

## Defining the Kingdom John 18:1-11 & 28-38

v 11 - *So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"*

36 - *Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."*

The term, "*kingdom*" occurs 353 times in the OT; 154 times in the NT; 120 times in the Gospels and only 34 times in the rest of the New Testament.

*Kingdom = baseleia = dominion, rule, territory*

The phrase, "*kingdom of God*" occurs 25 times in the OT and 75 times in the New Testament.

In all four gospels,

- 19 in Matthew
- 6 in Mark
- 13 in Luke
- 3 in John
- 34 times in the rest of the NT

The expression "*kingdom of Heaven*" does not occur in the OT but it occurs 31 times in Matthew and nowhere else in the New Testament.

But Matthew also uses the expression "*kingdom of God*" and the "*kingdom of Heaven*" interchangeably.

Matthew 19:23-24 - *And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."*

Matthew 13:31 – *The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field.*

Mark 4:30-31 – *With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed...*

Luke 13:18-19 - *What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? 19 It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.*

Matthew uses "*the kingdom of Heaven*" more because he's writing specifically to Jews who thought God's name was too holy to speak and substituted 'Heaven' for 'God.'

- Matthew presents Jesus as the king
- Mark as the suffering servant
- Luke as the son of man
- John as the son of God

Revelation 6:6b-8 - *And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: <sup>7</sup> the first living creature like*

- *a lion, (Matthew)*

*the second living creature like*

- *an ox, (Mark)*

*the third living creature with the face of*

- *a man, (Luke)*

*and the fourth living creature like*

- *an eagle (John)*

*in flight. <sup>8</sup> And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"*

Whatever the kingdom is, it is SO important that Jesus said,

Mark 9:47 – *And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell,*

### **First: God is a King**

#### a) Before the Old Testament

In its broadest sense, the kingdom of God is God's eternal, sovereign rule over everything that exists.

Psalm 103:19 – *The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.*

Psalm 145:13 – *Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.*

Daniel 4:3 - *His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.*

Romans 13:1 - *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*

God's kingdom has always been, and will always be

#### b) The Old Testament

Psalm 24:10 – *Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!*

Psalm 29:10 - ... *the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.*

Psalm 95:3 – *For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods*

ILL – David and Goliath present a visual aid to God's kingdom

#### c) The New Testament

- Jesus announced, Mark 1:16 – *...the kingdom of God is at hand...*

Luke 11:20 - *But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

Luke 17:21 - *...behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.*"

Everywhere that Jesus went, he brought God's kingdom to bear on the world. This brought

a) Comfort as he healed in/from Satan's kingdom

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 - *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

Ephesians 2:1-3 - *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body<sup>[a]</sup> and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

- Spiritually – Nicodemus – John 3
- emotionally – mentally – woman at the Samaritan well – John 4
- physically - paralytic at Bethesda – John 5
- nature – walking on water – John 6

b) Conflict as he established the true meaning of the kingdom

- Mark 10:2 - *Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"*
- Matthew 12:2 - *[The Pharisees] said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath."*
- Mark 12:13 - *They sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk.*
- Luke 15:2 - *The Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."*

- Luke 6:7 - *The scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him.*
- John 7:32 - *The chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him.*

With this comfort and conflict in mind we are taught:

- to pray - Matthew 6:10 - *Your kingdom come, your will be done*
- to seek - Matthew 6:33 – *... seek first the kingdom of God...*

## **Second: Satan's Kingdom**

Luke 11:18a - *And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?*

There is a real sense in which the divine redemptive drama now playing out on the earth can be set in the contest between two kingdoms: that of God and Satan.

ILL – When the Visigoths sacked Rome in 410 AD, and Christians were blamed for offending the Roman gods, Augustine wrote “*The City of God*,” which explained human history as the struggle between the temporal world people are building – the earthly city/city of man - and the eternal world that God is building – the eternal city/city of God.

It is a conflict that occurs cosmically, globally, and personally.

ILL – In Corinth, Paul is arguing for the eternal city to win the day in the lives of his Corinthian audience and in the corporate church.

### **Third: The 'Now and Not-Yet' Kingdom**

*Acts 1:3 – He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.*

*Acts 1:6-7 - So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

#### a) Here and Now - Spiritual

*Hebrews 2:7-9 – You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. <sup>9</sup> But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

This explains Jesus's comment to Peter and Pilate and why Jesus

*John 6:15 - Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.*

*Colossians 1:13 – He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,*

God is now expanding his kingdom

*Mark 4:26 – The kingdom of God is as if a man should scattered seed on the ground*

Luke 1:6-8 – *So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”* <sup>7</sup> *He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.* <sup>8</sup> *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

ILL – Joseph is a visual aid for how God is expanding his kingdom -

b) Then and There – Literal and Physical

Daniel 2:44 - *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,*

Daniel 4:34 – [Nebuchadnezzar] - *...his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;*

1 Corinthians 15:20-26 - *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.* <sup>21</sup> *For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.* <sup>22</sup> *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.* <sup>23</sup> *But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.* <sup>24</sup> *Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.* <sup>25</sup> *For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.* <sup>26</sup> *The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

Philippians 2:10 - *...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Revelation 11:15 – *...The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.*

### **Conclusion:**

There is a sense in which God's kingdom can be summarized and explained in the single word, "reign," whether spiritually in the hearts of God's people now or literally on the earth soon.

In the interim, we are to live as God's kingdom people. Lord willing, we will look at that next week -