

The Arrival of the Kingdom

Al Green, a superstar singer of soul hits in the 1970s, finally found happiness when he turned to Jesus. He started a church in Memphis where he has preached for the last 44 years. Awarded the prestigious Kennedy Center Honor for his musical accomplishments in 2014, Green now says, “The rewards of fame didn’t hold the same attraction. The real riches are in the souls of men.”

Three Features Marking the Arrival of the Kingdom:

1. It Came at the _____(Right Time).

- a. *“When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee.” Matthew 4:12.* Jesus always did his work on the Father’s timetable. *“When the fullness of time came, God sent forth his Son.” Galatians 4:4.* During the first year of Jesus’ public ministry (the Year of Obscurity), he progressively revealed himself as the Messiah (John 2:4; 7:6).
- b. The life of Christ was laid out on a precise timetable foretold in Daniel 9:25. 483 prophetic years would pass from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (March 4, 444 BC – Nehemiah 2:1-8) until Jesus presented himself publicly as the Messiah on Palm Sunday (March 30, 33 AD – Luke 19:28-40). This equals 173,880 days (483 prophetic years of 360 days).
- c. Are your days laid out with such precision? Psalm 139:16 says, *“All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”* God reigns over your life despite the fact that you make free decisions every day as did King Herod Antipas when he arrested and executed John the Baptist (Matthew 14:3-12).
- d. God often uses pain to get our attention and direct us. “Pain is God’s megaphone” (C.S. Lewis).

2. It Came at the _____(Right Place).

- a. *“Jesus returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali.” Matthew 4:12-13.* Galilee was the least religious province in Israel with the largest population of Gentiles. Here Jesus was raised and rose to prominence as the Messiah (prophesied in Isaiah 9:1-2).
- b. Do you live where you do by God’s design? *“From one man, God made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they shall live.” Acts 17:26.* God does this so that you will seek and find him (Acts 19:27).

3. It Came with the _____(Right Message).

- a. *“From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.’” Matthew 4:19.* Jesus came to share God’s truth which you can believe or reject. The choice is yours. You must both renounce the darkness and embrace the light.
- b. Galilee was filled with darkness as is our world today. Our greatest problem by far is spiritual. *“Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a man can make him unclean by going into him. Rather it is what comes out of a man that makes him unclean.” Mark 7:14.* Sin resides within us and will destroy us apart from salvation in Christ (Mark 7:21).
- c. The kingdom of heaven is accessible through faith in Christ. *“I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” John 8:12.*

God is shaking the nations in 2020. Ten events prophesied by Jesus in Luke 21 have accelerated this year:

- 1. Racial Strife (vs. 10)**
- 2. Plagues (vs. 11)**
- 3. Terror (vs. 11)**
- 4. Persecution (vs. 12)**
- 5. Legal Trials (vs. 12)**
- 6. Powerful Witnesses (vs. 13)**
- 7. Betrayal (vs. 16)**
- 8. Martyrdom (vs. 16)**
- 9. Hatred of Christians (vs. 17)**
- 10. Middle East Unrest (vs. 20)**