

KINGDOM OF GOD

Open My Eyes that I Might See
We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

God is inviting us to a big picnic. We will see where later in this teaching.

Luke 1:30-33

- a. Who will Jesus reign over? For how long?
- b. Where was the throne of David?
- c. Did Jesus fulfill that in his first coming?

Jesus is the Christ. Christ = Messiah. He is the Jewish Messiah. Whenever we say "Jesus Christ", we are affirming that he is the Jewish Messiah, so it behooves us to know what the OT scriptures say about Messiah.

2 Sam 7:11b-16 – fulfilled partly in the short term through Solomon and other and ultimately in the age to come. **2 Chr 13:5** says LORD gave it to him and his seed by a covenant of salt. In an earthly sense, it ended with the Babylonian Captivity. No longer a descendant on the throne.

Throughout the OT there are prophecies of a future where Israel will be blessed, not molested by enemies, sins forgiven, and they will all know the LORD. There is a list of a few of these as a handout, because we'd be here all day if they were in the teaching. All of these things go hand-in-hand with the reign of Messiah, which Gabriel foretold to Mary. The Jews knew them—especially the scribes and Pharisees. They knew a lot from the OT about what the reign of Messiah would be like. That's what they were expecting the Messiah to be like, and Jesus, in his 1st coming, didn't seem to be doing that. They rejected him and had him crucified. They couldn't see the Messiah things he was doing like having power over sickness and demons and speaking righteous judgments.

Ps 2:6-9. There will be some actual earthly conflict associated with Messiah Jesus establishing his reign.

1 Cor 15:21-26. His effective reign doesn't happen all at once. He is ruling and subduing the nations.

1 Thess 4:16-18. We will be with him. Where will he be? Where will we be? It's encouraging! It's exciting!

The prophets describe this blessed state of the earth and so does Revelation. The bottom line is that Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, came to restore the earth to the blessed state of all of God's promises and original plans. Man is created to rule

the earth, to have dominion, in perfect fellowship and unity of purpose with God. We weren't created to be disembodied being in heaven. Resurrection means new bodies. Bodies are useful having dominion on earth.

Matt 3:1-2; 4:17. What are they saying? They are saying now is the time for the kingdom of which the prophets spoke. The Israelites are hearing things that relate to all these prophecies about the blessed kingdom of Messiah, but they were blind and deaf to what was being fulfilled before their eyes, because it wasn't how they thought it would come to pass.

Acts 1:3-8. Jesus was explaining how he will fulfill these things in the future. It was not a dumb question they asked.

What is the difference between the Church and the Kingdom? The answer is Acts 1:7-8. The church witnesses to the King and Kingdom until God brings it. The gospel of the Kingdom is greater than just salvation by believing in Jesus Christ. It is that God, for His own glory, will restore all creation and salvation is our ticket to live forever in the bigger thing that God is doing—namely, the Kingdom. “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” God gets rid of evil on earth and His original Will and Plan prevail.

Acts 14:22 Paul preached the kingdom. We haven't entered it yet. In the epistles he writes that we have been given citizenship in this kingdom. He writes that our inheritance is in it. Robin Hood analogy.

The Church is not the kingdom. It is a like a foretaste of the real thing. Like the spirit is the earnest of our inheritance. The Church is the current state of God's redemptive plan. We have many of its blessings now. We exhibit those blessings as part of our witness to call people to the Kingdom. The fulness comes when Jesus Christ comes back to reign.

28:23, 31. Paul taught this his whole life. In his travels, in the synagogue in Ephesus, in the epistles. At the end of his life 2 Tim 4:1 (future), 4:18.

So where's the picnic??? Isa 25:6-9. Has that ever happened? No. It is yet future and we will be there.

“God's great kingdom will come to earth, the kingdom of love and light.”

PARTIAL KINGDOM OF GOD SCRIPTURE LIST

New Testament (there are many more not listed here)

Matthew has many references that also appear in the other gospels.

