

Why did the apostles ask about the kingdom in Acts 1:6?

The apostles asked Jesus if he would be establishing his kingdom at that time (Ac 1:6). The Lord clarified that the Father would determine when that will occur (v. 7). They instead should be concerned about witnessing for him in: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and throughout the world (v. 8).

John B. Polhill wrote:

The setting of the disciples' question is rather vague... (v. 6). The verses that follow clarify that this was the last time Jesus appeared to them, just prior to his ascension (v. 9).¹

The apostles believed in an earthly kingdom (Lk 19:11; 24:21).

Frederick F. Bruce wrote:

Their present question appears to have been the last flicker of their former burning expectation of an imminent theocracy with themselves as its chief executives. From now on they devoted themselves to the proclamation and service of God's spiritual kingdom, which men and women enter by repentance and faith, and in which chief honor belongs to those who most faithfully follow their Lord in the path of obedience, service, and suffering.²

For now kingdom members work (Col 4:11); but, there is coming a day when Jesus will drink of the fruit of the vine with us in his Father's kingdom (Mt 26:29).

¹ Polhill, J. B. (1992). Acts (Vol. 26, p. 84). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

² Bruce, F. F. (1988). The Book of the Acts (pp. 35–36). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.