

Overview of the Kingdom - Kyle Weir | 3-17-19

This mornings study is going to be a little different than normal. Most of the time here at Sager Creek we study the bible verse-by-verse, book-by-book. There is great value in studying the Word this way, things only come up in sermons as often as they are in the scripture. But there is value at times for us to zoom out and look at the big picture themes in scripture. This morning we are going to study **The Kingdom**. We won't have one main passage because my goal this morning to look across all of scripture and build this idea of what is the kingdom.

Before we get started in this overview, I want to give a spoiler. I want to let you know where we are going to end. At times when you do an overview its can be confusing if you don't understand the end goal. When I say we are going to study the Kingdom, I am referring to what is described in Revelation 19 and 20.

Rev 19:11-16

(11) Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.

(12) His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

(13) He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

(14) And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

(15) From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

(16) On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

This is Jesus. He is the conquering King, coming down from heaven. This is at the end of Revelation, it is after the rapture, and after the 7-year tribulation. This is Jesus' second coming.

Rev 20:1-4

(1) Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain.

(2) And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

(3) and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he

might not deceive the nations any longer, **until the thousand years were ended.** After that he must be released for a little while.

(4) Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

So Jesus comes back, and then Satan is bound for a thousand years. Notice it was repeated three times in that passage. Jesus comes back to this earth and rules and reigns as the King of Kings as Satan is bound up. This is the Kingdom. It is also called the Millennium or the Millennial reign.

Unfortunately, this teaching is debated and a lot of people question what this thousand year reign is. This is why we need to back all the way up to Genesis and track god's plan for the Kingdom throughout the Bible.

God has always wanted to dwell with His people, we can see this in the Garden of Eden and God interacting and giving direction to Adam and Eve. Sin of course separated God and man. The rest of scripture is God telling a story of how He is going to restore that relationship and dwell with us again.

As scripture moves forward the details of God dwelling with man gets more and more specific starting with God's promise to Abram.

Genesis 17:3-8

(3) Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him,

(4) "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

(5) No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

(6) I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, **and kings shall come from you.**

(7) **And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.**

(8) And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your

sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

In this promise we see God telling Abraham that Kings are going to come from Him and that the land being promised to them is an eternal promise. This is not only for so many years, it is an everlasting permanent promise and the land is an everlasting possession.

This Kingdom promise is further defined when Jacob goes to bless his sons.

Genesis 49:1-2; 8-10

(1) Then Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather yourselves together, **that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come.**

(2) "Assemble and listen, O sons of Jacob, listen to Israel your father.

(8) "**Judah**, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you.

(9) Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?

(10) **The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between His feet, until tribute comes to Him; and to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples.**

This promise says that through the tribe of Judah, the scepter or Kingly power will never depart. It also says that the obedience of all people will come to the line of Judah. Notice in verse 10 the prophecy starts about the entire line of Judah and then starts describing a singular Him.

These promises build a picture of an eternal king, who is all powerful.

Then when God makes a promise to David we are given even more details about this King.

David wanted to build a temple for God and this is God's response.

2 Samuel 7:11-13

(11) from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. **Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.**

(12) When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will

raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish His kingdom.

(13) He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever.

David is in the line of Judah. Then God says specifically through David's lineage there will come a king whose kingdom has no end. It will be an eternal reign.

These promises and glimpses of the Kingdom are throughout the Old Testament.

When Nebuchadnezzar has the dream about the statue there is another glimpse of the Kingdom

Daniel 2:43-44

(43) As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay.

(44) And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,

God is saying once all of the earthly kingdoms have run their course, and in the end times when humanity will not mix together or be ruled anymore. God will establish a perfect Kingdom. It will put an end to all other Kingdoms and it will stand forever.

Other prophecies in the OT give detailed descriptions of what the King and His kingdom will be like.

Isaiah 9:6-7

(6) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(7) Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This King is wise, He is a wonderful counselor, and He will reign on David throne. And His Kingdom will never end.

