How can I explain Mt 16.28 when Jesus did not come back in the first century?

Mat 16:28 "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

Some have said this was fulfilled in the next chapter, Mt 17.2-5

Mat 17:2 And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. (3) And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. (4) And Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." (5) While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

But Mt 17.5 does not show the kingdom of Heaven, because it is still in the future.

In 12 additional passages beyond Mt 17.5, Jesus teaches about the coming kingdom, e.g., Mt 18.4, 23; 19.14, 23; 20.1, ...

Some have said this is fulfilled in Acts 1.9-11

Act 1:9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. (10) And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; (11) and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

But this is not the Kingdom coming, but Jesus going!

What is the kingdom?

Col 1:2 to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Col 1:13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

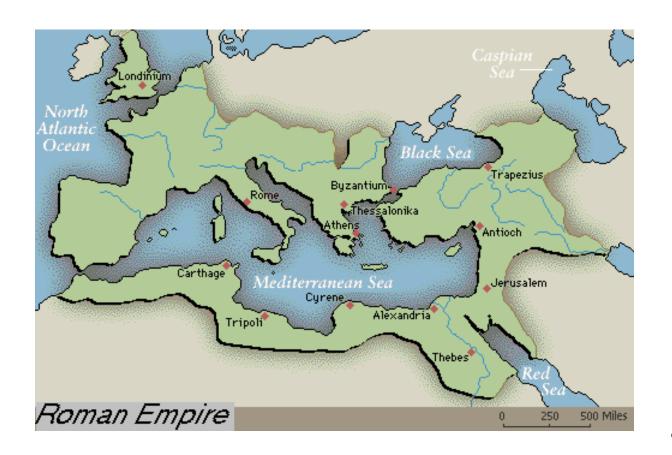
Sometime between Mt 25.1 (AD 33) and Col 1.13 (AD 62), the Kingdom of Heaven came.

Mat 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Col 1:13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

It was prophesied that the Kingdom of God would come.

Dan 2.40 "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.



the rise of a fourth world empire -- Rome Dan 2.44 "And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

The Kingdom – only one from Mt 16.18 and Dan 2.44 – was to come during the time of the Roman empire! Mat 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter¹, and upon this rock² I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.

- ¹ Gr. *Petros* male gender, a small pebble
- ² Gr. *Petra*, feminine gender, a large stone

Heb 1:7 And of the angels He says, "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE." (8) But of the Son He says, "THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.

The church and the kingdom on earth are one and the same!

Rev 1:6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Heb 12:28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

Jesus is now King!!

Rev 17:14 "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."

When was He crowned?

Act 2:33-36 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. (34) "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, (35) UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR THY FEET." (36) "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Eph 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might (20) which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. (22) And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, (23) which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all.

Jesus now reigns in His Kingdom! He will return to take those are faithful to be with Him!

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them,

(4) and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." (5) And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He *said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."