

# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

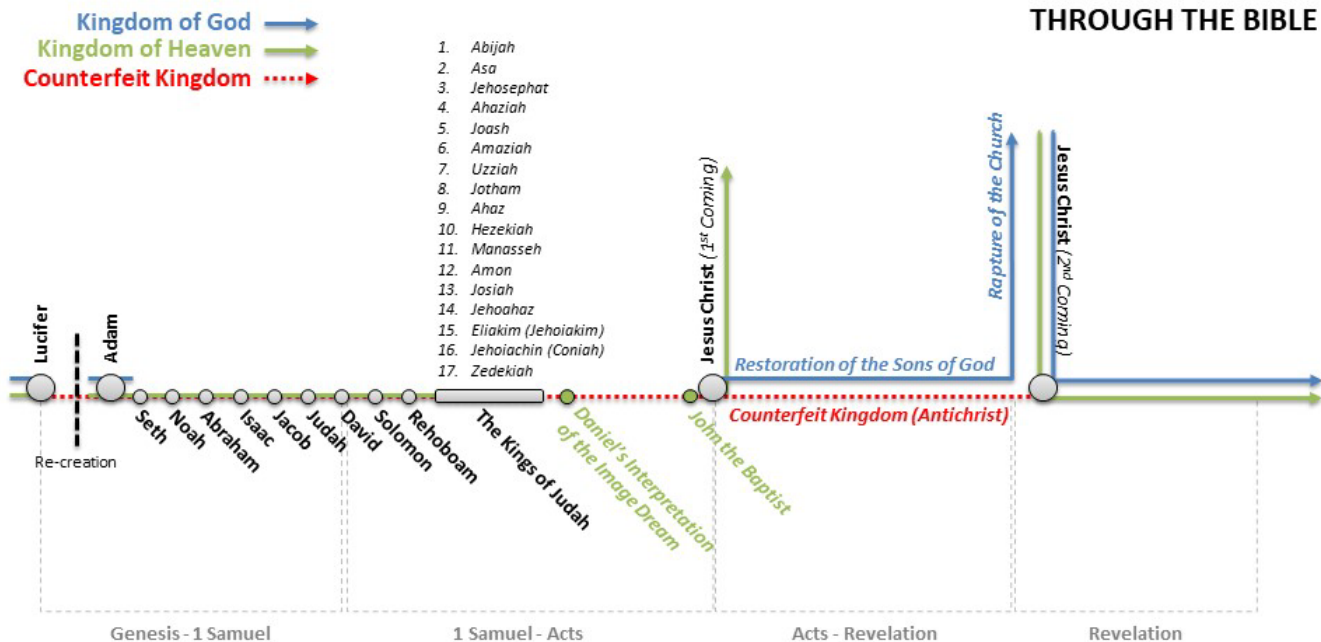
Chapters 2-3 – Church History – Addendum 4

## UNDERSTANDING THE KINGDOMS – REVELATION 2-3

In the beginning of our study of Revelation, we learned that the book of Revelation is the capstone of the entire Bible. It concludes the story of the movement of God through history (His-story) to build and establish a physical and spiritual kingdom where the Lord Jesus Christ reigns as the King of kings and Lord of lords from the throne in Jerusalem (Acts 3:19-21). Simultaneously, Satan is diligently and effectively working his plan (the mystery of iniquity – 2 Thess. 2:7-10) throughout history to counter, counterfeit, and confound God's plan to set up his own physical and spiritual kingdom where the antichrist reigns as the King of kings and Lord of lords from the throne in Jerusalem. This is the theme of the Bible... it is the battle over the throne and who will sit on that throne.

It is critical for every Bible-believing, born-again Christian to understand and be well versed in these kingdoms. If one does not understand the difference between the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of God, and Satan's counterfeit kingdom, one will not rightly divide their Bible, cannot study to shew oneself approved unto God (2 Tim. 2:15), and will be "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive..." (Eph. 4:14).

## FOLLOWING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN THROUGH THE BIBLE



1. **Kingdom of Heaven** = The literal, physical kingdom set up by God where Christ will rule and reign on the throne in Jerusalem – Acts 1:6; Is. 9:6-7; Matt. 5:35; 25:31-34; Lk. 1:30-33; 2 Sam. 7:12; Ps. 132:11; 72:8-11; Jer. 33:15-21; Dan. 2:35, 44; 7:14, 27; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Rev. 19:11-21
  - a. The Kingdom of Heaven is directly tied with physical restoration, and it is established with Jesus Christ taking over the kingdoms of the Earth as the King of Israel – Rev. 19:11-20:10; Matt. 25:31-46; Zech. 12:1-14; 14:1-21
  - b. The mystery of iniquity includes Satan’s direct attack against the physical seed of Israel to...
    - i. Prevent the establishment of a people and kingdom in Israel – Gen. 3:15; 4:8, 25-26; 6:1-22; 9:20-27; 11:1; etc...
    - ii. Prevent the direct lineage of Judah to give birth to Jesus Christ as the Messiah and King of the Jews – Gen. 49:10; Matt. 1:1-17; Jer. 22:30 (Jehoiachin/Coniah); 52:9-11 (Zedekiah)
    - iii. Establish his own king and kingdom overall the earth, with Israel as his capital – Gen. 3:15; Jn. 6:70; 17:12; 2 Thess. 2:3-10; Rev. 17:8, 11; 13:3, 12, 14
2. **Kingdom of God** = The invisible, spiritual kingdom set up by God where Christ rules and reigns on the throne of the heart – Lk. 17:20-21; Jn. 3:3-5; Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 15:50; Gal. 6:15; 2 Cor. 5:17; Tts. 3:5
  - a. The Kingdom of God is directly tied with spiritual restoration, and it was established with being born again as the “sons of God” and continues into the new covenant with Israel – Jn. 1:12; 3:3-5; Rom. 8:14, 19; Phil. 2:15; 1 Jn. 3:1-2; Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-13

- b. The mystery of iniquity includes Satan's direct attack against the spiritual seed of God to...
  - i. Prevent any chance for God to restore a spiritual kingdom – Lk. 2:46-47; 4:1-13; Jn. 13:27; 18-19; Ps. 22:12; 1 Cor. 2:8; Col. 2:15
  - ii. Prevent the establishment of spiritually restored sons of God – 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Acts 26:18
  - iii. Establish his own counterfeit spiritual kingdom with its own Bible, Christ, spirit, apostles, disciples, and ministers of righteousness – 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Rev. 13:15; 19:20

3. Practical applications that come with understanding the kingdoms:

- a. Rightly dividing the scriptures – 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17
- b. Protection against false doctrine – Eph. 4:14; Tts. 1:9
- c. Bearing the right fruit that will glorify God – Jn. 15:8, 16