Isaiah 11:3-10

(3) And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what His eyes see, or decide disputes by what His ears hear,

(4) **but with righteousness** He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and **with the breath of His lips He shall kill the wicked.**

This is a righteous King, who fears God and uses Godly wisdom to make decisions.

(5) Righteousness shall be the belt of His waist, and faithfulness the belt of His loins.

(6) The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and **a little child shall lead them.**

(7) The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

(8) The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

During this King's reign the curse on Nature will be reversed. Notice there are no predatory animals any more the wolf is with the lamb. **His reign is so far reaching even nature is changed by His presence.**

(9) They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; **for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.**

(10) In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—**of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.**

All nations will come to Him and His resting place will be glorious. Take a second to try and imagine what this kingdom is going to be like. What it would be to have a King, who is righteous, wise, perfect, powerful, loving, protecting...

This is Jesus there is only one who could fit these descriptions. Our savior the son of God, **Jesus is the King.**

But we are not in His Kingdom yet. If a lamb tries to lay down with a wolf it is not going to go well for the lamb.

So the big question is who is King of the World right now? Whose kingdom is here on earth?

We find the answer when Satan is trying to tempt Jesus

Matthew 4:8-11

(8) Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him **all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.**

(9) And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

(10) Then Jesus said to him, "**Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'**"

(11) Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Notice what happened Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the World. And Jesus does not correct Him. Jesus does not say Satan why are you offering me something that is already mine. Satan is the ruler of the World right now. Jesus will be King and his Kingdom that we were looking at in the Old Testament will come but Satan had rule on earth right now.

That's why this temptation even meant anything Satan was offering Christ a shortcut around suffering to establish a kingdom right then.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

(3) And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

(4) **In their case the god of this world** has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

The god of this world is satan.

I want to clarify two things.

First God is all powerful.

Psa 103:19

(19) The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, **and his kingdom rules over all.**

Everything is in God's kingdom and yet satan has been given temporary authority to be the ruler of the world. This does not mean that God is not in control.

Second, all believers are a part of Jesus' Kingdom right now this is something that became true about us at Salvation.

Colossians 1:12-14

(12) giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

- (13) He has delivered us from the domain of **darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,**
 (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

All believers have been transferred into this kingdom, but as of right now it is a spiritual kingdom. So, although believers are a part of Jesus Kingdom right now, Satan is still considered the ruler of this world. One day Jesus Kingdom will physically come to earth. Jesus will rule a literal Kingdom, from David's throne.

And this physical Kingdom actually almost came once before and this is what gets so misunderstood about the Kingdom.

Matthew 3:1-3

- (1) In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
 (2) **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**
 (3) For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

John the Baptist was trying to prep people the Kingdom is close get ready.

Then notice what Jesus started preaching at the beginning of His ministry.

Matthew 4:12+17

- (12) Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.
 (17) From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**

Jesus starts preaching repent the Kingdom is here. He was literally saying Israel I am your King repent and follow me accept me as your King. Israel had been in sin worshipping idols and at this time pursuing self-righteous legalism. Jesus was calling the Jews His people to repent and accept the Kingdom.

This offer can seem very confusing because near the end of His earthly ministry Jesus started saying things like this.

Luke 17:20-22

- (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,**

Notice what the Pharisees are asking about the kingdom. They were looking for the Kingdom, they knew the Old Testament.

Notice Jesus response, Repent the kingdom of heaven is at hand... nope this time he says you can't see it.

(21) nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

Jesus says it is here right now in your midst but you're missing it.

(22) And he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.

There is going to come a day when you desire to see the Kingdom but won't be able to, I will be gone.

So what happened. Why did the message change and why did the Jews not receive the Kingdom.

They rejected Jesus.

Matthew 21:42-46

(42) Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

(43) Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.

(44) And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

(45) When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.

(46) And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

The Pharisees missed it. Jesus says it has been taken away from you and will be given to the Church essentially. Paul says the same thing in Acts when he makes it to Rome.

