

THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL

with

THAT SAME JESUS: BOTH LORD AND CHRIST

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ"

These are the concluding words to a powerful sermon preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost. His words were inspired by God, and directed by the Holy Spirit. The proof that God was in this matter can be seen in the results that followed, when the hearers were "pricked in their hearts and asked, What shall we do?". The Lord then added to the church about three thousand converted souls who gladly received the word and were baptized.

We will all be much the wiser if we pay heed to what is said. Those who deny that Jesus is both Lord and Christ; and deny that Christ presently reigns over ISRAEL as their Messiah (Christ = King, Messiah) will be wise to pay attention to the inspired words spoken by Peter. Please read full text: Acts 2:14-36. The part I want to consider is found in verses 29-36, with my text being Acts 2:36. I want to examine the subject of THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL with THAT SAME JESUS: BOTH LORD AND CHRIST.

When Peter began to speak he said "Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell in Jerusalem -- hearken to my words". Peter concluded by saying "let all THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL know assuredly --". He did not say let all Jews know, or let the nation of Jews know, or let the Nation of Israel know. There is a significant reason for the Spirit of God causing Peter to use the phrase THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL. The word HOUSE means more than a building constructed of brick and wood with a roof on it. It also means a habitation or dwelling place as in A FAMILY. God told Noah, "Come thou and all thy HOUSE into the ark" (Gen 7:1). God was obviously talking about Noah's FAMILY. In Acts 16:31, Paul told the Philippian jailer "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy HOUSE". Paul was obviously talking about his FAMILY being saved in time by his faith in Christ (I Cor 7:14). The word HOUSE is often used in the Scriptures instead of FAMILY or FAMILIES.

ISRAEL is the name God gave to Jacob in Genesis 32:28, which became the representative name of God's Chosen People or elect FAMILY of GOD. There is a Natural family of Man, and there is a Spiritual family of God. There is no such thing as the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. All of mankind are God's offspring as a result of creation (Acts 17:26-29) and make up the natural family of man, with Adam as our natural father and Eve as the natural mother of us all. In the natural family of man, we are all sinners by nature (Rom 5:12, Eph 2:1-3). Out of this natural family of man God has chosen the Spiritual family of God in Christ (Eph. 1:3) "Of

whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named", (Eph 3:15), "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" (Eph. 2:18).

When JACOB was renamed ISRAEL, he was already the father of twelve sons by his two wives Rachel and Leah and their two handmaidens. Those sons became the heads of the TWELVE TRIBES OF JACOB which made up the natural or physical HOUSE of JACOB, which is also referred to in Scripture as the HOUSE OF ISRAEL. Within the natural family of Israel there existed the Spiritual HOUSE (family) of JACOB (Israel) representative of all God's elect people known as THE ISRAEL OF GOD (Gal 6:15-16) made up of both Jews and Gentiles (Rom. 9:11-24). More proof of this will be given from Scriptures later on. When Peter directed his comments to the House of Israel he was saying, Let all the ELECT, the Spiritual Family or House of Israel KNOW (or understand God's word). This is evident because, "The NATURAL MAN receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:8-16).

When most people hear the word ISRAEL they usually think of that JEWISH NATION located in the Middle East which is always fighting with its Arab neighbors, or collecting large financial subsidies from the United States. This present JEWISH NATION was established by the ungodly UNITED NATIONS in 1948, after almost 1,880 years of not being a Nation because of God's judgment. I am by no means Anti-Semitic, so I trust that my statements will not be construed as such. I make them in fear and trembling, trusting God to be my guide and judge in this matter. It might shock most people to learn from Scripture that this present natural "Jewish Nation" now called "Israel" has never been and never will be recognized by God.

Most people do not understand that God's promise of blessings to the natural or physical nation of Israel, in the natural promised land of Canaan, was totally conditional upon their obedience. For proof read Deuteronomy chapter 28. The natural or physical Nation of Israel; that Jewish Nation that was delivered from Egypt by God, and given God's Law by Moses; became so disobedient and idolatrous that the judgment of God fell upon them and they were destroyed forever. Christ came to fulfill the Law and ended forever the Levitical sacrifices which were types and shadows of the PERFECT SACRIFICE OF HIMSELF; that one sacrifice that hath perfected forever them that are sanctified (read Hebrews chap. 9 & 10). In 70 AD the Roman armies under the leadership of Titus destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the Temple and made it desolate. That was a direct fulfillment of the prophecy by Daniel (9:24-27). Christ confirmed this in Matthew 24. The Kingdom of the Messiah as foretold by Daniel (7:13-14, 27), and prophesied by David (Ps. 132:11) was established by Christ during his ministry and confirmed by his resurrection (Rom 1:1-4) and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Joel 2:28-32), just as Peter is saying in our text.

