

people, a kingdom which would not have an outward expression, a kingdom which would not destroy all that the old statue represented in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and they asked him a question like this after he was raised up from the dead, I'm afraid he would feel like I do after I had been teaching for sometime and a person would ask me a question about something I had been discussing for half an hour, and he would feel like saying, What's the use?

He did not say, You are entirely wrong; the kingdom is never going to be restored to Israel; it is not going to be anything like the OT kingdom; this is a new regime purely in the hearts of people and it will be spread through the word and until all recognize me as their leader and all human society is changed by the progress of the Gospel! But that's not what he said. He said, It is not for you to know the time or the season which the Father has put in His own power.

I think we ought to remember that that the Father has put it in his own power, and it is not for us to know it. He repeatedly said we should be ready in case He comes right soon. If He should come tomorrow we should be ready for Him. On the other hand, there are not too many people saying we know He is coming in this generation because he may come in this generation, but I am sure St. Augustine as he lay on his bed-- deathbed and all civilization seemed to be tottering around him, he would have been horror stricken if anyone had said, The Lord won't come back for another 1500 years! Augustine would have said, What ~~xx~~ on earth are you talking about; he certainly -- I don't think anybody can say he might delay his return another 1000 years; we hope that he does not.

He says, It is not for you to know the times or the season which the Father has put in His own power, but you shall receive power ~~x~~ after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you and you ~~x~~ shall topple all the kingdoms of the world and establish a kingdom of the saints in which there will be righteousness and peace ~~xxxx~~ everywhere! But that's not what he said. He said, You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to me, both in Jerusalem and in Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. So the work given them was to be witnesses; not necessarily a work of conquest or of complete victory.

We find at the end of Matthew (24:14): This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; then shall the end come. He does not say, This gospel of the kingdom is going to conquer all the world and establish the kingdom. He said it is going to be preached for a witness. And at the end of Matthew he gave that Great Commission: ~~Go~~ Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo I am with you always even unto the end of the age. We are commanded to witness, to teach, to spread the knowledge of Christ, but we are not in these passages given any promise that the statue will be toppled and the whole world taken over by the word that we use (by the work that we do).