

The Kingdom of God

Introduction

1. How do we approach a matter so large, so pervasive, so personal, and so important as the Kingdom of God?
 - a. But in seeking Lord's heart about this semester, what stirred in me was *how do I make this personal?* What makes this a heart issue?
 - b. God wants our hearts involved in this issue. It is not merely a lesson on the theology of the kingdom. This teaching is to be a call to worship the King and to serve his purposes.
2. **First things first—a kingdom is about a King.** Jesus Christ is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus makes this issue central to our lives.
 - a. Jesus taught us to pray, "*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is heaven*" (Matthew 6:10).
 - b. We will examine what the Bible reveals about God's Kingdom.
1 Cor. 4:20 "*The Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.*" We will explore our role in preparing for its arrival. Jesus arrives on the scene in his first coming saying, "*Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand*" (**Matthew 4:17**).
 - c. Then toward the end of his earthly ministry, he prophesies to his disciples, "*This gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached to the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come*" (**Matthew 24:14**).
 - d. The good news of the Kingdom of God is central to Jesus' life and ministry. In the book of Acts, the church is born and the disciples take up this task of preaching Jesus' message. At the the end of the book of Acts, God's Word again clarifies the work of the followers of Jesus Christ, **Acts 28:31**, "*preaching the kingdom of God*".

Acts 28:30-31 *Paul lived two more years in Rome, in his own rented quarters, welcoming all who came to visit. ³¹ He continued to proclaim to all the truths of God's kingdom realm, teaching them about the Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, speaking triumphantly and without any restriction.*
 - e. And now church, it is our turn and our time to understand, prepare, and proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God.

The Reality of the Kingdom

1. John the Baptist had expectations about God's Kingdom that Jesus wasn't meeting (See Matt. 11:2-6)
2. Believers today wrestle with the same kinds of expectation about Jesus and the Kingdom of God
 - a. The pervasiveness of evil, injustice, pain, suffering, along with personal problems and seemingly intractable sins bring into doubt the reign of Jesus Christ, the sovereignty of God, and the power of his Kingdom.
 - b. Jesus arrives on the scene preaching God's Kingdom has arrived and its blessings are available.
3. Jesus claims that the Kingdom abides in him personally. But the eschatological consummation, the prophetic hope of the coming Messianic Kingdom, is not being fulfilled.
 - a. Kingdom Truth: **The Kingdom has been inaugurated but not consummated.**
 - b. Two decisive moments in the manifestation of the Kingdom:
 - i. Satan is defeated: beginning in the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness at the start of his ministry (See Matt. 4:1-11) **Satan's defeat and the release of forgiveness inaugurates the manifestation of the Kingdom of God**

Colossians 2:15 *Then Jesus made a public spectacle of all the powers and principalities of darkness, stripping away from them every weapon and all their spiritual authority and power to accuse us. And by the power of the cross, Jesus led them around as prisoners in a procession of triumph. He was not their prisoner; they were his!*

Colossians 1:13 *He has rescued us completely from the tyrannical rule of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom realm of his beloved Son.*

- ii. **At the close of this age and the second coming of Jesus Christ the Kingdom will be consummated by the Messianic reign of Jesus over all the earth**

What is the Kingdom of God?

1. What the Kingdom is not
 - a. The kingdom is not heaven
 - b. The kingdom is not the church
 - c. The kingdom is not a place
 - d. The Kingdom of God is not an issue of land but of Lordship
2. The Kingdom of God is the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit to bring us forgiveness and salvation through the work of Jesus Christ (Col. 1:13-14)
3. The Kingdom of God is the power and presence of the Holy Spirit to bring physical healing to our bodies (Luke 10:8-9; Matt. 4:23; Rev. 21:3-4)
4. The Kingdom of God is the power and presence of the Holy Spirit to bring restoration to our minds. The Kingdom is present whenever we experience mental and emotional health (Mark 5:15; Rom.12:1-2)

Isaiah 26:3-4 *You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. ⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.*

5. The Kingdom of God is the power and presence of the Holy Spirit to drive out demons and set people free (Matt. 12:28)
6. The Kingdom of God is the power and presence of the Holy Spirit to grant us innumerable spiritual blessings such as righteousness, peace, and joy (Rom. 14:17)
7. The Kingdom of God is the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in creating and shaping a spiritual community of Christian men and women who live in harmony and love (Rev. 1:5-6)
8. The Kingdom of God is the power and presence of the Holy Spirit that brings us into intimate knowledge of and relationship with the King, Jesus! (Eph. 3:16-17)

Remember: We are ambassadors for Christ! (2 Cor. 5:20)