



King Without a Kingdom

How could Israel (not all) have missed the coming of their Messiah? Jesus fulfilled many prophecies and performed numerous miracles of which they themselves had to confess, “*no man can do such things except God be with him*” (Jn. 3:2). Their regret will be legendary (Lk.13:28-29).

If the Jewish nation then missed the Messiah, evangelicals (not all) today are missing the central message of the Messiah. In his book, *Church Growth and the Whole Gospel*, church growth guru, Peter Wagner, cites George Eldon Ladd as saying, “modern scholarship is quite unanimous in the opinion that the Kingdom of God was the central message of Jesus.” Wagner then muses, “If this is true, and I know of no reason to dispute it, I cannot help wondering out loud why I haven’t heard more about it in the thirty years I have been a Christian. I have certainly read about it enough in the bible. Matthew mentions the Kingdom 52 times, Mark 19 times, Luke 44 times and John 4 . . . I now realize that I myself have never preached a sermon on it.” Hmmm.

Sir Anthony Buzzard, Bt., MA (Oxon), MA Th; stresses, “While they (present-day evangelists) continue to use His name, they do not reflect His central theme – the Kingdom of God”.

Nineteenth century German theologian, Richard Rothe, states, “Our purpose is to show that the missing key which unlocks the message of Jesus, and indeed the whole bible, is the Kingdom of God. The key, however, will be ineffective if it is bent out of shape. To make sense of what Jesus taught, we must understand the term ‘Kingdom of God’ as He understood it. If we detach the Kingdom of God from its Jewish, biblical context and attach a new meaning to it, we shall create a version of Christianity distorted at its very heart”.

It is fashionable to hail Jesus as King, yet He appears to be a King without a kingdom. His Kingdom is said to be in our hearts. While this may have meaning as a metaphor, it is not the kingdom described in the bible. No, Jesus will rule over Israel and the world. His promised throne will be in Jerusalem, “*the city of the Great King*” (Ps.48:2, Mt.5:32). We have this reaffirmed by God at His birth. The angel tells Mary, “*The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,* (Lk 1:32).

His dominion will not be limited to the old boundaries of King David. Prophetically David himself writes, “*I have installed my King on Zion (Jerusalem), my holy hill . . . You are my Son; . . . Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession*” (Ps.2:6, 8).

This is the great event towards which all history moves. How close is “*his appearing and his kingdom*” (2Tim.4:8)? “*The high priest said to him, . . . Tell us if you are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God.*” “*Yes, it is as you say,*” Jesus replied. “*But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven*” (Matt.26:63-64). For those who are looking for “*his appearing and kingdom*”, this will be just the beginning of glory!

How could Israel not have believed Him? How about you?

While our supplies last, send for a free copy of, THE COMING KINGDOM OF THE MESSIAH, by Sir Anthony Buzzard.

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