- John preached it – Matt 3:1-2,
- Jesus preached it at the opening of his ministry – Matt 4:17,23
- Sermon on the mountain is about the righteous standards of the kingdom – Matt 5-7. Pray for the Kingdom to come and Father's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven Matt 6:10.
- Matt 8:11, 12 – many come into Kingdom from east and west (Gentiles) and many children of the kingdom cast in outer darkness (many Israelites).
- Mysteries of the Kingdom in Matt 13 – they didn't know there would be a 1st coming and 2nd coming of Messiah with a period of time in between.
 - Sow seeds now... fruit later
 - Wheat and tares... good seed and bad seed grow over time and are sorted out at the end of the age
 - Starts small and grows
 - Israelites thought Messiah would come and bring his kingdom all at once. These mysteries explain what happens between his 1st coming and the end of the age.
- Humble are greatest in the Kingdom – Matt 18:1-4
- Rewards in the future Kingdom – Matt 20:1ff – workers in the vineyard
- The invited guests (Israelites) don't come to the wedding feast, so others are pulled in off the street (us Gentiles) – Matt 22:2 ff
- Gospel of the Kingdom to be preached to all nations before the end of the age – Matt 24:14
- Matt 25 – servants watching (or not), virgins with oil in their lamps (or not), parable of the talents all tell us to be conscientiously about the masters business
- Matt 26:29 – will drink wine new with you in my Father's kingdom.
- Luke 1:33 – Gabriel to Mary... he will reign forever on the throne of David
- Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.
- Luke 18:29 – personal sacrifices will be rewarded in the future Kingdom
- Luke 22: 29-30 – apostles will eat at King Jesus's table and judge the 12 tribes
- John 3:3-5 – must be born again to enter the Kingdom of God
- Acts 1:3 – During 40 days after the resurrection, Jesus explained the Kingdom
- Acts 8:12 – Philip preached the Kingdom
- Acts 14:22 – Paul said we must, through much tribulation, enter the (future) Kingdom
- Acts 19:8, 20:25 – Paul preached the Kingdom in Ephesus
- Acts 28 23-31 – At the end of his life Paul preached the Kingdom in Rome
- Practices that will keep people from entering the Kingdom – 1 Cor. 16:9, 10; Eph 5:5
- 1 Cor 15:24 – The reign of Messiah Jesus on earth is the Kingdom and he will deliver it to God after he has put down all opposition.
- 1 Cor 15:50 – We enter the Kingdom in our resurrected bodies.

- Col. 1:13 – We have been given citizenship in the Kingdom
- 2 Thess 1:5 – In the Kingdom we will be rewarded for suffering for it
- 2 Tim 4:1 – Lord Jesus will judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. So his Kingdom is when he returns.

Old Testament (There are many, many more)

2 Sam 7:12-14 – Nathan’s prophecy about David and his descendants

Psalms 2 – all about Messiah

Isa 2:2-3 – Zion exalted, many coming to worship, judge nations, beat swords into plowshares

Isa 9:7 – read at Christmas... will reign of David’s throne forever

Isa 25:6-9. Great feast in the Kingdom... death swallowed up, rejoicing in His salvation

Isa 60:10, 12-15. Israel exceedingly blessed, foreigners building Jerusalem, paying homage to the King, coming to worship

Dan 2:44 – The end of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is the future Kingdom

Dan 7:13-18, 27 – Son of man everlasting dominion over all kingdoms

Jer 23:5 – Future righteous branch King from Davidic line

Ezek 34:12-15, 23-36 – All Israelites gathered back to the Land... safe, blessed... David their shepherd

Ezek 36:22-24, 26-28, 35-36 – LORD says ‘for my sake I will gather Israel and forgive sins, put spirit in them, they will obey and be very blessed’

Ezek 37:21-22, 26-28 – All Israel brought home, one King, everlasting covenant

Ezek 39:21-23, 25-29 – After final Gog-Magog battle, Israel brought back from captivity and blessed so that God’s name is glorified

Amos 9:11-15 – Harvest so great that “the plowman shall overtake the reaper...”

Micah 4:1-3, 7-8 – Nations coming to worship the God of Jacob on Mt. Zion... Israel’s dominion

Zech 9:9-10 – King coming who will rule nations from Mt. Zion