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A Bible verse about the Kingdom – Colossians 1:13

Note: The vast majority of Scripture verses do not require an extensively deep study to uncover the actual meaning of the verse. In a rare case, as with this verse, it does. With this in mind let us proceed.

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12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: (Colossians 1:12,13 underline added)

Does verse 13 above say that Jesus' Kingdom is here now in fullness and that God had already delivered Christian believers into that Kingdom? Those who teach that Christ's Kingdom is merely the body of believers worldwide would lead us to think this is what Colossians tells us. The many *gospel of the Kingdom scriptures* record that the Kingdom of the Messiah Savior of Saxon Israel would be a nation to arise in the latter days, that it would be in a specific land area, and it would be a Christian government that would come under such monumental attack that its divine attributes would be almost totally destroyed from this Kingdom before Messiah returns. Nonetheless, the belief that the Kingdom is only the church body of believers still persists to be heralded by vocal clergy. Every man has the choice to believe as he will. Fair enough. That is only reasonable.

However, we need to take care that various statements of belief are thoroughly and diligently examined before we hastily jump into them and possibly be led down a path that actually does *not* lead us into Jesus' Kingdom. Since verse 18 says "And He (Jesus) is the head of the body, the church ...", and verse 13 says that we have "been translated into the Kingdom (of Jesus)", it has been concluded that "the body, the church, must therefore be the Kingdom". We can understand the concept --- *if* --- this is what Paul actually wrote here. But Paul did not. Sectarian clergy have withheld an obscure but important verb tense difference in verse 13 for the words "delivered" and "translated" making it sound as if we have already long ago been "translated" into Christ's Kingdom.

But verse 13 is not past tense in this Greek text --- it literally is "delivers" and "translates", and depicts a then ongoing incomplete process in what is known as the *aorist* tense in Greek. In other word, God was, is, and shall be working on it. The Colossians saw deliverance from the power of darkness as believers, but they were not yet "translated" into the finality of the Kingdom, and verse 13 does not claim that they were. Why would clergy withhold this small (but huge) difference in a denominational

Bible translation? Looking at history --- it's because *if* the Kingdom really was the church body and the clergy hold the monopoly to run the church as the Kingdom, then they control the people in their national civil jurisdiction by default with an ever increasing religious power. History shows us that this indeed has been done several times, to the suffering of the common folk.

There will be a day when we can correctly write "God has translated (transported) us into His Kingdom fullness", but we cannot truly make that past tense statement yet because it has not happened. Jesus has not yet arrive in His second coming to make the grand invitation, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Mat. 25:34) Nor has He yet "wiped away all tears and death" (Rev.21:4) The Greek text as written by the apostles confirms this fact.

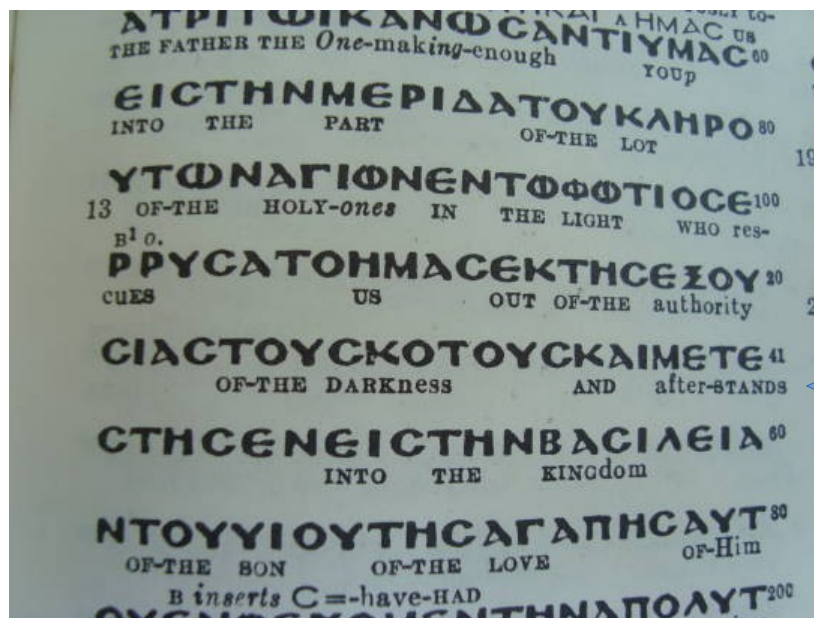
That being the case, what does Colossians 1:13 really say? For that answer we need to examine this verse more closely by referencing the 1st century Greek text as penned by the apostle Paul.

The NT Greek language study publication Word Pictures in the New Testament, 1931, Vol. IV, pg. 477, informs us that the word for "translated" in Colossians 1:13 is the Greek word "metestesen", and also states that it is a verb which is conjugated in the tense of "aorist active indicative". Simply put, it means that it is not an exclusively past tense verb. The tense of this verb, "metestesen" does not literally read *translated* but more closely reads *translates* (undefined by time) in trying to arrive at a proper English equivalent of the aorist tense in Greek. English verb tenses and Greek verb tenses are not entirely interchangeable. Critics of this revelation may check as they might, but any true Greek scholar will tell them that Colossians 1:13 is written in the indefinite aorist tense and not the completed past tense. What this means from an eschatological viewpoint according to Paul is that the Colossian assembly had been endowed with an awareness of the Kingdom but the fullness of the Kingdom is not here yet (as preterists claim). Paul explains the same thing in Hebrews 13 where the chapter is addressing those current believers of the assembly of the House of God, yet in verse 14 he says, "For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come". They were in the believing assembly (the church), yet still seeking and hopeful of the final continuing city to come. The body of believers is not the Kingdom. (Hebrews 12:22 – 13:14 study will soon be forthcoming) The "church/Kingdom" is classic universalist philosophy of the world denominations. The denominations are oblivious to the divine national Kingdom government.

