



What is the Kingdom of God?

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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

Outlines taken from: The Kingdom of God and the Glory of the Cross (Short Studies in Biblical Theology) Patrick Schreiner.



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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.



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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.



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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."



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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.



What is the Kingdom of 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.



Living for the Kingdom?

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FOUR TEACHINGS OF JESUS ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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We want to see visible power – Jesus says, you can't see the Kingdom in that way – It's Not a visible kingdom

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THE PURPOSE OF YOUR LIFE IN GOD’S KINGDOM:

1) You are on a rescue mission

QUESTION: What emotion comes to mind when you hear the word “Evangelism”?

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.

Peter’s mission to the church:

1Pet. 2:10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- What is our motivation?

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.

- What is our perspective?

1Pet. 2:12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

- What about the culture?

1Pet. 2:13 ¶ Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,

1Pet. 2:14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

1Pet. 2:15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

1Pet. 2:16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

1Pet. 2:17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.



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We are not mending the ship, we are rescuing souls from it.

John 13:35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Matt. 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

1Pet. 3:1 ¶ Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,

1Pet. 3:2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

2) You support and comfort the church family

Gal. 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

- Can we remove cancer from this world?
- Can we remove world hunger?
- Can we remove pain?

No, but while we wait, we can comfort those who are alone, suffering, afraid, frustrated, scared, and dying.

2Cor. 1:3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

2Cor. 1:4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

3) Equip saints for the work of the Kingdom

2Tim. 2:1 ¶ You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,

2Tim. 2:2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

2Tim. 2:3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

2Tim. 2:4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

2Tim. 2:5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

2Tim. 2:6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

2Tim. 2:7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.



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2Tim. 2:8 ¶ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel,

2Tim. 2:9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!

2Tim. 2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

2Tim. 2:11 The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

2Tim. 2:12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

2Tim. 2:13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

¶ for he cannot deny himself.