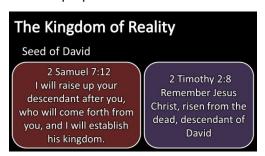
The Kingdom of Prophecy 11-08-15 AM

When it comes to understanding Bible language (and especially prophecy language), it helps greatly to set up a frame of reference (a baseline) to set any prophecy on, so that we can avoid leaving the context. When it comes to kingdom prophecy (or any "establishment" prophecy), it helps to understand that the baseline of such language is the church. In Ephesians 3:8-12 we are told that the church was God's "eternal purpose". This means that everything that God did in the Old Testament (and subsequently, the prophetic messages of the Old Testament) come into the church of Jesus Christ. This is what we are told repeatedly in the New Testament (I Corinthians 10:11, Romans 15:4).

The earliest prophecies of the kingdom to come to us after the kingdom of Israel has been established. First around 1000 BC in 2 Samuel 7:12-13, then around 740BC in the time of Hezekiah in Isaiah 9:7, 2:1-5 (which is a parallel to Micah 4:1-7. Those prophecies proclaim that the coming Kingdom would be established by the Seed of David, it would come in "the last days", and all nations (Gentiles) would come to it. Perhaps the most important prophecies of the kingdom come at the end of the kingdom of Israel, when Daniel speaks about the vision of Gentile king Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2:37-45 (c. 590 BC) and his own vision in Daniel 7:2-18 (c. 550-40 BC). In Daniel's kingdom vision we are told the time of its coming (during the fourth kingdom after Babylon, Rome), its dominative nature over all the earth, and its possession by the Saints.

All of these prophecies are fulfilled in the church. Consider:











The Prophetic Kingdom is a reality in the church. Jesus' church is headed by the Seed of David; it came with the Last Days (Acts 2); it is composed of all nations; it was established at the specified time; it is a possession of the Saints.

So why is Kingdom Prophecy misunderstood? One reason is that there is a great deal of false teaching present today about the church (Matthew 11:12). As well, false teaching would not be a problem if it were not for weak Bible students (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11). Ultimately, much of the expectation of Jesus establishing a kingdom in a physical realm and way is the result of the carnal mind rejecting the Spiritual Kingdom (John 18:36). We as Christian are the Kingdom, possessed within the authority of Christ.