

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

"A Present Reality"

Mark 1:14-15

*"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."*

1. THE CONTROVERSY OF THE KINGDOM. IS IT NOW, OR IS IT TO COME?
2. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM?
  1. Abstract noun denoting sovereignty, royal power, dominion.
    1. Denotes a territory or people over whom a king rules.
    2. Sphere of God's rule.
    3. The sphere in which at any given time, His rule is acknowledged.
    4. Seeking willing obedience.
  2. Kingdom both present and future.
  3. When God asserts His rule universally, Kingdom will be in glory; will be manifest to all.
  4. Kingdom of God in midst of you--where the King is, there is the kingdom.
3. TWO KINGDOMS OR DOMAINS.
  1. The visible world.
    1. Theme of hopelessness.
    2. Age of terror.
    3. Economic disaster.

4. Tailspin in morality.
5. Shortages.
2. The invisible world.
  1. Invisible world controls visible.
    1. Unrestricted, unlimited, infinite.
    2. Failure to recognize exists right now.
    3. Though invisible, it is real.
  2. We have the ability to look from visible into invisible.
    1. Elisha.
    2. Look from world filled with impossibilities into one filled with possibilities.
4. A LOOK AT THE KINGDOM OF GOD WHICH IS NOW.
  1. The good tidings of the Kingdom of God.
    1. *"Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mk. 1:14-15).*
    2. *"And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him." (Lu. 8:1)*
  2. Associated with healing the sick.
    1. *"And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick." (Lu. 9:2).*
    2. *"And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing." (Lu. 9:11).*
    3. *"And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, the kingdom of God is come upon you." (Lu. 10:9).*

3. Associated with power over devils. *"But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you."* (Lu. 11:20).
4. The kingdom of God is spiritual.
  1. *"And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."* (Lu. 17:20-21).
  2. Righteousness, peace, and joy. *"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."* (Ro. 14:17).
  3. In power. *"For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power."* (I Co. 4:20).
5. A present reality.
  1. *"And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of god come with power."* (Mr. 9:1).
  2. *"The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it."* (Lu. 16:16).
  3. Requires a special effort.
    1. *"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."* (Mt. 11:12).
    2. *"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."* (Ac. 14:22).

4. Gathers in the good and the bad. *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind."* (Mt. 13:47).

5. WHO CAN NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM.

1. Those who are not born again.
  1. *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (Jo. 3:3).
  2. *"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."* (Mt. 18:3).
2. Those who failed to do the will of God. *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."* (Mt. 7:21).
3. The unrighteous.
  1. *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."*
  2. *"Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."* (1 Co. 6:10).
  3. *"Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."* (Ga. 5:21).

4. *"For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."* (Eph. 5:5).
4. Those whose religion does not exceed that of the Pharisees.
  1. *"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in not case enter into the kingdom of heaven."* (Mt. 5:20).
  2. *"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."* (Mt. 23:13).
5. Flesh and blood. *"Now this I say, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."* (1 Co. 15:50).
6. Those who trust in riches. (Mr. 10:23-27)
  1. *"And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!*
  2. *"And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!*
  3. *"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."*
  4. *"And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?"*
  5. *"And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible."*

7. Those who look back are not fit. *"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."* (Lu. 9:60).
  
6. KEYS OF THE KINGDOM. *"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."* (Mt. 16:19).
  
7. SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD; ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU.
  
8. THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM SHALL BE PREACHED BEFORE THE END.