

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

## PART 1: THE PROMISES OF GOD BEING ESTABLISHED IN THE EARTH

**Tonight I am going to kick off a 3 week series about the Kingdom of God.**

**Over these next 3 weeks, we're going to look at these 4 things:**

1. How the OT prophesies spoke of the coming of the Kingdom of God
2. How those OT promises of the Kingdom of God were inaugurated with coming of Christ
3. What the effect is of the Kingdom of God in the Earth
4. What that means for you as an individual Christ follower

Each week in this series will include teaching, activation, and demonstrations.

- When Jesus would talk about His Kingdom, He would also demonstrate.
- My hope is that demonstrations of God's Kingdom in our midst, don't only come from up here
- That you would be activated to become interactive with the Holy Spirit

**This week is part 1 of this series. We are going to look at how the promises about God's Kingdom have been established in the Earth.**

Let's start at ground zero and move on from there...

- **What is a Kingdom?**
  - A kingdom is a realm under the rule and reign of a Sovereign. This rule & reign includes the authority, governance, and influence exerted by the King or Queen.
- **What is God's Kingdom?**
  - The realm where God's rule and reign is established.

*The idea of God's rule & reign impacting the world in a tangible way was spoken about frequently in the Old Testament. It was especially revealed through the mouths of prophets & also poetically through the words of psalmists.*

Here are 3 great OT passages that illustrate this:

**Isaiah 2:2-4 (ESV)** It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, **3** and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. **4** He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

**Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)** 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.

**Psalms 72:8-11 (ESV)** May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! **9** May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! **10** May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! **11** May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

**What is the common theme in these scriptures about the coming Kingdom of God?**

- Nations will come to the King
- Peace, Mercy, & Justice will be in the earth
- This coming Kingdom would be everlasting.

*These OT promises were pointing to **someone** who would be anointed by God to usher God's rule & reign beyond Israel's borders and into the nations.*

- the *result* of this Anointed King ushering in God's Kingdom is the healing of nations with perfect justice, peace, & righteousness.

Please remember God's promise to Abraham

- Abraham would be made a nation
- Through him (his nation/Israel) the nations would be blessed

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT A NEW TESTAMENT INVENTION**

- The disciples, didn't make up the idea of God establishing a Kingdom in the Earth.
- The early Church didn't make up that idea.
- Zealous religious Jews in antiquity didn't make up the idea

God is the one who spoke about it. God Himself not only introduced the idea...He made promises about what His Kingdom would be like.

**Another great example of this is in Daniel 2**

- Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue
- Who gave Nebuchadnezzar this dream? God.
- The statue represented various kingdoms in the earth, including Nezy's kingdom
- The statue (kingdoms) was destroyed by a rock not cut by humans (not created by man)
- This rock grew and filled the whole earth

**Daniel 2:44 (ESV)** *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,*

This is the promise of God...

- God was going to set up a Kingdom that would overcome the kingdoms of the Earth
- God's Kingdom would never be destroyed.

God spoke about this coming King & Kingdom through Zechariah with this promise:

**Zechariah 9:9-10 (ESV)** *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. **10** I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.*

What do we see here again...a Kingdom that covers the world...nations coming to this King sent by God...the nations will be His, and peace will be present.

**When we look at all the things God spoke through prophets & psalmists, we see Him divinely pointing to someone who would anointed by Him to be King over a forever Kingdom that so impacts the world in a way that societies are transformed and nations are healed.**

Now...this is a Saturday night service meant for Christians...so most of you are already educated in the Bible enough to know that Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfillment of these things.

There are around 300 prophesies about the Messiah that Jesus has already fulfilled. Some of the major ones include:

**1. The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem**

- Reference: Micah 5:2
- Fulfillment: Matthew 2:1

**2. The Messiah would be born of a virgin**

- Reference: Isaiah 7:14
- Fulfillment: Matthew 1:22-23

**3. The Messiah would come from Abraham & David's lineage**

- Reference: Genesis 12:3; Genesis 17:19; Number 24:17; Jeremiah 23:5
- Fulfillment: Matthew 1:1-7; Luke 3:23-28

**4. The Messiah would minister in Galilee**

- Reference: Isaiah 9:1-2
- Fulfillment: Mathew 4:13-16

**5. The Messiah would Perform Miracles**

- Reference: Isaiah 35:5-6; Isaiah 61:1-2
- Fulfillment: Matthew 11:4-6; Luke 7:22

**6. The Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a donkey**

- Reference: Zechariah 9:9
- Fulfillment: Matthew 21:1-5

**7. The Messiah would be betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver**

- Reference: Psalm 41:9; Zechariah 11:12-13
- Fulfillment: Matthew 26:14-16; Matthew 27:3-10

