

1. The Meaning of the Kingdom

I. Perceiving the priority of “the kingdom”

- A. ...in praying (Matt.6:10)
- B. ...in preaching (Matt.24:14)
- C. ...in pursuing (Matt. 6:33)

II. The difficulty of defining the Kingdom—

- A. Synonymous with “Kingdom of Heaven” (Mk.1:15 w. Matt.4:17 / Matt.19:23-24)
- B. Not synonymous with “heaven” (Matt.6:10 / Luke 13:18-21)
- C. Not synonymous w/ “the millennium” (Isa.9:6-7 / Dan.2:44; 7:14, 27 / Lk 1:32-33)
- D. What is its relationship to Israel? (Acts 1:6/ Rom.9:6)
- E. Not some mystical inner reality (Luke 17:20-21 / 16:16 / Matt.5:20; 7:21)
- F. A spiritual phenomenon (John 3:3-7 / Romans 14:17)

III. The Kingdom as a “People” (Rev.5:10)

- A. Israel from Sinai till Saul (Ex.19:5-6 / Judg.8:22-23 / 1 Sam.8:6-7 / Hos. 13:10-11)
- B. Israel under monarchs: the House of David (1 Sam.15:26-28 / 2 Sam.7:12-13)
- C. Prophecies of the Kingdom (Dan.2:44 / Hos.13:10 / Zech.14:9 / Isa.2:2-4)
- D. The Messiah (Gen.49:10 / Psalm 110:1 / Dan.7:13-14 / Isa.9:6-7)
- E. Taken from apostate Israel, given to another (Matt.8:11-12; 21:33-44; 22:1-14)

2. The Message of the Kingdom

I. The Gospel of the kingdom of God

(Mark 1:14-15 / Matt. 9:35; 24:14)

II. John the Baptist

(Matt. 3:2 / Luke 16:16);

III. The teaching of Christ

(Matt.4:17 / Luke 4:43; 8:1, 10; 9:2, 11 / Mark 4:30 / Acts 1:3)

IV. The message of the primitive church

(Acts 8:12; 14:22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23, 30-31)

V. The bottom line: The Lordship of Christ and the call to discipleship

(Acts 2:36 / Rom.10:9 / Luke 6:46 / John 8:31/ Matt.28:18-20)

3. The Kingdom of God at War

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I. Back Story

- A. God's original intention (Gen.1:26-28; 2:19; Psalm 115:16)
- B. The test and failure (Gen.2:16-17; 3:1-6, 17-19)
- C. Captivity (John 8:34; Rom.8:7-8; 2 Peter 2:19)
- D. The rescue operation (Gen.3:15; Heb.2:14-15; 2 Tim.2:26)
- E. The coming Liberator (Isaiah 59:20; 61:1; Zech.9:9)

II. The King has landed

- A. "Born King of the Jews" (Matt.2:1-2)
- B. The enemy's terror (Rev.12:1-5; Mark 1:23-26; James 2:19)
- C. The King enthroned despite resistance (Psalm 2:1-6)
- D. The Kingdom unrecognized by men (Matt.12:22-29)

III. His Kingdom is Inaugurated

- A. The Kingdom is in our midst (Luke 17:20-21; Mark 12:34)
- B. Messiah reigns (Ps. 110:1 / Acts 2:32-36 / Eph.1:20-22 / Rev.3:21/ Acts 17:7)

IV. The Warfare of the Kingdom

- A. The devil's ongoing opposition (Revelation 12:10-11, 17)
- B. The charge of the "Light Brigade" (Matt.4:16; John 3:19-21; 8:12; 1 John 1:5-7; 2:8; Col.1:13; Acts 26:18)
- C. The objectives of battle (Num.14:21; Isa.11:9; Hab.2:14; 2 Cor.4:4-6; Matt.5:16)
- D. The Spiritual nature of the warfare (2 Cor.10:4-5; Eph.6:11-18)
- E. Single-minded determination required to triumph (Matt.11:12 w/ Luke 16:16; 2 Tim.2:3-4; Matt.6:33)
- F. Satan's resistance is futile (Matt.12:28-29 w/ Luke 11:21-22; Col.2:15; Heb.2:14-15; 2 Tim.2:24-26; 1 John 3:8)
- G. David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:51-52)

4. The Progress and Triumph of the Kingdom

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I. The Kingdom Progressing: The Movement of the Messiah

- A. The growing Stone (Dan.2:34-35, 44; Matt.21:44)
- B. Like a mustard seed (Matt.13:31-32; cf. Dan.4:10-12/ Ezek.31:3-6; 17:22-24)
- C. Like leaven (Matt.13:33)

II. How the Kingdom conquers: We are translated into it (Col.1:13)

- A. The preaching of the kingdom (Acts 1:6-8; Matt.24:14; Acts 20:25)
 - 1. God made and owns us all (Acts 14:15; 17:24-25)
 - 2. We have become disobedient and alienated from God (Acts 14:16)
 - 3. God sent Christ to live among us and restore us to our proper relationship with God as Father (Acts 2:22; 10:38; 13:23)
 - 4. Christ died for our rebellion and rose again (1 Cor.15:3-4)
 - 5. Christ is now enthroned as universal King. We must surrender and live and die as His loyal subjects (Acts 2:36; 3:22)
 - 6. Amnesty and sonship are granted upon surrender (Acts 13:38-39)
- B. The establishment of Christian communities as beachheads of the Kingdom (Matt.5:14-16; Acts 2:41-47; 4:32-35)
- C. The making of disciples (Matt.28:18-20; Luke 6:40; Col.1:28; 2 Cor.10:4-5)
- D. The mature crop precedes the harvest (Mk 4:26-29; Eph.4:11-13)

