

Thes. 2:1-12).

Thankfully, we do not need to be deceived by the false religions of men. We have the Word of God to tell us the what, where, and when of the Lord's kingdom, His church. Too, the Bible shows us how to be a part of that kingdom—by being born again of water and Spirit (Jn. 3:3-5; Acts 2:38, 47).

- Steven F. Deaton

You can access this bulletin, as well as other Bible study materials at our Web Site, [hebronlanechurch.com](http://hebronlanechurch.com). If you want to read our bulletin exclusively on the Web, let us know so we can remove you from our mailing list. Thanks.

“A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.”  
- Prov. 11:13

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #10  
Shepherdsville, KY

Church of Christ  
3221 E. Hebron Lane  
Shepherdsville, KY  
40165-8959

**Assemblies**

Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

**Elders**

Tom Brown 502-921-2778  
Laymon Byers 502-957-3627  
John Smith 502-231-5341

**Evangelists**

Ron Halbrook 502-955-1748  
halbrook@insightbb.com  
Steven F. Deaton 502-543-9686  
sfdeaton@earthlink.net

**Phone: 502-957-5115**

**Sermons, Articles, and More at  
[hebronlanechurch.com](http://hebronlanechurch.com)**



# Hebron Herald

Published by the Hebron Lane Church of Christ  
Shepherdsville, KY

Volume 29 Number 4

April 2005

## The What, Where, and When of the Kingdom

Isaiah 2, Joel 2, and Daniel 2 point to Acts 2. Isaiah foretold what kind of kingdom it would be, peaceful and consisting of all nations (Isa. 2:3-4). Isaiah and Joel prophesied where the kingdom of God would begin, in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:1-4; Joel 2:32). Daniel revealed when the kingdom would come, in the days of the fourth kingdom, the Roman Empire (Dan. 2:36-45). Therefore, we know the following.

A religion that advances itself with the sword is not of God. Islam is a religion that, for the greater part, depends on the sword for growth. It, and any other like-minded religion, is sinful and condemned of the Lord. Children of God advance the kingdom with spiritual weapons, not carnal ones (2 Cor. 10:3-5). That means there is a war, a fight, but it is the good fight of faith (cf. 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7). The cause of Christ does not seek to destroy men, but to capture their hearts and minds.

Further, we understand any group that traces its roots to a place other than Zion is not the Lord's kingdom or any part of it. Likewise, if a church started at any other time than the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus, it is a fraud. Churches that began with the Protestant reformation (Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, etc.), started too late to be part of the Kingdom of God. Those that began here in the United States in the 1800s (Mormon, Seventh Day Adventist, Watch Tower Society, Pentecostal), are of too late a date to be of Divine origin. In other words, churches that were founded in Germany, England, Scotland, or the United States are apostate religions founded by man, not God (cf. Matt. 15:7-14).

A special mention of the Roman Catholic Church is needed. It is a religion that evolved over centuries and did not have a cohesive or widely accepted government until around the early seventh century. It is a gross perversion of the New Testament church and is no longer even remotely recognizable as such (cf. 2

## For This Cause

“Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are You a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice’” (Jn. 18:37). The advent of Christ was not a mistake, happenstance, or coincidence. He came into the world for a point and purpose.

Jesus came to be King. Old Testament prophecies stated that one would come from the line of David; one who would rule over his own kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12-16; Psa. 132:11). Peter made the connection between the prophecies of a king and Jesus of Nazareth, whom God made both “Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:29-36). Therefore, the Bible refers to Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Tim. 6:15).

Notice, Jesus told Pilate He came into the world for the purpose of being King. Some believe Jesus failed in His mission. They say His kingdom will be established at some point in the future and last for 1,000 years. Do not be disheartened, these people are wrong. The Lord of lords did not falter or fail. He is now king of righteousness and king of peace (Heb. 6:19-7:2). He now rules and reigns at the right hand of God and will do so until His return (1 Cor. 15:23-28). For this cause He came into the world.

Jesus also came to bear witness to the truth. Being the Word of God He was the embodiment of truth (Jn. 1:1, 14, 17). He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (Jn. 14:6). Jesus taught the word of God, which is truth that convicts and saves (Jn. 7:16; 17:17; 15:22; 8:32). It would seem automatic that all men would come to the truth for salvation, but many will not (Jn. 3:19-21).

There are a few precious souls that seek for and accept the truth, who are “of the truth” and hear His voice. They are ones who “will to do His will” (Jn. 7:17). They come to the light that their deeds may be exposed (Jn. 3:19-21). Most others, however, shun the truth, hate it and the one who brings it (cf. Jn. 15:18-25). Even so, we must be like our Lord and “bear witness” to the truth.

Jesus was and is the King of truth. For this cause He was born into the world. Let us support Him in this cause.

- Steven F. Deaton

## Keeping Clean

People often complain. You name it and there is a gripe from someone somewhere. This is frequently true with repetitive tasks. Yet, they will continue to do them, because they know it is necessary and beneficial.

A good home will be clean. The good homemaker will keep her home clean, along with the help of her husband (Titus 2:4, 5). They will be diligent to mop, dust, vacuum, wash the dishes, and clean clothes. Anyone with sense understands this is a constant job. Still, it is done because it needs to be done and provides for a comfortable environment in which to live.

We also continually give attention to personal hygiene. We bathe, brush our teeth, and fix our hair to be presentable in sight and smell. Perhaps when we were young we did not care much for a bath or brushing our teeth. However, as we aged and began to notice the opposite sex, we were happy to clean up—even fanatical about it. Why? Because we could, and still do, see the benefits of personal cleanliness, though it takes effort day by day.

All of us have been in a home that is not clean. How does that make us feel? Likewise, we have all been around someone who is messy in appearance and stinks either from body odor or lack of oral care. What do we do? At least where the smell is concerned, we try to back away. So, we appreciate cleanliness.

What does this have to do with religious matters? People must constantly work on keeping their souls clean. We can be pure and spotless only when we cleanse our hearts with the word of God (Matt. 23:26; Jn. 15:3). Initially, one who is mired in the muck of sin must submit to Christ in baptism wherein the benefits of His blood are applied (Eph. 5:26; Heb. 9:14). Then, we must daily devote ourselves to a life of holiness, avoiding the filthiness of the world (2 Cor. 7:1). When we stumble and fall, we can be cleansed again in confession and repentance (Psa. 51:3, 10; 1 Jn. 1:7-10).

Yes, keeping clean takes persistent, determined effort. We readily recognize its necessity and benefits with the home and body. Why not acknowledge it with the soul—without complaint?

- Steven F. Deaton