# The Kingdom of God

### An Introduction

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### Jesus Came Preaching the Kingdom

- From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." (Matt 4:17)
- "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent." (Luke 4:43)
- 3. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. (Matt 6:10 KJV)

### Jesus came Preaching the Kingdom

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (Mat 6:31-34))



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But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed. (Dan 2:28)



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"During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever. (Dan 2:44)

They will speak of the glory of your kingdom; they will give examples of your power. They will tell about your mighty deeds and about the majesty and glory of your reign.

For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The LORD always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does. (Psa 145:11-13)

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

(Isaiah 9:6-7, NKJV)

## Jesus Teaches Kingdom Principles

## Who will Enter this Kingdom?

- The poor in spirit ?! (Matt 5:3)
- Those persecuted for righteousness (Matt 5:10)
  - The righteous (Matt 13:43)
- Those with the simple faith of a child (Matt 19:14, Mark 10:14)
- Unless one is born again, you cannot even see the Kingdom ! (John 3:3)

#### 1. It is Built on Love

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But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven... (Matt 5:44-45) Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (Matt 7:12)

#### 2. It is Built on Forgiveness

"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. (Luke 6:37) Give us each day the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation." (Luke 11:3-4)

#### 3. It Costs Nothing, but Everything

- Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. (Rev 3:20-21)
- Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. **If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it.** But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. (Matt 16:24-25)

#### 4. There is a King: His name is Jesus

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matt 28:18-20)

## 5. The King calls us to take responsibility in His Kingdom

"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. (Matt 5:13-16)

# 5. The King calls us to take responsibility in His Kingdom

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." (Rev 5:9-10)

## The Kingdom is Personal

# Each of us needs a restored relationship with God

- Be poor in spirit: recognize our need before God. Confess our sins and ask for forgiveness
- Be born again through the blood of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit
  We need His healing and transformation
  Live as though Jesus is LORD

## The Kingdom is Social

We need to the principles of Christ's Kingdom to correct our social relationships and structures:

- Love your enemies...
- Do unto others...
- Do good to those...
- Live as though Jesus is LORD

## God's Kingdom Works

# **Together, Christ and His Kingdom meet ALL of mankind's needs**

- Personal transformation and fulfilment
- Social transformation and loving, forgiving relationships
- Only possible under the Lordship of The King of Kings

This is the ONLY arrangement that meets all of mankind's needs

## **Everything will be Shaken!**

When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: "Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also." (from Haggai 2:6) This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain.

Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. For our God is a devouring fire. (Heb 12:26-29)

## What Kingdom Are We Living In?

## But Can I Really Live in God's Kingdom?

Jesus himself showed us how:

"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done..."
"Nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done"

"The Kingdom of God is a surrendering of the will, the coinciding of the will of God with our surrendered will.

Then we are free – free to accept the kingdom and thus make all of it's resources our own." (E.Stanley Jones)

## What Kingdom Will You Live In?

### Benediction

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name;

Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.