Paul did not say in Colossians 1:13 that believers were "translated" into the Kingdom in 70 – 90 AD, but that God *translates/transport*s the body of Christ into the Kingdom in His good time. It would be another 1700 years before NT Israel would be moved up into Europe, then on to North America before the national manifestation of the divine

Kingdom would physically (as well as spiritually) take place. (see Matthew 21:43) So far only the seedling of the governmental Kingdom nation was planted in 1776 America, and the fullness thereof has still not yet taken place. Conversely, the “seed of enmity” of Genesis 3:15 has been working to abort the young seedling Kingdom nation at all worldly cost for the past several hundred years.(Mat.13:31) They thrive on the abortion of the young and undeveloped. The seedling Kingdom nation is nigh dead but will be rescued by our King as the warrior champion. This is not to diminish the importance of other Saxon nations but no time here to detail this. In any event, one need only to visit any large city or scan the TV channels to see the faces on it in order to realize that now only divine intervention will save us from utter socialistic ruin.

As candy coated as it may sound, Christians were not “translated” into the Kingdom of God’s Son by becoming church members way back when--- and – the Greek aorist verb tense is not the English verb past-tense. To ignore this fact spells theological disaster for the flock. The more thorough and studious sub-linear reference lexicons attest to what is presented herein. Below we see the 1st century Koine Greek text of Colossians 1:13 along with a very literal sub-linear English interlingual meaning. Here it takes “metestesen” (the faulty words “*hath translated*” of the KJV) to an even more literal level – that of “*after-stands*”, but still *not in a past tense* as if “stood” (or “translated”). The aorist tense meaning of “what was to come after” will be easily explained shortly.



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Above is the Greek text of Colossians 1:13 as it appears in the earliest manuscripts. Note that there is no “hath translated” in this verse. The denominational churches have clouded the intent of Paul’s message to us.

Source: *Concordant Greek Text*, 1st ed. 1926, 4th ed. 1975, p.577, col. a

Additional note about the aorist Greek verb tense: [From The Greek Elements, 1985, published by Concordant Publishing Concern, on page 23 we have: “*Indefinite= This is usually called the “aorist”, meaning indefinite. It is indefinite as to time as well as to state.*”] How does this apply to the literal sub-linear rendering of “translated” in 1:13 as more accurately being “after-stands”? (shown on page 3 previous) It literally applies in that it tells us that the “translating of believers” at Colossae into the Kingdom was to be at an indefinite time from their vantage point. In other words, they weren’t in the Kingdom yet and it was not defined as to exactly when that would happen. “after-stands” is veritably a literal meaning of the indefiniteness of their Kingdom entrance because “after-stands” (mistakenly as: “translated”) comes from two compound Greek words. Strong’s Concordance points this out, for those who have Strong’s and can reference it. “Translates”, that is “after-stands”, is “metestesen” listed at Strong’s #3179 being derived from two other words – “meta” #3326 which means: *in association with ‘after, hereafter, afterward, when, setting’, plus some other applications.* And the other compound word “histaymee” #2476 which means: *‘stand, stand-up, set-up, bring, present, establish’, plus some other applications.*

Thus the super literal rendering of the KJV’s supposed “translated” of 1:13 is shown as “after-stands” (pg3 previous) of the aorist (indefinite) verb tense due to the fact that even though the Colossian assembly was Christian, still their full entry into the Kingdom would be at an undisclosed time and circumstance. That is, God would “afterward set them up” in His Kingdom. In that respect God didn’t have them “translated” back then, rather He “translates” (stands) them, “sets them up” by His ongoing centuries’ long process, which at that time was still ongoing. In fact, God’s work to get us all into the full Kingdom nation of 12 tribed Saxon Christianity is still ongoing. God is “setting us all up” to enter His glorious finalized Kingdom. He “translates us” “transports us” as He deals with each of us, but He hasn’t yet “transported, translated” us into His divinely rescued Kingdom nation. Scripture records that many more prophetic events will take place before that will be concluded. Contrary to what Paul genuinely wrote in the Greek, the several denominational sects all want their congregations to believe that the Kingdom is the “true body of believers” established by Christ 2000 years ago. And since each church views their denomination as the *real* church, anyone who joins their church has, they insist, been translated into the Kingdom. (Thus the real origin of the 1:13 mistranslation) This doctrine discards Bible prophecy about true Israel’s national salvation.

Further Scripture study reveals that the true body of believers will be in the Kingdom, but they, in and of themselves, are not the complete Kingdom. The Kingdom of the Messiah Christ of Israel is comprised of a solitary nation land, the Saxon Christian people, and the King’s government – all together. Strip the Kingdom of any one of these three elements and you do not have Jesus’ Kingdom. It will be a glorious day when the fullness of God’s national Kingdom arrives. See all you wonderful folks there!