

The background of the entire image features black silhouettes of men against a solid blue background. On the left, two men stand close together, one with his arm around the other. In the center, two men are shown from behind, holding hands and reaching out towards the right. On the right side, a man is depicted in a dynamic pose, reaching upwards with one arm and holding a smaller figure (possibly a child or another man) with the other. The overall composition suggests themes of brotherhood, support, and spiritual growth.

CONNECT AND GROW WITH
FELLOW BROTHERS IN CHRIST

@ THE
COMMUNITY
CARE
BUILDING

Men's Study
Thursday, February 6th
@ 7 pm



Knowing and



Defending the Faith

Knowing and Defending the Miraculous Kingdom of God

Why is God's Kingdom Miraculous?

As the first century B.C. was closing, total Christians = 0

In the first century A.D., there were millions worshipping the Greek gods and that number has shrunk to a few thousand today

Jesus' ministry was only in Israel and lasted between 2 ½ to 3 ½ years without the help of radio, TV, the internet, mass transit, etc.

At approximately 30 A.D. (50 days after Jesus' resurrection), the faithful followers of Christ in Jerusalem were numbered 120

Today there are about 2.2 million Orthodox Jews (similar to 1st century)

Today, Christianity is the largest religion in the world (# in the billions)

Over 500 years before Jesus came, God's Kingdom was prophesied to arrive during the Roman empire and to expand to the entire world

Daniel 2:36-41 (NKJV) ³⁶ "This *is* the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. ³⁷ You, O king, *are* a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; ³⁸ and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given *them* into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all--you *are* this head of gold. ³⁹ But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰ And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, *that kingdom* will break in pieces and crush all the others. ⁴¹ Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

Daniel 2:42-45 (NASB₁₉₉₅) ⁴² "As the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of pottery, *so* some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. ⁴³ "And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery. ⁴⁴ "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but *it will itself endure forever.* ⁴⁵ "Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

Do you realize Jesus is the stone that grew into the body of Christ?

The Kingdom of God/ Heaven Arrived!

Has God's Kingdom taken residence in your heart and mind?

Matthew 3:1-2 (ESV) ¹ In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Mark 1:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Luke 17:20-21 (NIV) ²⁰ Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, ²¹ nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."

**Israel was mistaken to think they owned the Kingdom -
The Kingdom belongs to the Stone the builders rejected**

Matthew 21:42-43 (NKJV) ⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: *'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD'S doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'*?" ⁴³ "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.

1 Peter 2:4-5 (NIV) ⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

What kingdom are you most concerned about?
Have you become a living stone built securely on the Cornerstone?