

Seeing the Kingdom of God

I. Seeing the Kingdom of God

A. It is of First Importance, but Not Easily Understood

1. As new Christians it sang in our hearts

Matthew 6:33 ESV

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

2. It transforms our outer and inner lives

Matt 6:31–32 ESV

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

Matthew 6:34 ESV

³⁴ “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

3. It is called a mystery, a secret

Mark 4:11 ESV

¹¹ And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables,

Message:

He told them, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom—you know how it works. But to those who can’t see it yet, everything comes in stories, creating readiness, nudging them toward receptive insight.

4. Great Scholars Cannot Understand it without Divine Intervention

John 3:3 ESV

³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

1Cor 2:7–9 ESV

⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

B. We Pray for It to Come

Matt 6:9–10 ESV

⁹ Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

C. It is IN the Holy Spirit

Rom 14:17 ESV

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

II. Announcing the Kingdom

A. First Message of Jesus

Matt 4:17 ESV

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

It intervenes and transforms everything

B. Message of Resurrected Jesus

Acts 1:3 ESV

³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

C. Already Here... Still Coming

Acts 1:4–5 ESV

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- Promises, Interventions, SHABBAT SHALOM [Slide 1&2]
- Incarnation
- Cross
- Resurrection
- Pentecost
- Parousia

III. Already ... Not Yet Implications

- 1. Jesus was the embodiment of the kingdom, both his humanity and divinity are foundational.**

Rev 1:8 ESV

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

IS and IS TO COME

Rev 2:8 ESV

⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

DIED and CAME TO LIFE

- 2. The last days began with Jesus and in Pentecost. Since then, we have been living in the last days.**
- 3. The age to come and this age are now separated by a thin veil — a veil that has been torn from top to bottom.**
- 4. Every element of the end is present, or available, in every breakthrough of the kingdom.**

The Day of Judgment occurred on the cross but will still occur. To experience the powers of the kingdom (age to come) is to partake of the down-payment of our future redemption.

Every revival is an intervention of God

Eschatological.

Ecstasy, tongues, prophecy, healing, shaking, falling, weeping,

Evidence that our mortal frame cannot absorb the power capable of transforming our bodies into immortality. ...

A foretaste of the final resurrection.

Heightened church unity.

- 5. The framework for church history, which bears witness to an accelerating phenomenon of kingdom interventions.**
- 6. The kingdom is the proper framework for understanding world missions.**

The church lives between victory and triumph.

The resurrection — a major breakthrough of the kingdom. The disciples therefore asked if this was the time for its complete manifestation

Acts 1:6 ESV

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

Jesus’ reply sets the context for **world missions**.

Acts 1:8 ESV

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Pentecost— power of the Spirit onto the church.

The church would proclaim the coming of the kingdom in Jerusalem and Judea (indigenous missions)

Samaria (neighbor-culture missions), and to the

Ends of the earth (cross-culture missions).

Their question was about the coming of the kingdom.

His answer is about the coming of the kingdom.

It came through his ministry and Pentecost

7. The Christian life is best understood in this context.

Not only is our Christian life **placed within** this context, but our new life finds its **meaning within** this context.

We are here, almost here, delayed, future people.

We are saved, being saved, and will be saved.

We are holy, being made holy, and will be holy.

We live between the times. We are already, not yet people.

Two ages co-exist within us, and we live simultaneously in two ages.

The world around us lives in one age, one dimension.

We are much more mysterious. We live in two ages.

We are becoming what we already are

We are born again into the powers of the future age. We have eternal life, the life of the future ages.

8. The Kingdom is the Proper Context for the Ministry of Healing

Why are some healed, while others are not? Why does healing happen some of the time, but not all the time?

Those who lack the kingdom as a model for healing will tend to lack the sense of the mysterious.

They will place too much emphasis on the role of the believing or unbelieving subject, or on the role of the believing or unbelieving prayer.

The truth is that **whenever someone is healed**, it bears witness to the fact that **the kingdom is here**.

Whenever someone is not healed, it bears witness to the fact that the kingdom is not yet here.

We can GROW in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, in faith, in expectation, and in availability to God.

Some are more used in the gift of healing than others.

But ultimately, the only way to explain what does and does not happen is to understand the already and not yet of the kingdom.

This means— Every time you pray for the sick, Be full of expectation.

The veil has been rent. Anything is possible at any moment — including the freedom of the captives, the healing of the sick, and the raising of the dead.

Every time you pray for the sick you should also “hang loose” in the mystery.

When nothing happens, do not be “fazed” at all. After all, this is the “not yet” dimension in which we live.

Delayed answers to prayer, and things that are not yet here, are all part of the kingdom.

IV Application:

A. Seek First the Kingdom of God

Matt 6:33 ESV

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

B. IT IS Available.

Matt 6:10 ESV

¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Every element of the end is present, or available, in every breakthrough of the kingdom!

C. We Possess or Realize it by Faith

The Kingdom is IN the Holy Spirit!

Rom 14:17 ESV

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

RIGHTEOUSNESS PEACE AND JOY

D. Everyone Born of God is an Overcomer

1 John 5:4 ESV

⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith

1 John 5:1–3 ESV

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

PRAYER