

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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IS CHRIST COMING BACK TO EARTH?

John Edwards

If you were to take a survey, most people would probably say Christ is coming back to earth.

1) **WHERE IS THE PASSAGE?** If you believe Christ will again step foot on the earth, where is the passage that teaches such?

2) **THE AIR IS THE MEETING PLACE.** Paul said we will *“be caught up...in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air...”* (1 Th. 4:17).

3) **NO EARTH FOR CHRIST TO COME BACK TO.** Christ is not coming back to earth, as many believe, for there will be no earth for Christ to come back to. *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up”* (2 Pet. 3:10).

4) **WHY BRING CHRIST BACK TO EARTH ANYWAY?** The Scriptures teach that Christ’s work on earth is complete. Jesus prayed to the Father, *“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to*

do” (Jn. 17:4). If Christ came back to earth, what would He do?

To bring Christ back to earth is to take Him off His throne (Acts 2:29-35) and put Him on *“his footstool”* (Mt. 5:34-35)!

WILL THE KINGDOM BE ESTABLISHED AT CHRIST’S SECOND COMING?

John Edwards

Many are looking for the kingdom to come as they think Christ will establish His kingdom when He comes the second time.

1) **THE KINGDOM WAS AT HAND IN JESUS’ DAY.** Jesus preached in Galilee, *“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (Mt. 4:17).

2) **SOME LIVED TO SEE THE KINGDOM COME.** The Lord declared, *“That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power”* (Mk. 9:1). If the kingdom is yet to come, either the Lord lied or there must be some pretty old people roaming the earth today!

3) **SOME SAID TO BE IN**

THE KINGDOM. The Colossians had been *“translated into the kingdom of his [God’s] dear Son”* (Col. 1:13). John stated, *“I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom”* (Rev. 1:9). How could these be said to be in the kingdom, if the kingdom hasn’t been established yet?

4) **WHEN JESUS RECEIVED HIS KINGDOM.** The prophecy of Daniel 7:13-14 had Christ receiving His kingdom when He *“came to the Ancient of days”*, which occurred as recorded in Acts 1:9-11. This false doctrine has Christ receiving His kingdom when He comes from God, the Father. If you can understand the difference between “to” and “from”, you should have no difficulty settling this issue!

THE REIGN OF CHRIST PAST, PRESENT, OR FUTURE?

John Edwards

Many think when Christ comes the second time He will come to earth and reign in Jerusalem 1,000 years.

1) **CHRIST IS KING NOW.** Paul wrote concerning Christ, *“who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords”* (1 Tim. 6:15). To say the reign of Christ is future is to deny that Christ is king now!

2) **CHRIST IS ON THE THRONE NOW.** Peter preached Jesus as King on the throne. *“Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne... This Jesus hath God raised up... being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost...”* (Acts 2:29-36).

3) **CHRIST REIGNS NOW.** To understand the reign of Christ is present, read 1 Corinthians 15:24-28. *“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death”* (vv. 24-26). Christ will not pick up His reign, but will put it down!

To teach a doctrine that

suggests Christ is not reigning now is to teach a doctrine the Bible does not teach!

IS THE KINGDOM THE CHURCH?

John Edwards

Some try to make a distinction in the kingdom of God and the church of God.

1) THE TERMS “CHURCH” AND “KINGDOM” ARE SOMETIMES USED

INTERCHANGEABLY. Jesus told Peter, *“I will build my church”*, and in the very next sentence declared, *“I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom”* (Mt. 16:18-19). Kingdom keys fit the door of the church! Another example where *“church”* and *“kingdom”* are used synonymously is in Hebrews 12. Verse 23 says, *“To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven..”* Verse 28 states, *“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved...”*

2) THE LORD’S SUPPER TO

BE OBSERVED IN THE KINGDOM. The institution of the Lord’s supper shows the Lord’s supper observance would take place in the kingdom (Mt. 26:26-29; Lk. 22:30). Acts 20:7 finds the church at Troas meeting to observe the Lord’s supper. Paul taught the church at Corinth the proper manner of observing the Lord’s supper (1 Cor. 11:23-29). Therefore, the kingdom is the church. If you do not believe the kingdom and the church are the same, do you observe the Lord’s supper in the church?

3) **TO BE IN THE KINGDOM IS TO BE IN THE CHURCH.** One who is *“added to the church”* (Acts 2:47) is *“translated into the kingdom”* (Col. 1:13). The Christians in Colosse were in Christ (Col. 1:2), in the kingdom (Col. 1:13), in the body (Col. 1:22), in the church (Col. 1:24). So, to be in one is to be in the other.

Cornelius sent for Peter to hear words whereby he and his house could be saved (Acts 10:5; 11:14). He called together his kinsmen and near friends (Acts 10:24) to hear all things commanded of God (Acts 10:33). **WILL YOU DO THE SAME?**

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