

SEE the KINGDOM of GOD

God-centered Worship

Jesus said, **"The pure in heart shall see God"**
-Matthew 5:8

In the context of the famous verse **'John 3:16'** Jesus also said, that you could **"See the Kingdom of God"**
-John 3:3

Since the beginning of time God has desired that men on the earth be righteous. Able proved his righteousness by offering to God the sacrifice that He asked for. **"By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks."**
-Hebrews 11:4 God refers to those who are righteous as 'His children'. It is God's desire that all men seek Him. Though He is not visible to the physical eye He is very close to us. Paul proclaimed to those in Athens, **"Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being. . . Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained.** He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."
-Act 17:23-28,30-31 God does not dwell in temples made with hands. He dwells in His children. For His purpose of helping us understand what He is like He sent Jesus to the earth to be our example of acceptable righteous living. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, **being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
-Philippians 2:5-11

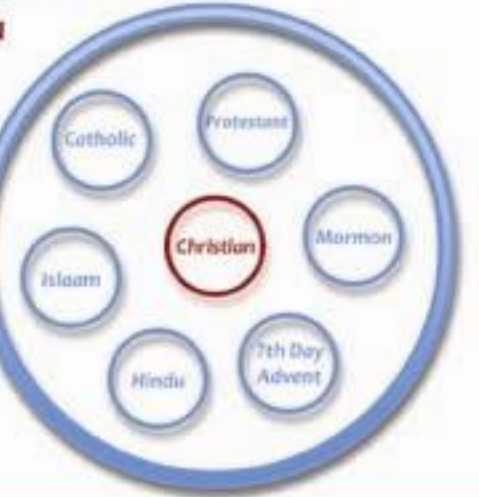
Old Testament True Worship By Nations



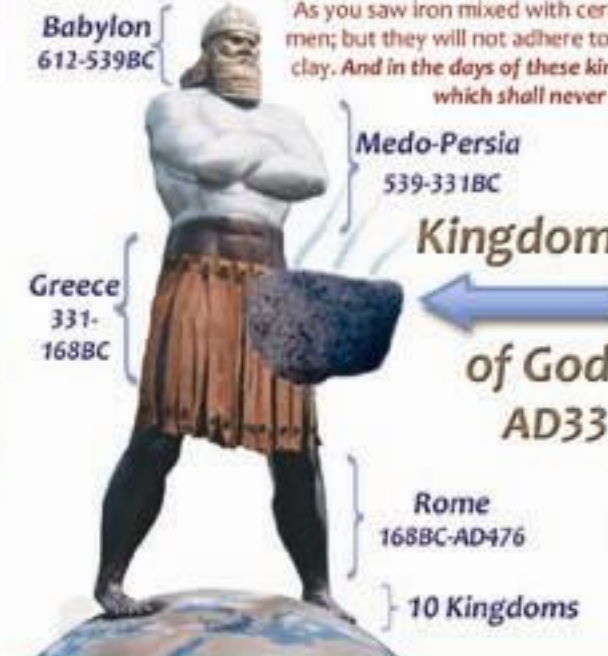
"Also today the Lord has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments, and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the Lord your God, just as He has spoken."
-Deuteronomy 26:18-19

New Testament True Worship By Religions

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."
-1 Peter 2:9-10



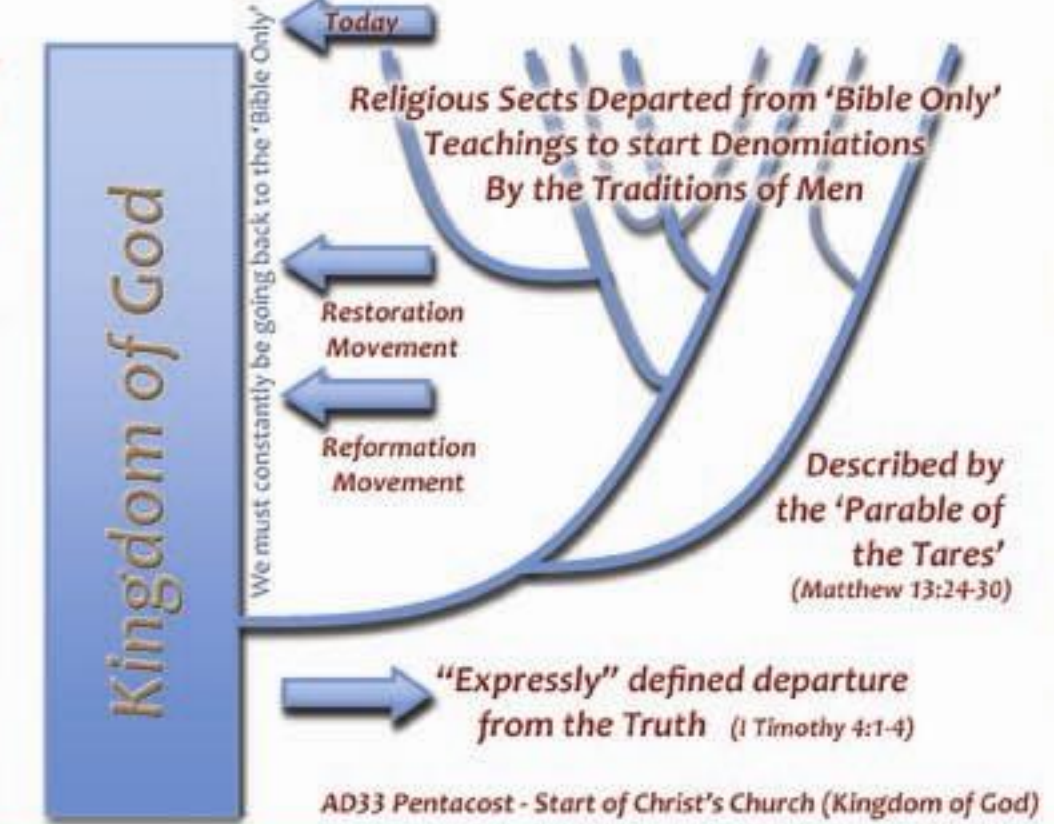
In the days when Israel was in captivity in Babylon, **King Nebuchadnezzar** had a dream about the **Kingdom of God** that would come in the future. By looking at Daniel chapter 2 we can see clearly this prediction of the coming 'The Kingdom of God' (The Church). "Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, 'The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.'" -Daniel 2:27-35 Look at the statue below and the Kingdoms that followed Nebuchadnezzar and how they fit with the timing of Roman rule over Jerusalem during Jesus time. "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed." -Daniel 2:36-44



"Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the Kingdom of God present with power."
-JESUS -Mark 9:1

Jesus established His Kingdom on earth as the scriptures predicted, on Pentacost in AD33. He admonished His disciples to abide in the truth so that they could be unified; "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me **through their word; that they all may be one.**" The Apostle Paul warned early Christians of the coming departure from the Truth by those 'Inside' the church. Paul wrote, **"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the traditions of men, and not according to Christ."** -Colossians 2:8

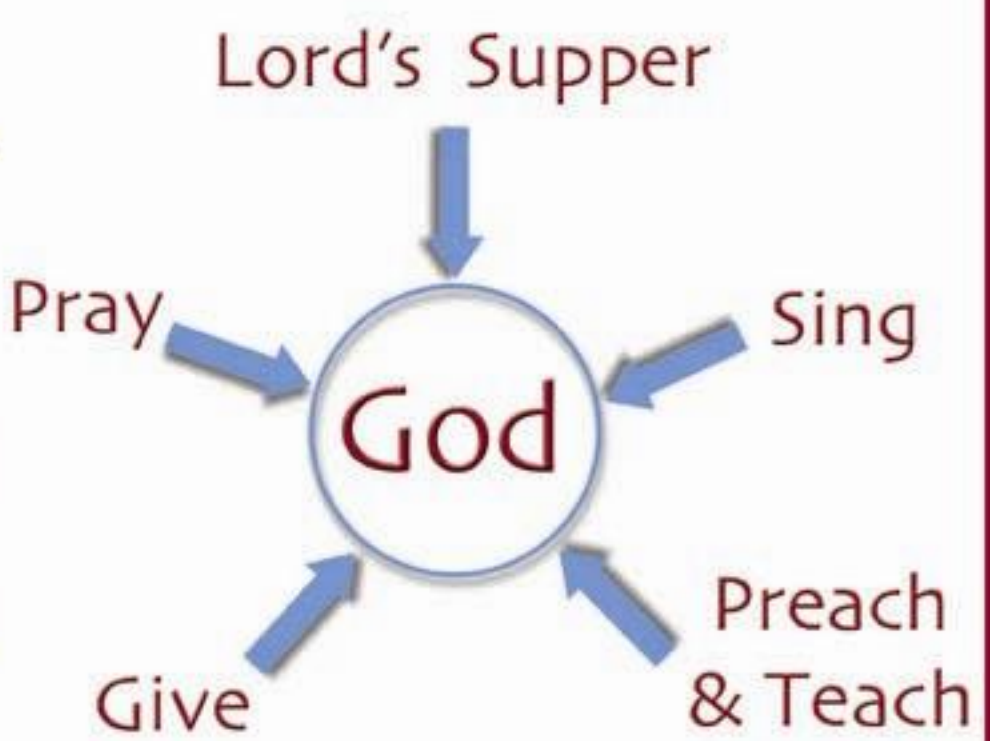
"Whoever transgresses (goes ahead) and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son."
-1 John 9



Inheritance

The predicted Kingdom of God is here! Though it can not be seen with physical eyes, it can be **seen by faith.** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." -Hebrews 11:1 Romans says, "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our report?' So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: 'Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.'" -Romans 10:16-18 **Faith is the substance and evidence of the things believers do to obey the word of God they have heard. 'Kingdom Parables'** and other words that the Holy Spirit gave us in the Bible tell us how the **'Kingdom Citizen'** is supposed to live in order to please God. "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the **word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.**" -Acts 20:32 "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." -Hebrews 12:28 **'Kingdom citizens'** are Christians living in **Christ's Church.** The **'Kingdom Inheritance'** is what we will receive when Jesus returns to judge all men and women, of all nations, for all time. "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, **'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'**" -Matthew 25:34 Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will **inherit the kingdom of God.** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. -1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Come **See** the Kingdom of God, **Enter it, Seek it** as the first priority of your life, and **Serve God acceptably in it.**

New Testament worship today is simple, following the **'Truth' and 'Spirit'.** The 'Truth' is the **'Word of God'** and 'Spirit' is **'Man's spirit communing in sincerity'** with God, who is Spirit. -John 4



The purpose of the **Kingdom of God** is to Edify or 'Build up' the church for the Glory of God. God is glorified (Illuminated) by worshiping Him. **'God-centered' worship** has always been the only **'Acceptable'** worship of God. There are many Bible examples of **God not accepting worship that He has not specifically requested.** Today God has asked for these above things. What God requires as **'Acceptable'** today is worship **"In truth and spirit"**. -John 4:24