The Arminian Dispensationalist who "deny that Jesus is the Christ"; claim that these prophecies will all be fulfilled in the future. Who is right ? Them

or Peter ? While they look at the natural or physical Jewish nation; they do not understand that **THE ISRAEL OF GOD** has always been those chosen by God in Christ before the foundation of the world; His elect people made up of both Jews and Gentiles. I know this flies in the face of multitudes of "professing believers" who have been mis-taught by professing ministers that Jesus Christ is coming back to earth to set up an earthly Kingdom and reign in a physical temple in the city of Jerusalem for a thousand years. I was also taught the Darby/Scofield "Dispensational Premillennial Future Kingdom Theory" while in Bible College. But those theories fall apart when they come under the scrutiny of Scripture.

"Dispensational Premillennialism" is the brainchild of John Darby (a Plymouth Brethren of England) and C.I. Scofield (a Freemason Lawyer / Congregational Minister) who became a follower of Darby. There is evidence that John Darby got the ideas for the Future Antichrist Theory from the Roman Catholic Jesuit Ribera, who published this theory in 1580 to take the heat off the Pope. John Darby borrowed the Secret Rapture Theory from Emannul Lacunza, also a Jesuit Priest, which was published in 1816. There is also evidence connecting the Jesuits with the Freemasons. In 1977 the Associated Press reported that connection. Scofield blatantly added his own notes to the Scriptures themselves, thereby making them part of Scripture in the Scofield Reference Bible. In his notes Scofield often questions and denies the Sovereignty of God; the foreknowledge and integrity of Jesus Christ; and the eternal purpose of God in Christ. He maintains that man's eternal salvation in the Old Testament was based on "obedience to the Law", and that during the Future Jewish Kingdom, will again be based on obedience. This is a subject matter in itself which needs to be handled separately.

It may come as a small surprise for some to learn that the word JEW does not appear in the Scriptures until II Kings 16:6, where we are told that "Rezin king of Syria - drove the Jews from Elath". This was about 660 BC or 1,140 years after Jacob was named "ISRAEL" at Penuel. The word JEW is translated from the Hebrew word "JeHUWDIY" (yeh-hoo-dee) and means a descendent of Jehudah or Judah. The name JEW was probably heathen slang or a shortened name for those of the tribe of Judah, which was then divided from the other ten "tribes of Israel" due to the sins of Solomon. Read 1 Kings 11:1-13, 29-36. The name JEW was not a name given by God to either Abraham, Isaac or Jacob (who was renamed ISRAEL). In contrast, the names JEW and JEWS are used only 289 times in the Scripture; whereas ISRAEL is used 2,593 times. I trust you will see the significance of this later.

It may also surprise some to learn that the often misused phrase "NATION OF ISRAEL" can not be found in the King James Bible. Perhaps the reason for this is in the meaning of the name ISRAEL: "A prince that has power with God and men" or "A Prince that shall rule as God". The name ISRAEL speaks of Jesus Christ, the Holy One of Israel, and all the elect family of God, which are IN CHRIST. We read "For IN CHRIST JESUS neither circumcision (being a Jew) availeth anything, nor un-circumcision (being a Gentile), but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon (watch it) **THE ISRAEL OF GOD**"

(see Galatians 6:15-16). Those who are IN CHRIST are the children of God, and those who are not IN CHRIST are not the children of God. This applies to all mankind from the beginning of time; According as God hath chosen us IN HIM before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:3).

Scripture does not teach that all Jews in the natural family of "ISRAEL" are Spiritual children of God by virtue of their natural birth. Jesus was talking to some Jews who claimed to be "children of Abraham" and that God was their Father. Jesus told them that they were of the natural seed of Abraham, but spiritually their father was the devil and that "Ye are not of God" (John 8:39-47). Paul, a Hebrew of Hebrews wrote, "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, -- not of men, but of God" (see Romans 2:28-29). "For they are not all ISRAEL [Spiritual seed] which are of Israel [Natural seed]. -- That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of promise are counted for the seed" (Rom 9:6-8). "Now to Abraham and his SEED were the promises made. He saith not, And to thy seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy SEED, which is Christ -- as many of you as have been baptized (Spiritually) into Christ have put on Christ (compare Col. 2:11-15). And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to promise" (read carefully Galatians 3:6-29).

