

SEEK FIRST PART 1

August 24, 2025

- I. The kingdom is what Jesus talked about more than any other topic.
 - a. 50 times in Matthew
 - b. Luke 12:32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”
 - c. Luke 12:31 “Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
- II. Overarching Theme of the Kingdom in the Bible
 - a. It's found cover to cover because it has been God's concept for humanity from the beginning.
 - b. First occurs in Genesis 1:26-27 “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may *rule* over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”
 - c. The king of the universe and creator of all things desired to give stewardship of His kingdom to mankind.
 - d. Genesis 1:31 “God saw all that he had made, and it was *very good*.” The royal rule of mankind was good as long as they remained in relationship with God, reflecting His image and fulfilling His righteous reign upon the earth He had created.
 - e. Psalms 8:4-5 “What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human begins that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet.”
 - f. Where the angels are only of heaven, we are creatures of both heaven and earth according to the design and the will of God, he made us royal earthlings
- III. Old Testament References to the Kingdom
 - a. God continued to share his rule through the obedience and righteousness of select people.
 - b. God desires His people to regard Him as their sovereign king.
 - c. God was willing to use a mediator, a vessel of flesh and blood to rule and reign on earth,
 - d. His desire all along has been to share his world with humans and to have his reign brought about through the rule of his royal children.
- IV. Root meaning & Historical Context
 - a. The “kingdom of God” is not referring to a physical place.
 - b. The kingdom of God is more of a state of being... a condition of submission to the king.
 - c. The kingdom was originally God's idea
 - d. By the time that Jesus arrived, the Jews were primed and ready for the physical kingdom to be established in Jerusalem.
 - e. Jewish rule in Israel ended in 37 BC when Herod the Great became king of Israel and was designated by the Roman Senate as “King of the Jews.”
 - f. The faith leaders at that time were expectant of “the day of the Lord” which would bring judgement to their oppressors with the wrath of the promised Messiah.
 - g. Most of the believers who were washed in the Jordan were also expecting a revolution in Jerusalem, and a Messiah who would rescue them from tyranny.

- h. He was fully human and fully God, setting the stage for what was to come, but it wasn't what anyone thought.
- i. Mark 1:15 "The time has come, the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

V. Summary

- a. He would be taking back the reign of God from the influence of sin and evil and returning it into the hands of the royal priesthood of believers.
- b. To repent is to admit that we have been sitting on the throne of our own lives and have been sorely lacking in our control of ourselves and our judgement of others.
- c. By turning from our life of sin and embracing God's grace through Jesus, we can now live in alignment with His perfect will.
- d. The good news is the good news of the kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who now has the keys to that kingdom.
- e. By casting our crowns upon Jesus, we are transformed to our rightful place, and the kingdom of God goes from being out of reach, to right at hand.
- f. The kingdom of God is both a present promise and a future hope, it is a now and a not yet because the full manifestation of God's kingdom has yet to come.

VI. Application

- a. Jesus didn't come to build a religious system – He came to bring us into God's presence and into alignment with his perfect will. If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the kingdom of God is your present reality which is taking place right here and right now.