

of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ." Is there to be a day when the very kingdoms of this world, those kingdoms which to so great an extent are lifting up their heads against our God and his Christ are to become in very deed the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ? Before we examine a few of the most important of the passages bearing on this matter, let us note briefly the fact that the word "kingdom" is used in the Scripture in various senses. Thus sometimes we read of the kingdom of God as something that is already present, while at other times it is spoken of as yet to come. I do not feel that we have reason to differentiate between a kingdom of God, and a kingdom of Christ.

The kingdom of God, or the kingdom of Christ, may be referred to in any one of various senses. First, we have the general idea of a kingdom of God which includes everything which God has made and which is subject to his will. The very breath that a man draws when he curses God is only drawn because God permits it. In this sense the kingdom of God includes everything in the universe. There is a second sense which is much more common in Scripture. This is the sense of kingship of God over human beings who recognize his sovereignty. Our Lord told the Pharisees that the kingdom of God was among them. Right in their very midst were Jesus Christ and his disciples, who were subject to him, acknowledging his sovereignty. In this sense we have the kingdom of God in this world today. Wherever there are individuals who are trying to determine what God would have them to do, and who are desirous of being obedient to his will, we have, in a very real sense, the kingdom of God. The third sense is but an extension of the second. The coming of the kingdom of God on earth means the beginning of that time when every individual on earth shall acknowledge his subjection to the law of God. Only then can we say that the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord. The kingdom in this third sense is that in which we are interested this evening. This is the millennial kingdom of Christ, and it is the certainty of the coming of this kingdom which is the great hope of the Christian in times of adversity. We shall not have time this evening to make more than a bare beginning of the study of what is taught in Scripture regarding this kingdom. Let us glance at a few of the outstanding teachings of the Bible concerning it.