Just as ALL JEWS are not children of God because of their natural birth, neither are all "professing Christians" children of God simply because they say "Lord, Lord" (see Matt 7:21-23). The devils believe in God and tremble (James 2:19). Some demons cried out "Jesus, thou Son of the most high God" (Mark 5:7). Does that make the devils and demons all children of God? NO WAY ! Today many call everything that walks, crawls or pays it's way into a church building a Christian. That is hog wash and blasphemy to the name of Christ. The Disciples were called Christians first at Antioch, because they lived Christ-like lives and taught Christ-like doctrines. The word Christian is used very seriously and only three (3) times in the Word of God. Today most so called "preachers" use the word Christian so loosely, that it has no real meaning to most people.

God was worshipped by righteous men (made righteous by His grace) for more than 2,250 years before Jacob, whom God loved, was named "ISRAEL". Paul said to the Athenians, who worshipped THE UNKNOWN GOD, "God that made the world and all things therein - hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth -- That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us -" (Acts 17:23-31). God had respect for "righteous Abel" and his sacrifice (Gen. 4:4, Heb. 11:4), 2,095 years before the ordinance of CIRCUMCISION was given to Abraham (Gen. 17). Enoch was not a Jew, but he walked with God and prophesied of the coming of Christ and it pleased God to "translate him" (Gen. 5:24, Heb. 11:5, Jude 14). Noah was a preacher of righteousness for 120 years before the flood; 716 years before Jacob's name was changed to "ISRAEL" (Gen. 6:8-9, Heb. 11:7, II Pet 2:5). Into what dispensation will the Arminians place the men ?

ABRAHAM was a "Hebrew" (descendent of Eber; Gen. 14:13) the son of Terah; who was of the generations of **SHEM** the son of Noah. Read Gen. 11:10-26 for the genealogy. God called **ABRAM** out from the Ur of the Chaldees, and promised to make of him a great "NATION" (Hebrew word **Gowy** [Go-ee]. Strong's #1471. **Gowy** comes from the root word "Gevah" [Gay-vah] which means body). So God promised to make of Abram a great body of people. God said to him, "in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen 12:1-3). Later, God changed Abram's name to Abraham which means "Father of a multitude". Paul tells us that the promise or covenant given to Abraham was the Gospel of Christ being preached to Abraham. "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen by faith preached the gospel unto Abraham saying "In thee shall all nations (Ethnos = foreign people) be blessed" (Gal 3:8). We have already given the text where Paul explains that this promise was made to Abraham's SEED - which is Christ (Gal. 3:16).

It is **IN CHRIST**, and not through the Jewish Nation that all families of the earth will be blessed. Christ has redeemed to God an elect multitude that no man can number, from all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues (Rev. 7:9-10). The O.T. word **NATION** (**Gowy**) usually refers to a foreign body of people. When speaking of the heathen or Gentiles; they would be foreign or aliens from the commonwealth of **ISRAEL**, (Eph. 2:12). When speaking of **ISRAEL** as a Spiritual people; they were to be foreign to this world; strangers and pilgrims on earth (Heb. 11:13). In the N.T. the words Nation and Nations are mostly translated from the Greek word **ETHNOS** (Strong's #1484; where we get Ethnic), which means a foreign people. When speaking of the elect as a chosen generation, and a holy nation; they are to be foreign or peculiar people to this world (John 17:14-16, I Pet 2:9-12). When applied to the **HEATHEN** as non-elect; they are not only foreign to God's people and aliens from the commonwealth of Israel; they have no place in **THE ISRAEL OF GOD** (Gal. 6:15-16).

JACOB whose name was changed to **ISRAEL**, was born the son of Isaac and the twin brother of Esau. The false philosophies of men are many, and the doctrinal errors of the religious are even more. But they can all be avoided and corrected by understanding the basic, if not simple, truth of the text God gives in Romans 9:11-13. **WHENEVER YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY PROBLEM TRYING TO UNDERSTAND DOCTRINE, JUST DIAL 911.** Speaking of Jacob and Esau, (who represent Israel and non-Israel; the elect and non-elect), God says, "For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth; It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger". Paul explains what this means: "As it is written, **JACOB HAVE I LOVED, BUT ESAU HAVE I HATED**". Now, you figure it out!

