

Dear James,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked when our returned Lord began to rule in His kingdom.

We believe that our returned Lord began to rule in 1874, which was the end of the 1,335 “days” (1,335 years beginning from A.D. 539) mentioned in Daniel 12:12, “Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.” Our Lord’s invisible, or secret, presence (Greek, *parousia*) is the first phase of his reign. “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20) In this first phase, we, who recognize the signs of our Lord’s presence, have been privileged to sit down and sup with him and feast on great spiritual truths (the ransom for all, the earthly and heavenly salvations, and the truth about hell, the soul and the trinity) that had previously been lost for hundreds and hundreds of years.

One of the very first missions our Lord had upon returning was to resurrect the sleeping saints, i.e. the apostles, and all other faithful ones who passed during the Gospel Age. Our Lord has continued to gather saints to himself as each dear one passes. “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but will all be changed—in a flash, in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52) Another momentous sign we have that our Lord is present and reigning is the restoration of the nation of Israel. The fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy in Matthew 24:32-34 to restore the fig tree (Israel) began with the establishment of the first agricultural settlement—Petah Tikvah (Door of Hope) in 1878 that allowed Jews to return to their homeland and culminated with Israel’s independence in 1948. Yet another sign that Jesus is present and reigning is the increase of knowledge spoken of by the prophet Daniel. “At that time shall Michael stand up, . . . many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” (Daniel 12:1, 4) Unfortunately, with the increase of knowledge comes the progressive disintegration of the political, economic, moral and social order of this world. Eventually total anarchy will ensue and Armageddon will result. We believe these events and others must all happen prior to the second part of our Lord’s reign, which is the restoration of all things lost due to the fall.

During this second phase, our Lord will come with all his holy angels (his completed Church) to begin administering his righteous kingdom on earth (Revelation 20:4-6). Numerous scriptures assert that the dead will return from their graves and be afforded an opportunity to turn their backs on sin and give full allegiance to God through the saving grace of Jesus. During this phase the earth will also be perfected. The promise is that the “desert shall blossom as the rose” (Isaiah 35:1). Man will learn the true meaning of God’s command to administer and have dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:26, 2:15). Finally, at the end of the Millennium, Christ and his Church will have completed their work of restoration and reconciliation to God. Sin and sinners will be no more and the human race will be ready to enter into the state of everlasting life (Revelation 21:3-4).

When did our returned Lord begin to rule his kingdom? He began as soon as he returned by tearing down the old order of things so that the peaceable kingdom of righteousness could be ushered in. We hope we have answered your question. Please write us again.

Sincerely,
Christian Questions Radio