

THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE CONTEMPORARY CHURCH

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Prague, Czech Republic March 2001

- I. Political Actions Of Jesus (Differentiate And Define Political And Religious)
 - A. Definition of the Kingdom of God (See Handout on Messianic Expectations)
 1. From Ezekiel and the prophets (cf. 43:1-5)
 2. Josephus (locate in N.T. Wright)
 3. From Mark 1:14-15
 - B. Incidents indicating Jesus was a political figure
 1. Birth Narratives (See handout)
 2. Triumphal Entry (Mk 11:1-11)
 3. The Cleansing of the Temple (Mk 11:15-18)
 - a. Background of the Bazaars of Annas
 - b. O.T. Texts: Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 7:11
 4. Crucifixion
 - a. Charges: Taxes, Rebellions, Claims to be King
 - b. Roman Penalty for Rebels
 - C. Implications:
 1. Acts - The church faced governmental entities some 20 times in 28 chapters, of a variety of sorts. In other words, the church upset the social structures of the day.
 2. Two reasons for persecutions:
 - a. Jealousy from religious leaders.
 - b. Financial loss of unbelievers
 3. Historic examples:
 - a. Roman empire - temples, education, adoption of children.
 - b. Religious underground church of China.
 - c. Haiti - the lady who left her live-in lover.
 4. What if people came to Christ in sufficient numbers:
 - a. Drunkenness
 - b. Pornography
 - c. Fair treatment and literacy of women and children.