

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW: YOUR KINGDOM COME...ON EARTH
JROC - Week 20 – What kingdom? And, WHEN?
November 21, 2021

As we continue in the book of Matthew, we are going to read much about the Kingdom of heaven which is the same as the Kingdom of God. Matthew's audience was Jewish. Jews were sensitive about using God's name. Matthew understood their sensitivity and used the term "kingdom of heaven".

What are the components of a Kingdom? A King, subjects, the law/constitution (given at Mt. Sinai), a government is established.

When do we first read "Kingdom" in Scripture as it relates to God's kingdom? God will make Israel a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:6)

To whom is God speaking? Israel. Is that important? Israel is the only nation with whom God has made a covenant to bless the other nations of the world (Gen. 12:3; Gen. 18:18; Isa. 43:10; Isa. 2 [the nations shall come to God's kingdom in Jerusalem to be taught by the Messiah]; Isa. 60 [the Gentiles shall come to your light; Isa. 62 [the Gentiles shall see your righteousness])

II Sam. 7:23-24 - ²³ And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? ²⁴ For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God.

Ex. 4:22 - The nation of Israel was chosen as God's firstborn among nations (Ex. 4:22). The nation of Israel was to be a nation of priests and represent God's means of bringing earth His blessings and message of salvation (Ex. 19:6).

The kingdom in Matthew thus far in our study:

Matt. 3:2

Matt. 4:12-17

Matt. 4:23

Matt. 5 – the Beatitudes

When someone tells you:

"We're involved in kingdom work"

What does that mean? Have you used that term?

When someone tells you:

"We're doing it for the kingdom"

What does that mean? Have you used that term?

WHAT KINGDOM? WHEN WOULD THIS KINGDOM COME?

Some say that we're building the kingdom now – which means the Church is building the kingdom now.

Many teach that the Church is tasked with Christianizing the world. Many understand this from Matt. 24:14 - *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

Jesus is telling the disciples about the tribulation in Matt. 24. In the tribulation God will pour out His wrath upon non-believers. AND there will be EVANGELISM like never before: 144,000 (Rev. 7), the two witnesses (Rev. 11); three angels will be proclaiming (Rev. 14:6-11)

Do you know what “end times” looks like for the Church? Apostasy!!! The Church will not conquer the world! JESUS WILL! The world is influencing the Church!

I Tim. 4:1-3 - *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³ forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.*

II Tim. 4:1-5 - *I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

Jesus told His disciples that the during the time of His departure, Christendom would be comprised of wheat and tares (wolves in sheeps clothing).

The Corinthian church was carnal.

The book of Jude addresses apostasy!

Let's compare two statements:

“The kingdom of heaven” is God’s spiritual reign in the hearts and minds of His people that begins here on earth and takes us to heaven. It’s Jesus as Lord and Savior Who reigns and rules in the hearts and minds of His people. It has both an internal (between an individual and God) and external (involving His Church) aspect.

“The account of Jesus and the kingdom He came to establish has deep roots in the soil of Israel’s history. For centuries, the strip of land between the eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea and the western boundary of the Arabian Desert has been – and

continues to be – ground zero for ongoing conflict between good and evil. The conflict is – and will be cosmic (UNIVERSAL); the conflict is of VAST proportions). Therefore, it is no accident that Jesus was born there or that His destiny was so intricately intertwined with the future of Israel.”

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As we’re studying Matthew we need to remember that Matthew’s gospel is Jewish – he wrote to a Jewish audience.

The Gospel of Matthew is the perfect bridge between the OT and the NT.

AND, Matthew has told us in his gospel MUCH about the kingdom of heaven/the Kingdom of God on earth in HARMONY with OT passages.

The NT doesn’t reinterpret what God promised Israel nor does the NT nix what God promised Israel. The NT doesn’t replace or eliminate Israel.

Are these two different kingdoms?

What’s the difference?

Is the kingdom now? If so, why?

Is the kingdom in the future? If so, why?

We have been told by Jesus to pray, “Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done – on EARTH – as it is in heaven.” Jesus told the disciples and the multitude that gathered to pray this WHILE He was in their midst. While He had come to offer Himself as King.

He told the disciples at their last Passover Seder together prior to the crucifixion, *I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom* (Matt. 26:29).

Jesus had told the children of Israel during “passion week” - *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!* (Israel hadn’t, as a nation, yet repented) ³⁸ *See! Your house is left to you desolate;* ³⁹ *for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’*

Did He know something that they didn’t?

The Jewish people had already been told through the Prophet Hosea - *I will return again to My place* (Who came to earth and returned to heaven?) *Till they acknowledge their offense* (UNTIL “they” – the Jewish people as a nation – realize their sin/are sorry for their sin [Zech. 12:10]). *Then they will seek My face;*

In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me. AND then Matt. 23:39 is fulfilled – Jesus will return!

He will fight in the campaign of Armageddon (Isa. 63) and then judge the nations (Matt. 25) and the kingdom of God will be established on earth.

Luke 19:11-19 - *Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.¹² Therefore He said: “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.¹³ So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Do business till I come.’¹⁴ But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We will not have this man to reign over us.’*

¹⁵ *“And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.¹⁶ Then came the first, saying,*

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‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’¹⁷ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’¹⁸ And the second came, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned five minas.’¹⁹ Likewise he said to him, ‘You also be over five cities.’

This is why Jesus could declare following His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on “Lamb Selection Day”...

Luke 19:41-44 - *Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,⁴² saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.⁴³ For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,⁴⁴ and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another (70 AD), because you did not know the time of your visitation.”* (based on Daniel 9:24-27; Zech. 9:9; the Messianic miracles Jesus performed, His preaching to the Gentiles as well [Isa. 49:6]....)

Hosea 5:15 – He returned to His place in heaven where He sits at the right hand of God and NOT on the throne of David

Heb. 1:3 - *...who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,* Cross reference to find other verses re: Jesus at the right hand of God the Father at this time.

Isa. 2:2-4 – *Now it shall come to pass in the latter days*

That the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.³ Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall 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 rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks (knives); nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. Is this occurring currently?

How else is the Kingdom of God described in the Bible?

Luke 1:32-33 - the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Psa. 2:9 – Jesus will rule with a rod of iron (immediate justice).

Matt. 6:33 - We read of righteousness - seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Isa. 2 – is this happening today? God's truth being taught to the nations?

Zech. 8:23 - "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

Isa. 11 – are these conditions existing now?

Rev. 20:1-3 - Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him

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into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.

Where is Satan now? *1 Pet. 5:8 - Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

The disciples didn't know Jesus came to die:

Matt. 16:21 - From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. ²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying,] "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

The disciples didn't think Jesus was going away. They thought that He would manifest Himself as King.

Matt. 24:1-3 - Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ² And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another; that shall not be thrown down." ³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to

Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

In Scripture Who establishes the Kingdom of God?

Dan. 2:44 - Read Dan. 2:1-45.

Dan. 7:13-14, 23-27 - *I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed... 'The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. ²⁴ The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings. ²⁵ He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time (last half of the tribulation). ²⁶ 'But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his (antichrist's) dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. ²⁷ Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'*