**8. The Messiah would suffer & die for the sins of the world**

- Reference: Isaiah 53; Psalm 22
- Fulfillment: Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19

**9. The Messiah would rise from the dead**

- Reference: Psalm 16:10; Psalm 49:15; Hosea 6:2
- Fulfillment: Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

**10. The Messiah would ascend to heaven and sit at the right hand of God**

- Reference: Psalm 68:18; Psalm 110:1
- Fulfillment: Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11

Messiah (hebrew) = Anointed One

Christ (greek) = Anointed One

- Anointed for what
- OT picture is someone Anointed to serve as King over God's people
- Messiah = Anointed King.

**The Old Testament reveals the Kingdom of God...the New Testament expresses it.**

**What did Jesus *immediately* do when He began His ministry...His *very first message* was a *proclamation of the arrival of the Kingdom of God.***

**Mark 1:14-15 (ESV)** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, **15** and saying, "*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.*"

Jesus was immediately telling everyone who would listen to Him...

- He was the One that God has been talking about about.
- He was here and He was inaugurating God's Kingdom in the Earth.

### **Here Are 2 Things That Are Important To Know About The Kingdom Of God:**

1. Jesus showed the nearness of God's Kingdom through miracles, signs, & wonders
  - **Matthew 12:28 (ESV)** But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
2. Jesus Established God's Kingdom Through His Victory Over Sin & Death
  - **Matthew 12:29 (ESV)** Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

Jesus was being falsely accused of driving out demons with the power of demons...and we was being pressed for answers. Jesus did directly answer them - He casts demons out by the Holy Spirit's power, not the power of other demons. But beyond answering the question and false accusation directly, He elevated the conversation by revealing that every time He was casting out a devil, the Kingdom of God was advancing...the illustration of the strong man thus has a dual meaning...yes to get the demon out of a person the (strong) demon must be bound by a stronger man...Jesus...in advancing God's Kingdom is the stronger man binding the powers that have kept God's Kingdom at bay from the nations.

- God's Kingdom was *inaugurated* through the *virgin birth & ministry of Jesus*
- God's Kingdom was *demonstrated* through *miracles, signs, & wonders*
- God's Kingdom was *established* through the *death, resurrection & ascension* of Jesus

### **Some people wrongly think that The Devil is God's Opposite.**

- God & the devil are not in a boxing match going rounds with each other
- Satan is not all knowing, all powerful, or in all places

The original plan of God was that humanity would have dominion in the Earth...but humanity, deceived by the serpent, gave that domain away. In that deception, sin crept in through the door, and with sin's power came death as a prison

Deception opens the door to sin...

### **The Kingdom of God does not partner or work well with sin and death**

- God had no desire to share His rule & reign, His beloved people, or the world He created with sin and death.
- So in order for the Kingdom of God (the rule & reign of God) to impact the world, He broke the prison of death that held the world by sin's power

### **Jesus defeated death & the grave by entering into it**

*When the grave opened up and swallowed Jesus, it swallowed more than it could hold onto.*

**Colossians 2:14-15 (ESV)** ...This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

**Acts 2:24 (ESV)** God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

**Revelation 1:17-18 (ESV)** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, **18** and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Jesus disarmed spiritual powers through His death.  
He has plundered the grave through His resurrection.

*The Dominion of Darkness does not want the earth to be blessed under the Rule & Reign of God. Look at history...principalities and thrones were constantly tried subjugate the one nation under God's Rule & Reign - Israel - to their control.*

*Because of this Jesus' victory, that strong man in the earth that opposes the rule and reign of God from leaving Israel and impact nations has been bound...this strong man has no ability to stop the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Messiah King, reaching into the people of every nation*

So in the death & resurrection of Jesus, the strong man is bound & hades is plundered.

Look at Christ **now**...

**Revelation 3:21 (ESV)** The one who conquers (overcomes), I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, **as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.**

**Jesus has sat down with the Father on His throne...**

- Does this say Jesus is still to sit down on a throne or that He has sat down on a throne?
- It has happened
- This is already done

**Jesus isn't inheriting a throne that is to come at His return...He is seated on a throne now... which mean He ruling and reigning NOW.**

- The bible teaches when Jesus finished his work on the Cross, He ascended after His resurrection, He sat on a throne in Heaven...

The apostles didn't teach that someday when Jesus returns...**then at that time** He would be the Lord and Anointed King...the apostolic teaching of the 12 is that **Jesus is enthroned NOW** as **Lord** and **Anointed King**...

Read Peter's sermon...

