

## **Will Jesus Establish An Earthly Kingdom?**

Many people believe Jesus intended to set up an earthly kingdom when He came 2,000 years ago. They believe His intentions were thwarted by the Jews, so, instead, the church was established until He returns to establish His kingdom on earth. However, the Bible reveals this is utterly false.

When Jesus came to earth, He had no intention of establishing an earthly kingdom. Pilate questioned Jesus about this, and the Lord said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here" (John 18:36). If Jesus wanted to set up a kingdom, He would have done it.

Instead of the Jews rejecting Jesus as an earthly king, they tried to make Him one. However, Jesus did not consent. "Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone" (John 6:15). Jesus could have easily established Himself as a king, but that was not the will of the Father.

As some see it, the rejection of Christ by the Jews was a surprise to the all-knowing God. Therefore, His plan to establish the church was an afterthought. Contrary to this, the Bible says the church was always in God's plan. "To the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ephesians 3:10-11).

When Jesus comes again, He will not establish an earthly kingdom. He will come back in judgment and to turn the kingdom, the church, back over to God (John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:24). Besides, what would prevent man from rejecting Him again?

Steven F. Deaton