

Distinction Between The Assembly (Ekklesia) And The Kingdom Are Evident

by W.E.Best

1. The assembly is present (Matt. 16:18). The kingdom is future (II Tim. 4:1).
2. Christians are subjects of the assembly (Acts 2:41). They are heirs of the kingdom (James 2:5).
3. Christians are in the assembly, which is Christ's body (Eph. 1:22, 23). They are not yet in the kingdom, but they are called into a realm that includes the kingdom and glory (I Thess. 2:12).
4. The kingdom will not come until the assembly is completed and perfected (Eph. 5:25-27).
5. Flesh and blood are in the assembly now, but flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom (I Cor. 15:50).
6. The hope of the saints is the reign of Christ in the kingdom, not in the assembly (I Cor. 4:8; II Tim. 4:1).
7. The assembly is being built on the foundation of Christ, a process that is taking place between the first and second advents of Christ (Eph. 2:20-22; Acts 15:14). The kingdom will become a reality at Christ's second advent (II Tim. 4:1; Acts 15:16).
8. The assembly includes only redeemed people, but the kingdom will include both the heavenly unredeemed angels and earthly redeemed people (Rev. 19:1-1)
9. Christ is Head of the assembly (Col. 1:18). He will be King of the kingdom (1Tim. 6:15).
10. The kingdom will not come until the assembly (Christ's bride) is complete because Christ is the Savior of the body (Eph. 5:23-27). The kingdom is not given to those who are saved one by one, but when they are gathered together as a whole (II Thess. 2:1, 5-10; Rom. 8:23).



**“The church is the fruit
of Christ’s first advent,
and the kingdom will be the
result of His second advent.”**

Quote by: Wilbern E. Best