**Acts 2:36 (ESV)** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God **has made** him both **Lord and Christ**, this Jesus whom you crucified.

- Christ = Messiah
- The OT idea of messiah was never separated from kingship
- Jesus who was crucified is both Lord and Anointed King

Since Jesus is already enthroned, now.

- The Kingdom of God (or the rule & reign) of God isn't a distant off in the future thing
- He is King NOW
- Which means there is a Kingdom NOW

Jesus taught the people His Kingdom won't have observable signs as coming from here or there because it is within the hearts of those who are His. God's Kingdom is here now, with His Rule & Reign established in the hearts of those who believe in Him.

**The apostles saw Jesus' ascension as the fulfilled promise that the God would establish an eternal Kingdom through David's offspring.**

Do you remember what God prophesied to David through Nathan?

**2 Samuel 7:12 (ESV)** 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 (forever). He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

God said this would happen when?

- When David sleeps with his fathers.

- When David is dead & in the grave
- That's why this prophecy is not fulfilled by Solomon
- Solomon sat on David's throne while David was still alive.

**Peter affirms this prophetic promise to David is specifically about about Jesus in the same sermon He taught that God made Jesus both Lord & Christ (Anointed King)...**

**Acts 2:29-31 (ESV)** “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, **31** he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.

There are some people who *wrongly* think that because the prophecy mentions David's throne, then that means that the Kingdom of God won't be established in the earth until Jesus has returned and is seated in Jerusalem.

Jesus will physically & visibly return...but

The Throne Of David Does Not Refer To A Literal Chair David Sat On.

- Solomon built a temple and new palace...he sat on a different Chair than David
- But it was still considered David's throne

The Throne Refers Authority To Rule & Reign Over God's People

- Jesus NOW sits as the ruler, or King, of God's people

So according to the Apostle Peter, the chair that Jesus sits on now is David's throne...but it's not on earth...it's in the heavens.

When Jesus was raised from the dead, He said, ALL authority in heaven and on earth is His. Jesus will always be incarnated. He still has a human body, and He, in His human body, has ascended...So His present position is enthroned in Heaven ruling over the whole universe...

The King is worthy of this honor.

**Ephesians 1:20-21 (ESV)** “...when he <sup>(God)</sup> raised him <sup>(Jesus)</sup> from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far **above** all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”

*Here is the question I want to leave you with tonight:*

**How many scriptures talk about God's Kingdom being temporary in the Earth?**

- Some Christians do think that way...



- They see Jesus as savior but that His Kingdom is something yet to come upon the Earth
- They see Him saving people's souls now
- They see Him ushering in His Kingdom after His return

When the Messiah came...He came to introduce His Kingdom into the world then and there... so that it would transform the world. When He ascended...it's not like God left the world...The ascent of the incarnation brought the descent of the Holy Spirit.

God's Kingdom...it is in the Holy Spirit...not in might or power.

*When I read the scripture I don't see the Kingdom of God as something that is coming to us...I see the Kingdom of God as something has come to us and is now **slowly growing and spreading** throughout the nations of the earth from generation to generation...*

I don't think the world is going to get worse and worse.

I don't have an eschatology that is expecting the world to fall apart

Since Jesus' ascension has the world gotten better or worse?

Since Jesus' ascension has the Church multiplied or disappeared?

Since Jesus' ascension has the social injustices of the world increased or decreased?

Since Jesus' ascension has the standard of life become greater or less?

What about these things that follow the proclamation of scripture would cause us to think that we should anticipate the world to get worse?

This isn't to say that the devil does not resist the advances of God's kingdom...hell does.

Hell can fight believers and churches and resist the Gospel and persecute the church, but the powers of Hell have been incapable of stopping the momentum of the Kingdom of God in the earth.

When I look at the earth over the past 2,000 years I see it getting better!

- This isn't to say it is perfect.
- This isn't to say there are not still injustices
- This isn't to say poverty and sickness and war are not effecting people

But the these negative effects have been on the gradual decline since Jesus has ascended as King over all.

Jesus is building His Church and the gates of Hell cannot prevail against it.

- Gates - defensive
- This means Heaven is on the offensive

Jesus didn't play defense with the Devil!

- He embraced death on a cross, went straight into Hades, took the keys
- Then Ascended to His throne in heaven...
- His Kingdom is advancing in the earth through His Church that is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

God isn't in a hurry.

**2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

I have a biblically informed eschatology that says the world is being healed.

The Church isn't going anywhere, because it is growing every where.

- Jesus isn't returning to a broken bride
- He is coming back to a glorious bride.

He isn't returning to a world that is absent of His Kingdom...He will be returning to a world that has been transformed by His Kingdom.