

What about the Kingdom?

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Act 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel?

No doubt Jesus' disciples waited in the upper room in anticipation, for the promise of the Father as Jesus had instructed them to do. How did they feel? They had been told about the promise of the Father, but certainly they still had questions:

What about the Kingdom? Who should they select to replace Judas as one of the twelve?

One of these questions was asked by Jesus' disciples after His resurrection but **immediately** prior to His ascension.

The other question was asked by way of a prayer by His disciples, after Jesus assent into heaven but while His disciples and followers waited in the upper room. However this was before the Holy Ghost came upon them.

Neither of the questions could be answered by their carnal knowledge. Nor could they fully understand, yet, with only flesh and blood assets. They were still men of flesh and blood, and could not understand spiritual things unless specific insight was granted by the Father.

The question regarding the Kingdom was premature, but only a little premature.

The question regarding the disposition of the Kingdom was answered, only in part, as Jesus said;

It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath

put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

And this power to be witnesses and to know the mysteries of the kingdom would be given to themvery shortly. Not many days hence.

An account of this is recorded in Acts 1: and a parallel account is recorded in Luke 24:44-49. Luke's account indicates Jesus did open the eyes of their understanding to understand some scriptures about Him at that time. However, it was only understanding of things past; his death and resurrection. And it was not yet time for them to understand about the Kingdom, because that promise had not yet been fulfilled and **therefore must remain a mystery until after the Holy Ghost would come upon them on the day of Pentecost, after Jesus' final ascension.**

The question regarding the replacement for Judas, was settled after prayer, but they had to cast lots to obtain the answer, because; they did not have the full power and gifting from the Holy Spirit quite yet to instruct them from within.

It is interesting to note, that after the Holy Ghost clothed them with power from on high on the day of Pentecost, never again is there a record of casting lots to make a God directed decision by the apostles. From that time on they would be directed or governed through the power and wisdom of God by the Holy Spirit **within them**. This is the government of God or Kingdom of God, **now within them**, that they were previously asking about and would subsequently experience for themselves all the rest of their lives and into eternity.

Yes, the Kingdom of heaven or Kingdom of God is truly at hand and has been since Pentecost.

Act 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Act 1:7 And he said unto them, **It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.**

Act 1:8 **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Act 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Act 1:10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Act 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Act 1:24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

Act 1:25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

Act 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

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