

# **The Kingdom Of God**

*Turning the world upside down by making  
a commitment to the kingdom of God*

**Acts 17:6**

## **Introduction**

- 1. Many of us have heard and read about how successful the early church was in furthering the kingdom of God.**
- 2. While most of us long to see that type of growth in the church today, few will make the commitment that is necessary for such increase.**
- 3. Our lesson today will look at the OT kingdom of God (physical Israel) and the kingdom of God in the NT**

## **I. About The OT Kingdom**

**A. We are first introduced to this kingdom in the Old Testament  
(Exodus 19:5-6)**

- 1. The Israelites entered into a two sided covenant relationship with God (*obey = blessed / disobey = cursed*)**
- 2. As a part of God's kingdom, they would have God as their Judge, Lawgiver, and King (Isaiah 33:22)**

**B. It is important to note that there weren't very many distinctive qualities to set this kingdom apart from other physical kingdoms**

- 1. (*territory, ethnic group, armies, expanded their borders with war*)**
- 2. All of the blessings and curses of Israel pertained to physical things as well (Deut. 28:1-12, 24-25, 38-39)**
- 3. The only real difference between the kingdom of Israel and the kingdoms of other nations is that the Gentiles believed it was their gods that caused their blessings and cursing to come.**
- 4. We must understand that the kingdom of Israel was not an end in itself. God wanted His people to be lead into the kingdom of His dear Son.**

## **II. About A Different Kind Of Kingdom**

**A. David Bercot wrote:**

- 1. "The year A.D. 30 began like any other year. Jewish priests still offered daily sacrifices in the temple. Farmers worked in their fields and women washed their clothes in the streams. Fishermen hung up their nets to dry on the shores of the sea of Galilee... But...suddenly a prophet named John burst upon the scene! Clothed in camel's hair and a leather belt, John made a striking figure. And he brought with him a startling message – the kingdom of God was at hand!"**
- 2. People began coming to John to find out what they needed to do to prepare for the kingdom. If the kingdom of prophecy was coming, that also meant the Messiah would arrive soon.**
- 3. When John finally announced the arrival of Jesus, the people rejected Him. He didn't even preach against their enemies. What did Jesus preach?**

**B. So what was the theme of Jesus' preaching?**

1. Was it man's need for salvation? NO. What about God's love for man? NO. Could we say it was being born again or Jesus dying for our ransom? NO.
2. Jesus spoke of these things but none of them are the theme of his preaching!
3. All of those topics mentioned lead us to the real theme: the kingdom of God.
4. There are nearly 100 references to the kingdom in the gospels. Most of the Lord's parables addressed the kingdom. Jesus even stated that the reason that he was sent to earth was to preach the kingdom of God (See Luke 4:43) .

**C. Consider the following passages:**

1. *"From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"* (Matthew 4:17)
2. *"And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people."* (Matthew 4:23)
3. *"And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction."* (Matt. 9:35)
4. *"When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing."* (Luke 9:11)

**D. Where is the gospel of the kingdom among Christians today?**

1. We hear people say, *"preach Christ not the church."* Is it possible to do so?
2. Can you honestly preach about the Head and not mention the body of Christ? NO!
3. We need more "kingdom" preaching today?
4. You might be saying to yourself, *"Okay, Jesus preached about the kingdom, but not the disciples."* Is that correct?
5. In nearly every passage where Jesus gave instructions to His disciples about preaching, He told them to preach about the kingdom (Acts. 8:12; 19:8).

**E. Consider the following passages:**

1. *"And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"* (Matt. 10:7)
2. *"and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal."* (Luke 9:2)
3. *"Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"* (Luke 10:9)
4. *"To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, let me first go and bury my father.' And Jesus said to him, 'Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.'"* (Luke 9:60)

**F. Let us give any false impressions.**

1. Please do not leave here with the impression that salvation, being born again, God's love for man and Jesus' sacrifice for our sins are not important.
2. The point is, if you are saved and are born again by God's love and the sacrifice of Jesus, but you are not an active part of the kingdom...you have missed the purpose for being saved.
3. "When we tell people about salvation – but say nothing about the kingdom – we are not preaching the gospel of the kingdom"  
*David Bercot*
4. Jesus said, "*And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*" (Matt. 24:14)

**G. Every kingdom has 4 components:**

1. *Ruler(s)*  
-Jesus reigns from heaven (Col. 1:18, 24)
2. *Subjects*  
-No specific nationality (Matt. 21:43)  
-All one in Jesus (Gal. 3:26-29)  
-Citizens in heaven (Phil. 3:20)
3. *Domain*  
-Where we are found (Lk. 17:20-21; Jn. 4:21)  
-Spiritual (I Pet. 2:9-11)
4. *Law(s)*  
-Of the Lord (John 3:5)  
-Of God (Mt. 7:21)  
-No change (Heb 1:2; 13:8)

**H. Most people have been misled into thinking that the kingdom is some future entity**

1. The kingdom of God is here. (Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:4-7; Mk. 9:1)
2. The Lord does not bring us into His kingdom when we die, but rather when we are born again and renewed by the Spirit of God and added to the church by the Lord.

**Conclusion**

1. It is no surprise then to see so many people failing to make a commitment to the kingdom of God.
2. Are you a part of this kingdom today? Can you see the importance of the kingdom of God? If we can help you to be added to God's kingdom, please let us know now.