

Christian Doctrine

The End Times (Part 2)

The Life of Christ and Prophecy

Key Prophecies during the Life of Christ

The Gospels, which focus on the life of Jesus Christ, give the details as Israel is introduced to the King that they had been anticipating. Notice how the events unfold:

- **The Kingdom Offered to Israel**
 - John the Baptist was sent to prepare the Israelites for their Messiah King. His message was, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mal. 3:1, 7; Matt. 3:1-3).
 - Upon Jesus’ arrival, He shared the same focus, urging the rebellious Israelites to repent and prepare for the kingdom (Matt. 4:17; 10:5-6; 15:24).
- **The Kingdom Rejected by Israel**
 - Because of the blindness of their hearts, the Israelites refused to repent and turn to God. They rejected Christ, going so far as crediting His works to Satan. (Matt. 11:20; 12:24; 13:13-15; John 1:10-11; Acts 4:10-12)
 - They anticipated a coming king who would immediately rule in power over the nations. Christ, however, came first as a sacrificial Lamb. (Dan. 2:44; Matt. 20:28)
- **Christ’s Earthy Reign Delayed until a Later Date**
 - As the kingdom was rejected, the focus turned to a future time in which Christ’s throne on earth would be established (Matt. 19:28; 25:31-34; Acts 1:6-7, 11).
 - Jesus gave a parable of a king who leaves to go receive a kingdom and then later returns. Though rejected by many, the king encourages faithfulness among his followers while he is gone (Luke 19:11-27).
- **The Focus Turned toward the Gentiles**
 - Jesus began to teach through parables showing that since the kingdom was rejected by Israel, others would be invited to partake in it (Matt. 21:33-41, 42-43; 22:1-14).
 - We begin to see the fulfillment of how God’s sovereign plan includes the Gentiles (Acts 13:45-48; 28:28).

Though interested in the prophetic details surrounding their coming King (I Pet. 1:10-11), the Jews failed to recognize Him when He arrived. Our next lesson will begin to look at the future implications of these events.

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