

DIG DEEPER NOTES



How To Live Now

February 22, 2026 • Glenn Garvin

BIG IDEA: The Kingdom is already here in one sense because Jesus announced God's reign with His coming. Citizens of God's Kingdom live now, matching God's heavenly realm.

Scripture Focus (Matt. 6:9–10): “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

The Illustration: Airplane Mode & the Invisible Realm

The sermon began with a familiar experience: Airplane Mode. Turning it on doesn't change the room—only your phone's ability to receive what was already there.

- Airplane Mode is a simple picture of how something can be real but unseen (signals, Wi-Fi, connectivity).
- You don't have to understand every technical detail to access it—yet you do have to choose to connect.
- The point: God's Kingdom doesn't always show up in “obvious” ways, but it is present and active.



Kingdom vs Heaven: Reign vs Realm

In Scripture, “Kingdom of God/Kingdom of Heaven” usually emphasizes God's rule (reign). “Heaven” emphasizes God's space (realm). Related, but not identical.

Kingdom (Reign) vs Heaven (Realm)
 Kingdom of God / Heaven = God's rule breaking in • Heaven = God's space/throne realm

Key Distinction

| Kingdom (Reign) | Heaven (Realm) |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God's active rule (kingship) "Near / at hand / comes" We "enter / inherit" it Already... not yet (future fullness) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God's throne realm (God's space) "Father in heaven" language Heaven "opened" scenes Heavenly court / worship |

Phrase Map (Overlap + Distinctions)

Kingdom of Heaven = Kingdom of God

- In Matthew, "heaven" often functions as a reverent way to say "God."
- Heaven (realm) is distinct from the kingdom (reign) but **tightly connected**.
- Biblical endgame: resurrection + "new heavens and new earth."

Key biblical anchors: Matt 4:10 • Mark 1:15 • Matt 19:23-24 • John 3:3-5 • Rev 21-22

"Heaven Here?" Series Theme

- "The kingdom is near" → allegiance, obedience, mission now
- "Your kingdom come... as in heaven" → heaven's will as the pattern for earth
- "Treasure / citizenship in heaven" → heaven's values shape life on earth

Already / Not Yet (Big-Picture Frame)

| Already (Now) | Not Yet (Future) |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kingdom inaugurated in by Jesus Spirit empowers kingdom life Heaven's authority present among us. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kingdom fully revealed Resurrection + final justice New heavens & new earth |

Graphic: Kingdom (Reign) vs Heaven (Realm)

Quick Chart

| Category | Kingdom (Reign) | Heaven (Realm) |
|------------------|--|---|
| Best shorthand | God's rule breaking in | God's realm / throne-room reality |
| Primary question | "Who's in charge here?" | "Where is God enthroned?" |
| How it shows up | Obedience, repentance, justice, mercy, mission | Worship, authority, heavenly court, "from above" |
| Common mistake | Treat it mainly as a place you go | Treat it as identical to "kingdom" in every verse |

This is why Jesus teaches us to pray, not “make earth into the place called heaven,” but “make earth submit to heaven’s King the way heaven already does.”

Luke 17:20–37 — The Coming of the Kingdom

The Pharisees' question

They ask: “When will the Kingdom of God come?” Jesus answers with a riddle-like clarity: the Kingdom doesn't arrive with visible, trackable signs—and it can't be pointed to like a location. It is already “among you,” because the King is standing there.



Graphic: Pharisees questioning Jesus (Luke 17:20–21)

A warning to the disciples

- A time will come when people long for the Son of Man's appearing.
- Many voices will claim, "Here He is!"—but Jesus says not to chase rumors.
- The Kingdom is not a "realm you go find"; it is God's reign centered on the Son of Man—present now, revealed openly later.

Three "life as usual" scenes (sudden interruption)

Jesus describes ordinary human life continuing right up until decisive judgment breaks in:



Notice the disciples' question shifts from WHEN to WHERE. Jesus' answer is blunt: wherever death and wickedness swell, judgment is as inevitable as birds circling overhead.

