

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Scriptures:

- **Acts 1:3b** ESV ... appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.
- **Matthew 4:17** ESV From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- **John 3:3** ESV Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot **see** the kingdom of God."
- **John 3:5** ESV Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot **enter** the kingdom of God."
- **Matthew 6:33** ESV But **seek first** the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- **Luke 17:20-21** NKJV Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is **within** you."

Jesus taught, preached, and demonstrated much about the kingdom of God. He spoke in parables, and He spoke plainly.

- **Matthew 6:9-10** ESV Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your **kingdom come, your will be done**, on earth as it is in heaven.
- **Isaiah 9:7** ESV Of the increase of his government and of peace there **will be no end**, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and

to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

- **Revelation 11:15** ESV *Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."*

Statements:

- Jesus did not come to establish a religion, but a government - the Kingdom of God.
- It is about whose will be done.

Repent:

- Jesus inaugurated a new order and called people to conversion. Repent, He said...
- Why? If we want to be a part of it, we will need to undergo a fundamental transformation.
- We must be spiritually remade before we are ready to participate in it. Be "born again". (See & Enter - John 3)
- Our decision is simply whether we will pledge our loyalty to the King and His Kingdom.
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ includes not only the cross and our salvation but also the Lordship of Jesus and His Kingdom.
- **Acts 2:36** ESV *Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both **Lord** and **Christ**, this Jesus whom you crucified."*

How can we best describe the Kingdom of God?

- The Kingdom of God is any realm where Christ the King rules.

- The Kingdom of God is the place where the will of God is done.
- The Kingdom of God is God's reign in man's heart through Jesus Christ.
- The Kingdom of God is Heaven and Earth united in Christ.
- The Kingdom of God is Christlikeness universalised through all creation.
- When you see Jesus, you see what the Kingdom is like. The Kingdom is the spirit of Jesus universalised. (E. Stanley Jones)
- The Kingdom of God is the governing authority of God as King over His territory, impacting it with His will, purpose, and intent, producing citizens who reflect the King's morals, values, and lifestyle.
- The Kingdom of God is not so much a concept as a co-operation; not so much an idea to be explored as a relationship to be developed. God wants us to co-operate with Him, in a partnership where we surrender our lives and our wills to Him.

Creating a Kingdom Culture on Earth

- God's plan has three simple goals:
 1. To reclaim the Earth for the Kingdom of Heaven,
 2. To create a Kingdom Culture on the Earth, and, as a result,
 3. To produce a Kingdom Community throughout the Earth.
- All kingdoms seek to expand, usually either through outright conquest or colonisation.
- In the beginning, God established a colony of Heaven on the earth and placed the first two humans, Adam and Eve, in charge of it.
- His intent was that they and their descendants would rule the Earth according to His standards and principles and be fruitful and multiply until the entire planet was filled with His people manifesting His glory.

- Unfortunately, Adam and Eve disobeyed their King by asserting their independence and doing the one thing He had instructed them not to do.

Reversing Adam's Failure:

- Rebellion against God is called sin.
- This is what Adam and Eve were guilty of in the Garden of Eden.
- God granted humans free will, which requires the presence of alternatives for meaningful choices.
- In the centre of the Garden, the tree, along with God's prohibition against eating its fruit, allowed Adam and Eve to exercise the gift of free will that God had given them.
- Unfortunately, they used it in the wrong way – they rebelled against God.
- Jesus Christ came to Earth to put an end to our sin of rebellion and, through His blood, to cleanse us of our sins and the rebellious behaviour that was the inevitable consequence of sin.
- Christ came as “the last Adam” to reverse the consequences of the first Adam's failure.

Romans 5:18-19 *ESV Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*

- Jesus Christ came to announce the return of the Kingdom of heaven and to give us access through the sin-cleansing power of His blood and the regenerative power of the Holy Spirit.

You are a seed that God sows into the world we live in:

Matthew 13:3-9 ESV *And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. (4) And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. (5) Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, (6) but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. (7) Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. (8) Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. (9) He who has ears, let him hear."*

Matthew 13:24-30 ESV *He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, (25) but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. (26) So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. (27) And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' (28) He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' (29) But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. (30) Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"*

Explanation

Matthew 13:37-38 ESV *He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. (38) The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one..."*

Let God's peace rule your hearts!

Colossians 3:15 ESV *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*

Isaiah 9:6 ESV *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.*