauce.
(No glass please)

166 Items were delivered to the pantry this past Thursday which totals **544** items for 2017.



WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING. WE INVITE YOU TO RETURN THIS EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AND AT 7:00 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY.

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A
"COVERED DISH" CONGREGATION
FELLOWSHIP MEAL TODAY IN THE ANNEX
NEXT DOOR FOLLOWING THE MORNING
WORSHIP SERVICE.**

WARNERS CHAPEL EVENTS:

March 12 - Everyone is invited to a congregational fellowship meal following this morning's worship service. We welcome the Rutherford Family to Warners Chapel.

March 12 - Youth Group Sunday evening Devo @4:30 pm. - (finger foods)

March 14 - Sewing for Nicaragua from 9-12 a.m. in Annex.

March 16 - The 50 and Over Class will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Annex.

March 17 - Youth Group Friday evening movie night at 7 p.m. - TBA; pizza.

March 18 - Invitation to A Floating Baby Shower in Honor of Meredith Southern and her baby boy, hosted by Alyssa and Ellie Southern from 2-4 p.m. in the Annex. Please RSVP to 336-699-2070 or merdock13@bellsouth.net by March 11th. Meredith is registered at BABIES R US.

LOCAL EVENTS:

March 12-15 - Enrichment Seminar "A Better You, A Better Family, and A Better Church" at Charlotte Ave. church of Christ in Rock Hill, S.C. Dr. Roy Sharp will be the speaker. See bulletin board for Seminar schedule.

April 1 - Evangelism Workshop at Northwest church of Christ. 8:30-12 Noon.

April 2-6 - 73rd Annual Carolina Lectureship hosted by the Plaza church of Christ in Sumter, SC.

See bulletin board for details

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study - March 5, 2017	124
Sunday Worship Service	158
Contribution for March 5, 2017	\$6,690
Daily Adult Bible Readers:	
Chapters Read:	
Sunday Evening Worship Service	110
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 3-8-17	115

Lord's Day Appointments For March, 2017

Serving the Lord's Table For March:

D.C. Mock

Wesley Huff Jacob Woodbury
John Allen Gene Southern

Preparing Communion for March:

Doris Cooper

Making Announcements on Sunday:

Tim Allen

Making Announcements on Wednesday:

Roger Allen

Lord's Day Appointments - March 19, 2017

DEVOTIONS:	OPENING PRAYER:	SONG LEADER	SCRIPTURE READERS
Scripture - John Allen	Morning - Michael Cooper	A.M. - Steve Tesh	A.M. - Dwight Barringer
Song Leader - Don Minor	Evening - Jonathan Huff	P.M. - Clayton Workman	P.M. - Tommy Rose
Prayer - Neal Harper		Wed. - Roger Allen	

Greeters for March:

Richard & Karen Clemmons

Opening and Closing Building

Sunday: - Mar. 19 ~ David Moore
Wednesday: - Mar. 22 ~ David Moore

Lord's Day Appointments - March 12, 2017

DEVOTIONS:	OPENING PRAYER:	SONG LEADER	SCRIPTURE READERS
Scripture - Brad hoots	Morning - Al Lawson	A.M. - Gene Southern	A.M. - John Allen
Song Leader - Joe Everett	Evening - R. J. Landry	P.M. - Tim Allen	P.M. - Clayton Workman
Prayer - Michael Cooper		Wed. - Don Minor	

Opening and Closing Building

Sunday: - March 12 ~ Al Lawson
Wednesday: - March 15 ~ Al Lawson

Greeters for March:

Richard & Karen Clemmons

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - *Nursery open for small children during all services.*

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 10:50 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY: Mid-Week Service 7:00 PM

“GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE” at 10:30 p.m. each week night on Cable 8
SEARCH PROGRAM - Sunday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. on Cable 68

WARNERS CHAPEL CHURCH OF CHRIST
8999 LASATER ROAD
CLEMMONS, NC 27012

ELDERS

DEACONS

David Moore
Tim Allen
Joe Everett
Todd Hinson
Steve Tesh

Randy Warner
Keith Warner
Andy Santiago
Mark Minor
Jason Allen

Mike Cooper
Jody Everett
Gene Southern
Shawn Thomason