III. The ultimate triumph of the King

- A. Gone to “receive a kingdom” (Lk 19:11-12; Dan.7:13-14, 22, 27; Rev.11:15; 1 Cor.15:22-26)
- B. Will not fail (Isaiah 42:1-4; 45:23; Phil.2:10-11)

5. A Kingdom of Priests

I. The church is the kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:5-6/ 1 Pet. 2:9/ Rev.1:6; 5:10)

II. The priestly calling (Heb. 5:1, 4)

III. Priestly privilege (Num.18:20)

IV. Priestly responsibilities

A. To be holy (Lev. 21:6 / Romans 14:7-9/ 1 Pet.1:14-16/ Psalm 15)

B. To teach God's word (Lev.10:10-11/Mal.2:7 / Matt.28:19-20)

C. To offer sacrifices (1 Pet.2:5)

1. Our own bodies (Rom.12:1 / 6:13/ 1 Cor.6: 19-20)

2. Our own possessions (Phil.4:18 / 2 Sam.24:24)

3. Our thanksgiving and praise (Heb.13:15-16 / Psalm 141:2 / Rev.5:8)

6. The Cost and Value of the Kingdom of God

Matthew 13:44-46

I. Treasure in a field (from the standpoint of Christ)

- Field is the world (Matt.13:38)
- Treasure is the church (Exodus 19:5)
- Christ paid everything (2 Cor.8:9/ Phil.2:5-8)
- For the joy of it (Heb.12:2)
- And purchased (Acts 20:28/ 1 Cor.6:20/ 1 Pet.1:18-19)
- The whole world (1 John 2:2)

II. Pearl of great price (from the standpoint of the disciple)

- Entrance to the kingdom is a pearl (Rev.21:21/ cf. Acts 14:22)
- Must be treasured above earthly treasures (Matt.6:19-21/ Lk. 14:12-14/ Col.3:1-2)
- Disciples gladly part with all else (Luke 14:33/ Matt.19:21, 27/ Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-35/ Heb.10:34)

III. Assessing the cost:

- No more “me first” (Luke 9:57-62)
- No two masters (Matt.6:24 / 2 Tim.2:3-4)
- Count it all loss (Phil.3:7-8)
- Attitude toward material loss (1 Cor.6:6-7/ Heb.10:34; 11:24-26)
- What will matter to me 100 years from now? 1000 years from now? A million?

IV. Discipleship privileges:

- To be Christ’s confidants (Matt.13:10-11/ Mark 4:34/ John 15:14-15/ Psalm 25:14/ Prov.3:32)
- To bear much fruit to the glory of God (John 15:8)
- To become like Christ (Luke 6:40/ Rom.8:29/ 2 Cor.3:18)
- To reign with Him (Luke 19:17/ Rev.5:9-10)

7. Entering the Kingdom of God

I. What does it mean to “enter” the kingdom of God?

- A. Present phase—taking part in His present program, the Church
- B. Future phase—inheriting a place with Christ in the eternal Paradise of God

II. How important is it? (Luke 13:23-27/ Mark 9:43, 45, 47/ Matt.16:24-26)

III. Who will find it more difficult to enter? (Matt.19:23-24 / Matt.21:31)

IV. Entering the kingdom in its present phase: rebirth (Matt.18:3/ John 3:3-6)

- A. Repentance/faith (Mark 1:14-15)
- B. Baptism (Matt.28:18-19/ 1 Cor.10:1-2/ Acts 8:12)
- C. Receiving the Spirit (Acts 2:38/ John 3:5/ Rom.14:17)

V. Who will not inherit the kingdom? (1 Cor.6:9-10 / Gal.5:19-21 / Eph.5:5)

VI. Preparing to obtain: Doing the will of the Father in Heaven (Matt.7:21ff/ Luke 6:46)

- A. Stewarding entrusted assets (Luke 19:11-19/ Matt.24:45-51)
- B. Bringing forth the fruit (Matt.21:43; 5:20/ 2 Pet.1:5-11)
- C. Tending “my brethren” (Matt.25:31-40)
- D. Keep the lights on (Matt.25:1-13)

VII. Pressing in...through much tribulation (Luke 16:16 /Acts 14:22 / 2 Tim.2:3-4)

8. The Kingdom of Grace

I. The rule of the grace of God (Acts 20:24-25/ Hebrews 12:28/ John 1:17/ Rom.5:20-21; 6:14-22/
Titus 2:11-12)

II. Grace as a basis of relationship (Rom.3:21-24; 4:4; 11:6 / Eph.2:8-10)

III. Grace as an inward disposition (Prov.11:16-17 / Eccl.10:12 / 2 Cor.8:7 / Col.4:6)

IV. Grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16)

A. In Christian living (2 Cor.3:5; 9:8)

B. In acceptable service (Heb.12:28/ 1 Cor.3:10; 15:10/ Rom.12:6/ 1 Peter 4:10-11)

C. In endurance of hardship and suffering (2 Thess.2:16-17 / 2 Cor.12:9)

V. Grace obtained and ministered

A. Obtaining grace

1. Precondition for receiving: Humility (James 4:6/1 Pet.5:5)

2. Means of access: Faith (Rom.5:2/Eph.2:8)

B. Growing in grace (2 Pet.1:2/3:18)

C. Ministering grace (Eph.4:29)