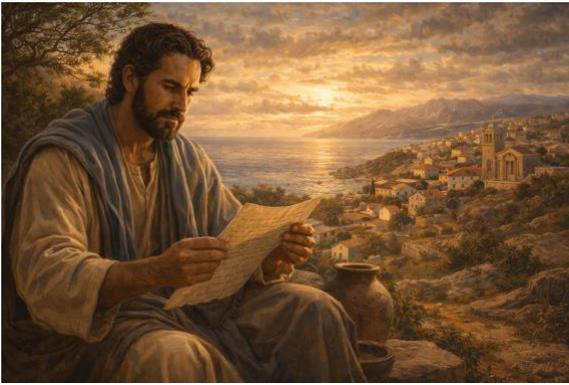
Seek First (Live Under the Rule) Matthew 6:33–34

Seeking the Kingdom is not passive waiting—it's a re-ordering of priorities under God's reign.

- Jesus links Kingdom-priority to freedom from anxiety: tomorrow has its own trouble; live faithfully today.
- Kingdom living shows up in practical obedience—prayer, generosity, integrity, and trust.

Grace Trains Us How to Live Now Titus 2:11–14

Paul's point to Titus is simple and strong: future hope is not escapism; it trains present holiness and active good works.



- Grace has appeared (salvation) AND grace instructs (formation).
- Turn from godless living and sinful pleasures (renunciation).
- Live with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion (new patterns).
- Look forward with hope to Christ's appearing (steady expectation).
- Be "His very own people" — visibly committed to good deeds (public witness).

“Occupy / Engage Until I Come” — Stewardship With Consequences

Jesus told the parable of the ten servants specifically to correct the impression that the Kingdom would begin right away (Luke 19:11). The King is away—but His servants have assignments.

- “Occupy” means engage in faithful, purposeful stewardship while the King is away.
- It includes accountability: what we do now matters (reward/loss).
- Kingdom citizens don't retreat—they push back darkness, reconcile people to God, and plant previews of the coming Kingdom in real neighborhoods.

Heaven-Truth Talking Points (Anti-Escapism)

- Not escape: Heaven is not an evacuation plan; it's assurance God will finish what He started (Rev. 21:5).
- Not abandonment: Jesus doesn't remove us from the world; He sends us into it (John 17:15–18).
- Not pointless: Resurrection makes present labor meaningful (1 Cor. 15:58).
- Not disembodied: God's endgame is renewal of all things (Rom. 8; Rev. 21).

The Battle: Earth Is the Battlefield (For Now)

If the Kingdom is already here and still coming, then life now is not a waiting room—it is a mission field and a formation ground.

- Spiritual resistance: stand against the devil's schemes (Eph. 6:10–18).
- Mind-renewal warfare: take thoughts captive (2 Cor. 10:3–5).
- Vigilance: the enemy prowls like a roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8).
- Abundant life now is Kingdom-life breaking into brokenness (John 10:10).

Dig Deeper Devotional: The Unannounced Presence of God

The Dig Deeper section leans into a simple practice: noticing God's presence in the ordinary. The theme is Genesis 28:16—Jacob waking up to realize God was present all along.

Short line from the poem: *"The sacred does not arrive with proclamation."*

- Practice: slow down enough to notice what has been quietly carrying God's presence.
- Key move: less striving to "see more," more openness to receive what is already here.
- Prayer emphasis: attention, gratitude, and trust in the nearness of God.

Reflection Questions

- Where have I been demanding "visible signs" instead of faithful obedience?
- What would it look like to "turn off Airplane Mode" spiritually this week?
- Where is God's reign asking for realignment in my home, work, or relationships?
- Am I living as a preview of the coming Kingdom—who would notice?
- If "earth is the battlefield," what is my assignment (and what have I been avoiding)?

Key Scriptures (Quick Reference)

- Matthew 6:9–10 — Kingdom come / will be done on earth as in heaven
- Luke 17:20–21 — Kingdom among you; not detected by visible signs
- Luke 17:22–23 — Beware false sightings of the Son of Man
- Luke 17:26–30; 34–37 — Noah / Lot / one taken / vultures sign
- Matthew 6:33–34 — Seek first the Kingdom; don't worry about tomorrow
- Titus 2:11–14 — Grace trains us for holy living & good works
- Luke 19:11–13 — Occupy/Engage until I come (stewardship)
- John 10:10 — Abundant life (Kingdom life in a broken world)
- Ephesians 6:10–18 — Armor of God (battleframe)
- 2 Corinthians 10:3–5 — Take thoughts captive (mind-war)
- 1 Peter 5:8 — The enemy prowls; be alert