Acts 28:17; 23-31

(17) After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, "Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

Paul first interacts with the Jewish leaders and notice what he teaches them about

(23) When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, **testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus** both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

Paul starts teaching about the Kingdom. Notice though He does not teach what is called the kingdom gospel. He does not repeat what Christ said "Repent the kingdom is at hand." Paul went to teach them how Christ was the King and will establish his future kingdom. Believe in Jesus today and be part of His Kingdom.

(24) And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

(25) And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

(26) "Go to this people, and say, "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive."

(27) For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'

(28) **Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen."**

Paul says the Jews missed the message so he goes and teaches the gentiles but notice what he teaches to them.

(30) He lived there two whole years at his own expense, **and welcomed all who came to him,**

(31) **proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.**

The message of the Kingdom was still proclaimed to the gentiles. I want to be really clear about something. You do not see anywhere in the epistles, letters to the Churches someone repeat the message "repent for the kingdom is at hand." Never not once, that message was for the Jew not for the church. The Church is told to believe.

Act 16:30-31

(30) Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

(31) And they said, **"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you**

and your household.”

Paul does not say repent for the kingdom is here, he says believe in Jesus the message has changed. What is fascinating though is that Paul spoke about the Kingdom regularly to gentiles.

Think about why the gentiles would want to hear about Christ as their King.

There current King or emperor was Nero or Domitian. Both of these rulers ferociously persecuted Christians. Nero blamed the burning of Rome on them, and made killing them a sport. He would burn them in his gardens as light.

Social activities available in Rome.

-Theater, army, classical literature , sports, were entwined with pagan worship and sin.

This was their environment a King who blamed all his problems on Christians and killed many and a society that glorified, promoted, and pursued sin. Many at this time were slaves and treated harshly.

Then in comes Paul to tell you of a different Kingdom, a perfect Kingdom who has a King who is righteous. The early Christians could not here enough about this new King!

This is one of the reasons why understanding the Kingdom that is to come is so important for us today.

Colossians 3:1-4

(1) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

(2) **Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.**

(3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(4) When Christ who is your life appears, **then you also will appear with him in glory.**

We need to focus on eternal things. Kingdom related things and not things of this earth. This is not our home, this is not our kingdom.

1 Peter 2:10-12

(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.

(11) Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

(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.

We are just passing through. This world is not our home. Satan is currently the ruler of this world and we cannot try and make it into the kingdom yet.

There is a false teaching out there that it is our job to usher in the Kingdom, we cannot do it. This World is going to continue in sin. But the extraordinary hope we have is in a perfect King with perfect justice.

Think about the Pharisees for a second why did they miss it. Because the Kingdom and King that they were expecting wasn't Jesus. Their eyes were down on earthly things. They were focused on Rome and kicking Rome out they were focused on creating a better political situation for their current day and time.

J Veron McGee has this to say about the Pharisees

“The Pharisees represented the very best in Israel. They were a religious-political party, and **their aim was to establish the kingdom**. They had arisen sometime after or during the Captivity. They were fundamental. They believed in the integrity of the scriptures; they believed in angels, they believed in the resurrection and in miracles. They were also extremely nationalistic in their politics. **The Pharisees thought they could bring the kingdom by political manipulation.**”

The Pharisees were focused on earthly matters. That's the short of it. They could not see to the spiritual or eternal. **They wanted to know how Jesus would defeat Rome. He was offering a Kingdom that would defeat Satan.**

Revelation 19:11-16

(11) Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.

(12) His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

- (13) He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.
- (14) And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.
- (15) From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
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Revelation 20:1-7

- (1) Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain.
- (2) And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,
- (3) and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.
- (4) Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.
- (5) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.
- (6) Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.
- (7) And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison

Rev 21:1-5

- (1) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
- (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**
- (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”
- (5) And he who was seated on the throne said, **“Behold, I am making all**

things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

2 Peter 1:5-12

- (5) For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,
- (6) and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,
- (7) and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.
- (8) **For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- (9) For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.
- (10) Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.
- (11) **For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**
- (12) Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.