By the Spirit of God, Paul anticipated what some might be thinking right now. "What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy,

and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion" (Rom 9:14-15). Now read Romans 9:18-24, and you will see who make up the elect people of God; The JACOB or ISRAEL OF GOD - "What if God, willing to shew his wrath and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted (made up) to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, EVEN US, WHOM HE HATH CALLED, NOT OF THE JEWS ONLY, BUT ALSO OF THE GENTILES". "According to the eternal purpose, which he purposed IN CHRIST JESUS our Lord - That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs (with the Jews) and of the same body, (that body promised to Abraham) and partakers of his promise in Christ (the promise given to Abraham) by the gospel (the gospel preached to Abraham)". "For through him (Christ) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access by one Spirit unto the Father". See Ephesians 2 & 3.

The gospel was to be preached first to the Jews, and then to the Gentiles (Rom 1:16, Acts 18:4, 19:10). It was to the Jews that God gave the oracles (the laws) of God. Jesus came first to "his own, and his own received him not". That is as a natural physical nation the Jews received him not. One can not conclude that NONE received him. Scripture teaches that at least eight thousand Jews made up the membership of the First Primitive Baptist Church. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them which believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood (natural birth), nor of the will of the flesh (not according to good works), nor of the will of man (not by man's choice) BUT OF GOD". Read carefully John 1:11-13 with John 3:1-21.

The Gospel was preached in Types and Shadows to Israel by the various sacrifices under the Levitical Law. Christ came and fulfilled the Law. "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices -- make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshippers once purged should have no more conscience of sin. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins" (Heb. 10:1-4). "It was necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us --" (Hebrews 9:23-24). When Jesus came on the scene John the Baptist introduced him "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). When Jesus "had by himself purged our sins, (Jesus) sat down on the right hand of the of the Majesty on high --" (Hebrews 1:3).

Jesus was typified by the Passover Lamb in Egypt (Ex. 12:3-14). That Lamb that was "without blemish", whose blood, when seen by God spared the house from judgment. See I Peter 1:18-21. The redemption and deliverance of the physical nation of Israel from Egypt does not typify God's eternal choice. Before Moses went to Egypt God said, "I have surely seen the

affliction of my people which are in Egypt -" (Ex. 3:7). **THE ISRAEL OF GOD** were already God's people. God's people, both Jews and Gentiles are "foreknown" of God and "predestinated to be conformed to the image of his Son" (Rom 8:29-30) When Paul stood outside the city of Corinth, he was told "Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: for I have much people in this city". They were God's people before Paul ever preached the Gospel to them.

The physical nation of Israel typifies "the chosen people of God" and the things that happened to them happened as an example for our admonition (I Cor. 10:6). The deliverance from Egypt typifies deliverance from the bondage of this world into the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Canaan is a type of the church, not of heaven. There will be no enemies in heaven to defeat. But here in time we have many enemies we must overcome in Christ. Moses was not allowed to enter Canaan due his disobedience (Deut. 34:1-4). There was not a greater prophet than Moses, and he appeared with Jesus on the Mount of transfiguration (Matt 17:1-5). Is anyone going to say Moses did not make it to heaven because he did not make it to Canaan? Those who entered Canaan had to cross over Jordan; those who enter the church must be in type baptized in Jordan. Those who entered Canaan had to be obedient to God's commandment; those who enter the church must also be obedient and take up their cross and follow Jesus. Those who entered Canaan enjoyed the goodness of the land; those who enter the church enjoy the blessings of God upon their lives as they live in the kingdom here in time.

More proof that the Gospel was to be preached first to the Jewish "sheep of Israel" is seen in Matthew 10:5-15. Jesus sent his disciples out two by two, and told them not to go to the Gentiles or to the Samaritans, but to go to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel". Those who received their words were to be blessed with God's peace, those who did not receive them or their words were to be rejected. This does not mean that only Jews are the "Sheep of God"? Jesus said "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold (made up of Jews and Gentiles), and one Shepherd. (John 10:14-16). Jesus had already been a blessing to Gentiles in his ministry; read Matthew 4:12-16. Jesus had already ministered to the people of Samaria; read John 4:1-42. The "lost sheep of Israel" include the "elect of God", chosen by God in Christ before the foundation of the world. Jesus came to "seek and to save that which was lost". The angel Gabriel said to Joseph, "Thou shalt call his name JESUS; for He shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). I believe that he did exactly that.

