



# What is the Kingdom of God?

*Acts 1:3 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.*

*You cannot know anything about Jesus, anything, if you miss the kingdom of God. . . . You are zero on Jesus if you don't understand this term. I'm sorry to say it that strongly, but this is the great failure of evangelical Christianity. We have had Jesus without the kingdom of God, and therefore have literally done Jesus in. – Gordan Fee*

## SEEING THE KINGDOM THROUGH SCRIPTURE

### What is needed for there to be a kingdom?

- 1) Location for the kingdom
- 2) People to rule
- 3) A King

### Can we see this pattern in Scripture?

- Law: Reviving hope in the kingdom
- Prophets: Foreshadowing the kingdom
- Writings: Life in the kingdom
- Gospels: Embodying the kingdom
- Acts and Epistles: Kingdom Community
- Revelation: Achieving the Kingdom Goal

### Another example

- Eden Established
- The Fall
  - Redemptive Act: Noah
- The Kingdom Promised – Abraham
  - Redemptive Act: Exodus
- The Kingdom Foreshadowed – David / Solomon
  - Redemptive Act: Prophetic Promise of Salvation
- The Kingdom at Hand – Jesus Christ
  - Redemptive Act: His life, death, and resurrection
- The Kingdom Consummated – Return of Christ



## WALKING THROUGH THE KINGDOM'S HALLS

### THE KINGDOM IN THE LAW (First five books of the OT)

Where did kingship start?

*Psa. 24:1-2 ¶ The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,*

*Psa. 24:2 for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.*

*Psa. 93:1 ¶ The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty;  
the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.*

*Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.*

*Psa. 93:2 Your throne is established from of old;  
you are from everlasting.*

The Garden Kingdom: A Pattern Begins

*As Creation speaks to us of the King, so Eden speaks to us of the Kingdom of God...The point where this pattern is established is the Garden of Eden. Here we see the people of God (Adam and Eve in their innocence), the garden paradise (the place which God prepared as the perfect environment for his people) and the rule of God expressed by his word. God, as the sovereign king, sets the limits of freedom: 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat' (Genesis 2: 16–17).*

*Goldsworthy, Graeme. The Goldsworthy Trilogy: Gospel & Kingdom, Wisdom in Revelation: Three Classic Books in One Volume (p. 60). Paternoster. Kindle Edition.*

The Fall: Constructing their own kingdom

*Gen. 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."*

A Kingdom Restored Through Covenant

*Gen. 12:2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*



## What is the Kingdom of God?

*Gen. 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

### THE KINGDOM IN THE PROPHETS

#### Major Prophets

*In the Prophetic Literature, the kingdom is foreshadowed. The section starts with such hope. The people stand on the edge of their land and catch a glimpse of a life of abundance and flourishing. God even gives them a king after his own heart, but the nation continually chooses to eat fruit from diseased trees. So God gives them over to their desires. Foreign kingdoms conquer them, and the people of God go into exile.*

*Schreiner, Patrick. The Kingdom of God and the Glory of the Cross (Short Studies in Biblical Theology) (pp. 62-64). Crossway. Kindle Edition.*

#### Minor Prophets

*The return from the Babylonian exile fails to produce the Kingdom foretold by prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. The post-exilic prophets, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi, continue to direct the eyes of Israel away from their present history to the great future day when the perfect and everlasting Kingdom of God will be revealed. The Old Testament ends on the note of promise and expectation. There is no fulfilment in sight as the Jews enter nearly four hundred years of prophetic silence between the two Testaments. During this time the Jews develop a variety of solutions to the problem. The best known is that of the Pharisees, who sought a literal return to the Israelite monarchy and the freedom of Israel from all foreign oppression.*

*Goldsworthy, Graeme. The Goldsworthy Trilogy: Gospel & Kingdom, Wisdom in Revelation: Three Classic Books in One Volume (pp. 55-56).*

### THE KINGDOM IN THE WISDOM LITERATURE

The Book of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Psalms, Song of Solomon (Song of Songs), Wisdom of Solomon, and Ecclesiasticus (Wisdom of Sirach) are all covered.

*The Wisdom Literature looks forward to the ideal king who embodies the Torah and teaches his people how to live the good life in the land of the Lord. It also speaks of those who fear God because he is the Creator of all things and therefore the King. The people are to keep the covenant because God is King. If they do, they will flourish like oaks of righteousness next to streams of water; if they don't, they will shrivel from drought and famine. As in Deuteronomy, the way of the kingdom is presented as a choice between life and death.*



*Schreiner, Patrick. The Kingdom of God and the Glory of the Cross (Short Studies in Biblical Theology) (p. 74).*

## THE KINGDOM IN THE GOSPELS

Matthew – The King's Place

Mark – The King's Authority

Luke – The King's Citizens

John – Life in the Kingdom

## THE KINGDOM IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

This is the account of how the teaching of the King spread throughout the kingdom.

*Acts 1:3 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.*

How does the book end? Paul dying in prison:

*Acts 28:31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.*

## THE KINGDOM IN THE PAULINE EPISTLES

- Entrance into the Kingdom
- Unity within the Kingdom
- The Return of the King

## THE KINGDOM IN THE GENERAL EPISTLES

- **Hebrews:** The Priest who is King of the People
  - Our Great King is Greater than all before
- **James:** Unity within the Kingdom People
  - How we live as Kingdom citizens
- **Peter and Jude:** The End is Near
  - Conduct yourselves to reflect on the coming kingdom

## THE KINGDOM IN REVELATION

*Rev. 11:15 ¶ 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."*

How does this happen?



*Rev. 22:1 ¶ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb*

*Rev. 22:2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

*Rev. 22:3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.*

*Rev. 22:4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.*

*Rev. 22:5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*

*Rev. 22:6 ¶ And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."*

*Rev. 22:7 ¶ "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."*

## FOUR TEACHINGS OF JESUS ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

### 1) The Upside-Down Nature of the Kingdom

Not a visible kingdom

*Luke 17:20 ¶ Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed,*

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

### 2) What does the kingdom look like?

The kingdom is wherever the king is

*Luke 17:20 ... "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, Luke 17:21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you." Or within you.*

*1Pet. 2:11 ¶ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.*

*2Cor. 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*



### **3) The Benefits of living in the Kingdom:**

#### A. Peace, Freedom, and Joy

*John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

*John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

*John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

*Rom. 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

*Rom. 15:13 ¶ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

### **4) How do we live in the kingdom?**

#### A. Jesus' call to his disciples was a radical change of perspective and living

- Love your enemies
- Forsake your family (way of living)
- Don't love and chase money, but use your money for the kingdom
- Our lives are not our own.

*Phil. 3:7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*

*Phil. 3:8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ*

*Matt. 6:19 ¶ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,*

*Matt. 6:20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

*Matt. 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

*Matt. 6:24 ¶ "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*