

The Upside Down Kingdom of God: Mark 10:13-31

Terry Townsend, May 22, 2019

Mark generally uses "kingdom of God" while Matthew uses the preferred Jewish expression "kingdom of (heaven)". The meaning is the same...

God coming into the world to assert his (power, glory and rights) against Satan's dominion & the present course of this world – *Fire Bible*

Because God asserts himself with power the world enters into (a crisis)

The devil's (empire) is filled with (alarm)

Read Mark 1:21-27

Everyone is (confronted) with the (decision) whether or not to (submit) to God's (rule)

Mark 1:15 - "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Repentance is a change of (mind) followed by a change of (behavior)

At this time God's kingdom is neither (political, social nor violent)

God's rule by (direct judgment) & force will occur only at the (end of the age)

Revelation 19:11-21

- 11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.
- 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.
- 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.
- 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.
- 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God,
- 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small."

- 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.
- 20 But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.
- 21 The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

The coming of God's kingdom should not (alarm) his people, but fill us with joy and a (sense of purpose)

Read Mark 10:13-16

("Murphy's Law") seems to rule everything the disciples say and do

The custom of the time, mothers made sure that their children were touched and blessed by a distinguished rabbi after their (first) birthday.

It's possible to (walk) with Jesus and still display (un Christ-like) attitudes

Like children, we are to enter the kingdom of God (powerless) and (helpless)

Read Mark 10:17-22

Money is a great servant, but a bad master – Francis Bacon

1 Timothy 6:6-10 - But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

It is the (misuse) of money that is evil

Read Mark 10:23-31

No price tag can be put upon eternal life, but it does have what economists call an ("opportunity cost")

Eternal life is a value that cannot be (bought), but costs us (everything)