

which any who strongly oppose His will will be summarily dealt with. A kingdom of God in the sense in which any government ~~xxx~~ reigns over a certain area. There are many passages in the OT that seem to speak of it in that sense. There are those who say that is an antiquated political sense which is not involved in the NT.

They say that when Jesus spoke for 40 days to his disciples that he simply repeated the messages he'd given them on this earth about the Holy Spirit being in their hearts, about God giving them peace in the midst of a world of wickedness. That He told them that it was an inward matter, a spiritual matter, a matter that involved a certain portion of the population of the earth. That that was the message He gave them when he was on earth, and that that was the message he gave them during the 40 days!

If that's what he said to them, the last question that the disciples are recorded as having asked Him is a very strange question. We read here (v.6), "When they were met together they asked him, Lord are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" Well he's been talking about the kingdom of God for 40 days to them. They are asking now about the time. Are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel? If what he's been telling them all this time is that the kingdom of God refers to the activity of God in the hearts of those who follow Him, who are a little group scattered throughout the world, representing God and trying to do His will, and being bouyed up and blessed and helped no matter what persecution and suffering they have to go through-- all this would be very important for these 2000, 3000 years or whatever it is before he comes.

If that was what he meant by the kingdom of God. And then they asked the question: Lord, are you going at this time to restore the kingdom to Israel? I would think he would say, What's the use of talking to these people! For three years I tried to get something across to them, and for 40 days I've tried to get something across to them. I've talked to them about the kingdom of God for 40 days, and now they have they have the idea that it's something I'm going to estblish right now! And that can properly be called restoring the kingdom to Israel! What's the use? (Acts 1:6)

If you ever teach much you'll have the feeling in a minor way of what he had. You explain something to a class. You explain it as thoroughly as you can. You go into it and repeat it. Then somebody says, Would you please explain so and so? If you are a good teacher you do not laugh, you do not frown. But you very very patiently explain it again. Trying to find words that will make it clearer.

And we can imagine him saying, I've got to take another 40 days before I can get this idea across! What's good is another 40 days, if in 3 years and 40 days I could not get it across? But that's not what he did at all. He did not say, You have a wrong conception. We are now establishing the kingdom. We are now establishing this wonderful time when I will reign in your hearts and you will have peace in your hearts in the midst of an ungodly world. No! He said to them (v.7), It is not for you to know the times or dates which the Father has set by His own authority.