When Peter directed his comments to **THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL**, whether he knew it or not, he was not talking to all natural Jews, nor to all the physical Nation of Israel, but rather to **THE ELECT OF GOD**, to **THE ISRAEL OF GOD**; to those whom the Lord loved according to his own purpose and calling, both Jews and Gentiles. Based on what is recorded in Acts 10, Peter apparently did not understand this truth on the day of Pentecost. When

devout (pious, godly) Cornelius the Gentile sent for Peter, under the directions of the Lord, in order that he could hear the gospel, Peter did not want to go. As often was the case, Peter let his mouth get him in big trouble, saying "Not so, Lord". The Lord replied, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common" (Acts 10:9-20). What was the first thing Peter said when he came to the home of Cornelius? Was it "You must accept Jesus in order to be a child of God". -OR- Was it, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (read Acts 10:34-48). Peter later on spoke out in a church council concerning Gentiles, "God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between_us_and them, purifying their hearts by faith. They then concluded the conference by saying, "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they" (read Acts 15).

Now, back to our text that Peter preached on the day of Pentecost. He said "THEREFORE, let all the house of Israel know assuredly -". When we see the word therefore, it tells us to back up and find out what it is there for. I will back up only to verses 29-35. Peter said "Let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David". Am I going to believe that Peter knew what David was talking about, or should I believe some Seminary trained professor, who has an agenda to promote? From experience, I now believe Peter and David. "God had sworn to David that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his (David's) throne; he (David) seeing this before (before he died -v.29) spake of - a thousand year reign on earth -OR- the resurrection of Christ -- WHICH ? Peter says David spake of the resurrection of Christ. "This Jesus hath God raised up - therefore being by the right hand of God exalted -- (NOW SITTING ON THE THRONE OF DAVID), The Lord said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand until I make thy foes thy footstool. READ VERSES 29-35, if you find where it talks about a thousand year earthly reign, I'll eat my Bible. I would not make such an offer if I thought I could be wrong. Peter says, THAT SAME JESUS, WHOM YE CRUCIFIED (whom God raised from the dead) is NOW, BOTH LORD AND CHRIST (Messiah). In Hebrews 1:1-3 we read that "When he (Christ) had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high". Now read Heb. 1:8-13 and tell me where Jesus is reigning.

Peter said, GOD HATH MADE that same Jesus both Lord and Christ. The words HATH MADE do not mean that God suddenly upon the resurrection made Jesus the Christ. It means that God certified that Jesus WAS and IS the Christ. The title Christ means The Messiah, The Anointed, The King of Israel. This same Jesus was Christ when he was born; "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which IS CHRIST the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Jesus was KING when he was born. The wise men asked, "Where IS he that IS born King of the Jews" (Matt 2:2) ? Jesus was "God manifested in the flesh"; He WAS and IS God with us (Matt 1:23, I Timothy 3:16, II John 9).

Jesus was Anointed Christ at his baptism. God the Father identified God the Son as the Messiah by the presence of God the Spirit and said, "THIS IS MY BELOVED SON IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED" (Matt 3:17). That same Jesus was Christ when Andrew said "We have found the Messiah, WHICH IS, by interpretation, THE CHRIST", (John 1:41). That same Jesus was the Christ when Nathanael said "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; THOU ART (now) THE KING OF ISRAEL" (John 1:49). That same Jesus was the Christ when the woman at the well said to him, "I know that Messiah cometh, which IS called CHRIST" - and Jesus said, "I that speak unto thee am he" (John 4:25-26).

Jesus was the Christ when he asked his disciples "Whom do men say that I the Son of Man am"? (The term Son of Man is a prophetic Messianic Title, see Daniel 7:13, John 5:24-27, Rev. 1:12-15 with Daniel 7:9). Peter gave the God inspired answer, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt 16:13-17). Jesus was the Christ when many of his disciples turned back and would not follow anymore. Again Peter said "We believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (John 6:69). Jesus was still the Christ on the mount of transfiguration, when God the Father said to Peter, James and John "THIS IS MY BELOVED SON IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED, hear ye him" (Matt 17:1-5). That same Jesus was still the Christ, the Messiah, the King of Israel, just before he was crucified as Pilate asked him, "Art thou the King of the Jews"? Jesus explicitly responded "My kingdom is not of this world --". A King must have a kingdom! Pilate then asked "Art thou a king then"? And Jesus replied "Thou sayest that I am a king, TO THIS END WAS I BORN, AND FOR THIS CAUSE CAME I INTO THE WORLD --" (read John 18:33-37).

