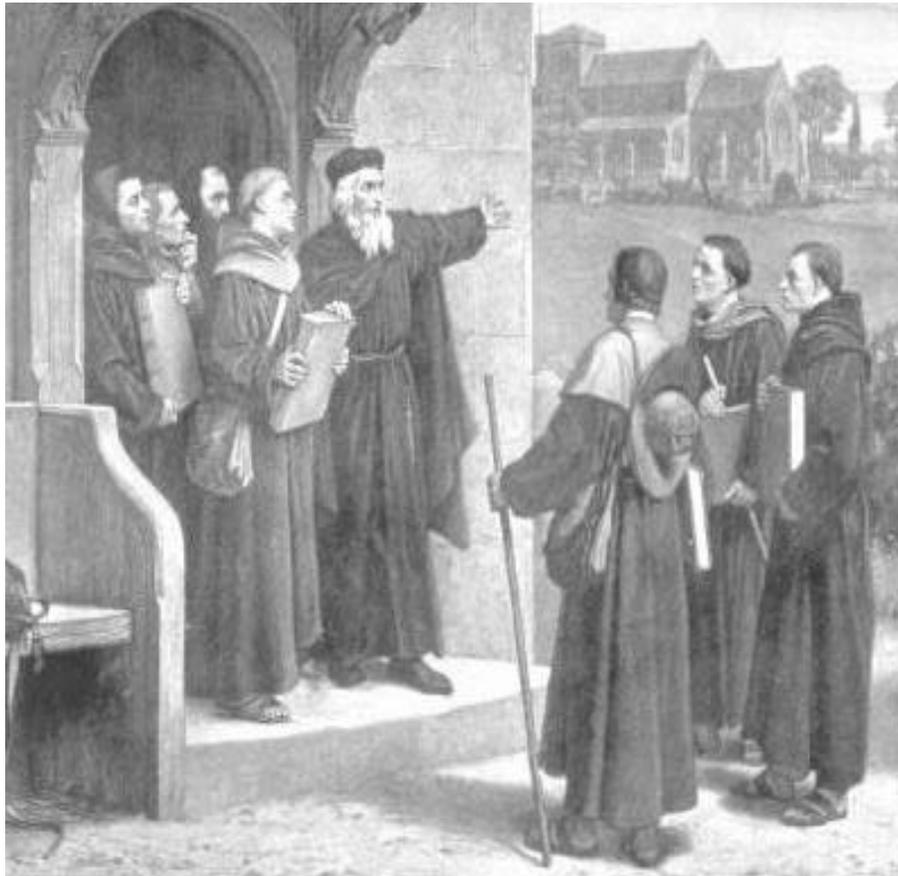


THY KINGDOM COME

A SKETCH OF CHRIST'S CHURCH IN HISTORY



Book II : Christ's Church in the New Testament Era

Compiled and edited by J. Parnell McCarter

“...I will build my church...” – Matthew 16:18
“...Unto him [be] glory in the church...” – Ephesians 3:21

Dedicated to the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

Compiled and edited by J. Parnell McCarter

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The Puritans' Home School Curriculum

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Front Cover Picture: John Wyckliffe, the Morningstar of the Reformation, sending forth preachers to proclaim the Word of God

PREFACE

This is the second volume in a two-part series on the history of Christ's church. The first volume covered the Old Testament era of Christ's church, and this second volume covers the church's history since Christ's First Advent. The church did not begin at Pentecost, even though we may often say that the Christian church began at Pentecost. This Christian church is in organic unity with the Old Testament church. There is one church in both of these epochs, and one divine covenant of grace with that church, but a change in administration appropriate to changed circumstances. In the New Testament era Christ has already come and shed His blood for His people. Many of the types and shadows could therefore pass away. And the Gentile nations have been admitted entrance into the church, so that Christ's visible kingdom on earth is not confined merely to the one nation of Israel.

This volume is necessarily longer than the first volume. The history of the church during the Old Testament era is quite thoroughly chronicled in the Old Testament of the Bible. Therefore, for purposes of volume one of this series, I merely sought an outline of what scripture primarily records. On the other hand, the history of the church in the New Testament era is outlined in divine prophecy, but not chronicled as events unfold. It therefore requires a longer uninspired history book such as this second volume in order to provide details how the prophetic outline in scripture has been actualized.

While the first volume was primarily intended for the middle school student, this second volume is intended for the high school student. The subject matter, style, vocabulary, and presentation are more advanced in this second volume, since it is intended for a more mature reader.

The focus of this volume is upon the Protestant church, since she is the true church of Christ. By 'Protestant' I mean that church which adheres to:

- *Sola Gracia* – Sometimes referred to as the doctrines of grace, this is the Biblical doctrine that salvation is solely by the divine grace of the sovereign triune God, who alone can save depraved man.
- *Sola Scriptura* – This is the Biblical doctrine that the Word of God, as it is revealed in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the sole foundation of authority for Christ's church. In gratitude for the gracious salvation in Christ, man must serve God, regulated by the revelation in Holy Writ.

The Protestant church brings glory to Christ, for she is Christ's true church.

It is my sincere hope that once both volumes in church history have been studied, students will come away with a heightened sense of how Christ has been and will be glorified in His church. This should motivate students to labor on the church's behalf.

- J. Parnell McCarter