

1 Cor. 15:24-28 (LD 48) “Conspiracy Facts”

For the Children: New Zealand is run by the prime minister. She must try to make sure that the people are protected, kept safe and healthy; that people have enough money to live on; and that businesses and organizations are able to do what they need to do. No merely human leader can do that perfectly. The Lord Jesus also has a “Kingdom” to run. He must make sure that people are added to it, that it is kept safe from enemies, and that its members have what they need. He must also deal with enemies who keep trying to destroy His Kingdom – Satan and his demons, sin and human enemies. He does that work perfectly. He will not fail. Eventually He will finish that work and hand the Kingdom back, in perfect condition, to His Father. The last thing that He will do to accomplish that is to undo physical death – when He returns and gives us back our bodies. **Questions:** How do we know that Jesus will destroy all opposition to His Kingdom? Didn't He finish His work when He was on earth – is there more to do? If Jesus will be “subjected” to the Father, does this mean that He is inferior?

Introduction:

First Point: The Great Hand-Over

- 1) Completion of the Kingdom: The thing that is necessary before the Kingdom is handed over by the Son to the Father is that the Kingdom be completed. To be completed, it must be fully built and preserved, with all opposition fully removed.
- 2) The Handing Over: The Kingdom will be handed over then to signify that there is nothing more to do to it. This will eventually happen despite the fact that the opposition currently looks very fierce.

Second Point: The Last Enemy

- 1) “In Principle” Versus “Consummation”: All sinful rule, authority and power was defeated “in principle” on the cross. Jesus’ death and resurrection obtained and guarantees the final victory over Satan, sin, fallen angels, human opponents and death. However, the effects of that victory will not be fully worked-out until the End, when the Lord returns.
- 2) The Current Reign: Until then, the ascended Christ reigns from heaven, building His Kingdom, protecting His Church and people, and putting down His enemies, with their revolts and conspiracies. See LD 48. The proof of this is found in Pss. 110:1 (alluded to in v. 25), 8:6 (quoted in v. 27) and in Ps. 2:8-9. God has announced that He will put all in subjection under Christ’s feet, therefore it MUST happen; and Christ must continue to reign over His Kingdom until it is finished.
- 3) The Last Hostile Force: The “last enemy” is death. It is “last” because this consequence of sin is not removed fully until physical death is finally reversed by Christ’s work. That happens only when believers have their bodies returned, glorified – which is the last event before history ends. This, too, MUST take place. That is our comfort in the face of physical death. Since all opposition to Christ will be utterly destroyed, it is most foolish and wicked to make oneself His enemy.

Third Point: The Messiah Subjected

- 1) Messianic Subjection: Once the Kingdom is completed, and all opposition crushed, there is no longer any need for Christ to continue in His Messianic role – building His Kingdom, preserving it and dealing with its enemies. That is when He lays the completed Kingdom at His Father’s feet and is Himself “subjected” to the Father. This does not mean that the eternal, Second Person of the Trinity is subjected to the First. It means that His *Messianic* role and office, as the great Prophet, Priest and King, is ended.
- 2) God All-in-All: After that, however, the Lord Jesus continues to rule as King, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, over the eternal Kingdom. The Triune God will then be seen to be “all-in-all.” Since this is so, it is futile to oppose Him. On the contrary, we should be praying, “The Kingdom come” – a prayer for Christ’s Kingdom-rule now - over our lives; for the welfare of His church and other Christian institutions; and for the pushing back of Satan’s false kingdom; and for the completion of that process of out-working His victory on the cross.

Conclusion: