

I. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS THE MAIN MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

- A. The kingdom of God is a central theme of the Scriptures, both O.T. and N.T.
- B. Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom of God and demonstrated it's breaking in to this age.

Matt. 4:23-24 (NKJV) And Jesus...preaching THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people...

Matt. 9:35 Then Jesus went about...preaching THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

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.

Mark 1:14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Luke 4:43 but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."

Luke 11:20 "But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

- C. After the resurrection, Acts 1:1-3, Jesus preached the kingdom of God.
- D. Paul preached the Kingdom of God. Acts 28:30-31. To preach the kingdom of God does not necessarily mean that we need to use the word "kingdom of God."

II. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS HIS RULE AND REIGN

- A. Definition: The kingdom of God is wherever God's rule and reign are established.
- B. The kingdom of God is the experience of ultimate blessings, like the Garden of Eden, and beyond, where evil is fully overcome and God's peace and joy are in fullness.
Rom. 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Luke 19:11 ...they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately...

- C. In God's Kingdom, God is the Sovereign, we live according to His laws (Sermon on the Mount), we have the privileges of operating in God's Kingdom (righteousness, peace, joy, love, power of the Holy Spirit, true life now and in the age to come).
- D. The kingdom of God includes Israel. But it's not just Israel. It's about God blessing all the nations of the earth through Israel.

- E. The Kingdom of God is not just political. Everyone on earth will live according to God's order, not by their greed, lust, anger. Governments will be under God's Law.

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.

- F. God's kingdom will progressively increase and cover the earth as Jesus returns and establishes it here on earth (cf. Daniel 2).

Matt. 13:31-33 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, ³² "which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." ³³ Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

Eph. 1:9-10 ...the mystery of His will...He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth -- in Him. (cf. Rev. 21)

III. IT IS POSSIBLE TO COMPLETELY MISS THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- A. Some people will reject God's Kingdom. They will not receive Jesus as their Lord.
- B. Some people will think they are serving Jesus when they followed after a "Jesus" of their own invention, not the Jesus of the Bible.

IV. WE MUST PREACH THE WHOLE COUNSELS OF GOD

Acts 20:27 "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

- A. People think of "salvation" as being forgiven from our sins, going to heaven. Yet, that is only just the gate to the city. There is a beautiful city of justice, peace, love, and mercy. We must preach the reality of the city, the kingdom of God. The gate is Jesus.

John 10:9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

- B. Some people arrive just inside the door and stay there and never realize that there is much more to it than just the entrance. We must preach the whole counsels of God.
- C. Without the preaching of the kingdom of God we will only have a luke-warm Christianity.
- D. Without the preaching of the kingdom of God, we will have a powerless Christianity.

1 Cor 2:4-5 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

1 Cor. 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.