Some try to make an issue of the fact that Jesus said in John 18:36 "but NOW my kingdom is not from hence". They say that his word NOW means that LATTER his kingdom will be set up here on this earth. This feeble attempt implies that (within the context of the Scriptures) Jesus Christ could not have set up his kingdom at that time due to his inability or some secret plan he had never made know to man. For Jesus himself never uttered words about any 1,000 year reign on earth. However, if you will read our Lord's prayer in John 17, which he prayed just hours prior to his arrest and conversation with Pilate in John 18, you will find many interesting facts. I will not quote all of it - you can read the chapter on your own. But I set forth a few excerpts for your consideration.

Jesus said "Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee; As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him [that is all of the elect, both Jews and Gentiles - See Romans 9:24 - ba] (v.1-2). I have glorified thee on earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And NOW, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self, with the glory I had with thee before the world was (v. 4-5). I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; (v.9). And NOW I am no more in the world (v.10). And NOW come I to thee - (v.13). They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world (v.18). Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall

believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; [the elect - see Eph 2:12-18] as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us (v.21). Father I will that they also whom thou hast given me [the elect], be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me -" (v.24). NOW WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND IS GOING CLAIM THAT THIS SAME JESUS IS GOING TO LEAVE HIS PLACE IN GLORY TO COME A SECOND TIME BACK TO THIS EARTH TO SET UP A KINGDOM WHEN HE HAS ALREADY WILLED THAT ALL THE FATHER HAS GIVEN HIM BE WITH HIM IN GLORY. ** I suggest you read I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

God hath made THAT SAME JESUS both Lord and Christ. That same Jesus, who created the worlds and all things that were made (John 1:1-3, Heb. 1:1-2). That same Jesus, who was prophesied of in the garden of Eden when God said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; and it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen 3:15). That same Jesus who was typified by Abels sacrifice of the "firstling of his flock"; a Lamb pure and spotless (Gen 4:4). That same Jesus who is a Priest forever after the order of Melchisedec; Priest of the most high God, who met Abraham, -- "first being by interpretation King of righteousness and after that also King of Salem, which is King of peace, without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abiding a priest continually" (Gen 14:18-20, Heb 7:1-3).

That same Jesus who was the MANNA that fed Israel in the wilderness, and who was that SPIRITUAL ROCK from which they all did drink that spiritual drink (Exodus 16 & 17, John 6:32-35, I Cor. 10:1-4). That same Jesus who appeared in the fiery furnace with the three Hebrew children (Dan 3:25). That same Jesus; whose birth and Kingship was foretold hundreds of years before it happened: (Isaiah 7:13-14, 9:6-7, Jeremiah 23:5-6); whose birth was according to that prophecy (Matt 1:18-25). That same Jesus who walked on water, fed the multitude, healed the sick, gave sight to the blind and raised the dead. That same Jesus who demonstrated that He had the power to forgive sin (Mark 2:1-12). That same Jesus who said "Before Abraham was I AM" - I AM the light of the world, I AM the bread of life, I AM the good shepherd, I AM the door, I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.

That same Jesus who was without sin, and knew no sin, but was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God IN HIM (II Cor. 5:21). THAT SAME JESUS IS NOW, HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AND WILL ALWAYS BE BOTH LORD AND CHRIST. For Jesus Christ IS THE SAME yesterday, today and forever ! There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Wherefore God also hath (already) highly exalted him, and given THAT SAME JESUS a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil 2:9-11). That same Jesus who was crucified and who was raised from the dead IS The Christ; IS the Messiah, IS the Anointed,

WHO IS the blessed and only Potentate, the KING of Kings and Lord of Lords (read Acts 9:20-22, 17:1-3, 18:4-6, 18:28, I Tim 12-16).

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that JESUS IS THE CHRIST"? He is anti-christ, that denieth the Father and the Son" (I Jn 2:22-23). "Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not in your house, neither bid him God speed: for he that bideth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (II John 9-11). IT IS A SERIOUS MATTER TO DENY THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, and to fellowship with those that do.

That same Jesus of whom David spoke, "Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; HE SEEING THIS BEFORE SPAKE OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST - - This Jesus hath God raised up - Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted - let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made THAT SAME JESUS -- BOTH LORD AND CHRIST". Amen !