

to whom I'm talking. We certainly find that well evidenced in the attitude of the disciples ever since that time.

So we have the great hope of the OT--the wonderful period of universal peace and safety. And we have the great hope of the NT--the coming of the Lord. Both must be true, but they are sort of hard to harmonize. Because if we certainly don't have the kingdom now. It would look as if the kingdom is certainly not present. It's certainly something that's future. The coming of the Lord might come at any time. If he were to come right soon, ? might say maybe a fifth of the world is Christian. Take the real Christians I doubt if you'd get much over a few percent, Christians.

So you have a problem. In the beginning of Acts we find the disciples sort of facing that problem. In Acts 1 he says, He appeared to them over a period of 40 days and spoke about the kingdom of God. Just what did He say about the kingdom of God? We're not told here. But he was talking about the kingdom of God. Then(v.6), They asked him, Lord are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel? What does he mean by restoring the kingdom to Israel? It would certainly seem to be something that hasn't happened yet. It would seem to be something that was in some way related to what he said about the kingdom of God.

Now if the kingdom of God is within our hearts, if it's merely our wanting to be devoted to Him as we certainly should be and having freedom from fear no matter how bad the circumstances are as we certainly should have,, if that's what he means--- he'd been trying to get that idea across to them during his whole ministry and also during these 40 days, and then they say, Are you going now to restore the kingdom to Israel? You'd think he would have said, Why don't you pay attention to what I say? There isn't going to be any kingdom for Israel. The kingdom of God is all of us having our hearts obedience to His will and receiving Christ into our lives.

But his answer was, It's not for you to know times or dates which the Father has set by His own authority. That certainly implies there's nothing wrong in looking forward to this but you have no way of knowing when it's going to be. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses. He doesn't say, You will be my conquerors to win the world for Christ! He says, you'll be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth.. While they were looking intently up into the sky, suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them and said, Men of Galilee why stand you looking into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven. Then they return to Jerusalem.

So that was the last promise in connection with his earthly ministry was His coming back. So it would seem you have the great hope clear in the OT, and also mentioned here or at least suggested that there's going to be a kingdom of God in the sense that in this