

prescribed forms and ceremonies to preach in England. The theatre sunk to the lowest level of degeneracy it had ever seen in history and the king's court was really a house of prostitution during the next 30 years. England sunk to the lowest point in its history.

All those wonderful Puritan hopes of establishing the kingdom of God utterly failed. The book points out how at the beginning of that period some people who thought that could not be done in England moved over to the barren rocky cold shores of America up in New England. They established towns in which everyone was to follow the Bible. The Bible was the supreme in everything. Every Sunday they went to church and it was a two hour sermon in the morning and another two hour sermon in the evening. They did their best to have Christianity absolutely supreme in everything.

Some of their writings show how they said here is the country where Christianity is going to be absolutely supreme and they were going to bring in the kingdom of God. Many fine things were done by these Christian people, and we enjoy many of the benefits of the fine things they did, but today you go to most parts of New England and go to church after church and never find a mention of the Gospel. In fact, even within 150 years after the Puritans came their descendants had in the main departed so far from the Gospel that you would hardly recognize their teaching as Christian. Today it is far from one of the most Christian sections of the country.

great

There have been these ~~great~~ hopes of individuals, of groups, of colonies, of all sorts of organizations that are going to establish a present kingdom of God. But they never succeeded. There may be considerable extension, considerable growth of the kingdom of God, that is of the people who wish to follow Him and do His will before the statue is destroyed. We don't say that all the                      will necessarily come after the statue is destroyed. But certainly we have no reason to expect the establishment of the kingdom of Christ before He is here personally present, to establish it.

7. Second Advent of Christ is the Stone. Surely that seems to fit the picture better. Whether the cutting of the stone without hands refers to the originating of his having always been God, whether it involves in itself the virgin birth, whether it refers to the supernatural aspect of His coming to this earth, in either case it fits right in with this idea. The destruction of all the people in the world ~~at the return of Christ would~~ at the return of Christ would seem to fit it far better than any of these other suggestions and the stone will then arise and the kingdom of God will fill the whole earth after He comes. It surely fits the picture best, but there is one great difficulty. That is that the Roman empire disappeared. The Roman empire was very strong from c. 200 B.C. to c. 400 A.D.-- about as long as the first three put together. But the Roman empire after 600 A.D., in fact after 500 A.D., was practically nothing more than a name in the west. In the east a small remnant (?) around Constantinople continued to hold things until 1453 when it was taken by the Mohammedans. Nothing like this happened during those years of the decline of the Roman empire-- those years from 400 to 600 A.D.