



What is the Kingdom of God?

Hey Church Family! First things first: You are loved! It feels good to write that and to feel it. I have been so blessed to see the hunger of our church family for the LORD and His word in recent weeks. We are in this foundational series “The Bible as one book” and there’s wonderful momentum surrounding us. We’ve sold out of Vaughn Roberts’ book (more than once) and hundreds and hundreds of us are on the same Bible Reading Plan, the E-100. What a joy to see God’s people pursue God’s plan together. Remember, we do this not just for information but that this truth would lead to genuine transformation in Christ. May it be so. Again, what we share is special and we are so privileged and so blessed.

My purpose here is to seek to answer a question regarding our series on The Kingdom of God and its thread through the Bible. Here it is: What exactly is the Kingdom of God and how do we explain it? I think that’s an excellent question that truthfully contains many answers. We have defined God’s Kingdom within our series for our purposes, but let’s unpack this a little bit further with details of Scripture. As you know, I love a good Bible study, especially pertaining to Biblical Theology. So here we go: Biblically speaking, here is the Kingdom of God¹:

The Kingdom of God is:

- A present reality (Matt. 12:28) When Christ came into this world the Kingdom of God came with Him. As Jesus says in Matt. 12:28, “the kingdom of God has come upon you.” Therefore, through Christ and now His Church, God’s Kingdom is a present reality.
- A future blessing (1 Cor. 15:50) The Kingdom of God is found to be within the theological understanding of “already and not yet.” It is already here upon us and within us as believers, and yet it is still to come. The full expression and reality of God’s Kingdom will arrive at the second coming of Jesus Christ. The Kingdom will be inherited by all those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour. This is the point of 1 Cor. 15:50. There will be a future time

¹ I have been greatly helped in this exposition from George Eldon Ladd’s Book “The Gospel of the Kingdom”.



when we will know the full future blessing of our inheritance in the Kingdom of God. Can't wait!

- An inner spiritual redemptive blessing (Rom. 14:17) God's Kingdom bears fruit in our spirits by the power of the Holy Spirit. As the fruit of the Holy Spirit is evidenced in our lives (in the case of Rom. 14:17 this fruit is "peace and joy in the Holy Spirit") then we are both experiencing and manifesting God's Kingdom within our lives. How wonderful, beautiful and powerful is that?! Oh that we may see more of God's Kingdom revealed in us.
- Only accessed by new birth (John 3:3) Jesus makes it abundantly clear in his conversation with Nicodemus that no one can "see" God's Kingdom apart from being "born again." Further, Jesus states clearly that no one may "enter the Kingdom of God" who is not "born of the Spirit." What this means is that to behold God's Kingdom, to value God's Kingdom (Matt. 13:44) and to actually enter God's Kingdom you must experience spiritual re-birth. There are no exceptions to this spiritual truth and reality. This is why so many don't seem to "get it," because they truthfully have never seen it and have not entered into it through the Holy Spirit act of regeneration. Once you gain entrance to the Kingdom by new-birth of the Holy Spirit, you will never be the same again.
- Is sovereign over the government and nations of the world (Rev. 11:15) I interpret this verse from Rev. 11:15 (with many others) that God will redeem and restore the kingdom of the world with the Kingdom of Christ at the second coming of Christ! This is an extraordinary aspect of God's Kingdom which speaks of the purpose and future fulfillment of God's plan for redemption and over all of history. God will bring judgment and justice and He will also bring His Kingdom to be established fully and thoroughly throughout all of creation. Praise Him!
- A realm into which humans enter now, yet it is a realm into which they will enter tomorrow (Matt. 21:31; Matt. 8:11) This is once again an elaboration of the "already and not yet." We partake of the Kingdom now; we are regenerated and enter the Kingdom today. And yet, as we have seen, the entrance to the Kingdom will be fully realized and permitted in the eternal state for those who have believed and trusted in Jesus Christ.



- A gift to be given by God (Luke 12:32) In Luke's gospel here Jesus says, "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." How is that for a joy and blessing?! The Father takes such pleasure in giving us His Kingdom to share in. Take a moment to rejoice in the gospel of Christ because one day soon if you're alive in Him, this will be your reality and this will be the greatest gift you've ever been given.
- A gift to be received now (Mark 10:15) This is the right place to end our examination into the Kingdom of God because it is the invitation to receive His Kingdom. Jesus says in Mark 10:15, "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." This of course is Jesus speaking to the reality of faith like a child. The Kingdom of God will pass over the proud, the arrogant and the self-righteous. The Kingdom of God will not be found among those with unbelief or man-made religion involving self-justification. The Kingdom of God is for those who receive it by faith and in the love of Jesus Christ. The Kingdom is for those who know they are sinners in need of a Saviour. It's those who like a child put down the false notions of the world around us, the arguments of the elite in intellectualism and secularism, and embrace the plan of God with simple but beautiful faith. This is who will receive the Kingdom of God. So, all that to say this: do you want in? Do you want in to the Kingdom of God? Repent from your sin, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, surrender to His will and His love and you will then be a child belonging to the indestructible and undefeated Kingdom of God. May it be so.

You are loved!!

Pastor Robbie