



Rejection of the King

- Outline of Matthew reflects the rejection of the Nation. “Kingdom is near” appears three times before the leaders accuse Jesus of using Satanic power (Matt. 12:22-32). Afterwards, the Kingdom is never said to be near again

Goal of Jesus' second coming:

- Jews need to repent in order for Jesus to come back (Acts 3:17, Mat. 23:39)
- Spirit is linked with kingdom (e.g. Acts 1:4-5)
- Consummation of the kingdom is expected at the second coming (Luke 13:34-36)

Since Israel's rejection left the world without a witness to the Messiah— God's solution is the Church.

New Covenant in the NT

- Before Pentecost the giving of the Spirit is linked to the Kingdom (Mt. 3:1-12, Mt. 12:28, Acts 1:4-5)
- Rejection of Messiah meant that kingdom would not be established (*Luke 19:11-27*)
 - The “time of the gentiles” would be prolonged (Lk 19:44, cf. Dan 2:44, 7:13)
 - Israel will resume its function in the end time with the 144,000 (Rom. 11, Rev. 7:4).
- New Covenant cannot be considered fulfilled *as predicted in the OT* at the present age
- However, believers in Christ do enjoy certain NC blessings
 - Jesus inaugurated the NC (Lk. 22:14-21, cf. Ex. 24:8, Heb. 9:15)
 - Jesus promised the key element of the NC, the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17)
 - Blessings experienced: forgiveness of sins (Rom 8:1-4), knowledge of God (1 Cor 2:10-12), sanctification (2 Cor 3:18).
 - Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our future participation in the full blessings of the New Covenant (Eph. 1:13-14): Future total transformation, future full knowledge.
 - Holy Spirit empowers believers to fulfill the calling as witness to the world (Acts 1:8).

Discussion Questions

- What are the differences between the prediction of the HS for the kingdom in the OT and how the HS came for believers in the Church?
- The tension of believers is to be citizen of a kingdom to come in a world that is still fallen. How does the Holy Spirit help us practically to live in this time?