

Chapter 3

Thy Kingdom Come

What unifies the Old Testament and the New Testament is the teaching concerning the Kingdom of God. The Old Testament prophets declared the kingdom as a day when men and women would live together in peace and prosperity. All social problems would end and all evil would pass away. The Old Testament proclaimed a day when the Messiah would come, His kingdom would be established, problems would be solved and the enemies of God would be placed under the feet of His Messianic King. This was the Jewish expectation when Jesus and His ministry appeared on the scene.

Isaiah chapter two speaks of this future day. *“The LORD will settle international disputes, all the nations will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. All wars will stop, and military training will come to an end”* (Isaiah 2:4, The New Living Translation).

Jesus message was not new when He came on the scene and proclaimed, *“The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand”* (Mark 1:15), it was what the Jews had been waiting for, for hundreds of years. A time where God’s will would be done on earth just as perfectly as it is done in heaven (Matthew 6:10). The earth will reflect everything that heaven reflects. Romans 8:18-23 speaks of this day: *“¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, everything on earth was subjected to God’s curse. ²¹ All creation anticipates the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan to be released from pain and suffering. We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as his children, including the new bodies he has promised us”* (The New Living Translation).

Even we that have the Spirit of God are waiting for a day in which we will see the redemption of our bodies. The blessings of the kingdom may be tasted of now (Heb. 6:4-5) through healings and miracles, but it will be fully experienced in the future when all things are made new. Isaiah 11:6-9 speaks of the new heavens and the new earth in which righteousness will dwell (2 Peter 3:13): *“⁶ In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard and the goat will be at peace. Calves and yearlings will be safe among lions, and a little child will lead them all. ⁷ The cattle will graze among bears. Cubs and calves will lie down together. And lions will eat grass as the livestock do. ⁸ Babies will crawl safely among poisonous snakes. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes and pull it out unharmed. ⁹ Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain. And as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the LORD”* (The New Living Translation).

I once saw a man in Africa that had captured some very interesting footage on his video camera. As he was walking along he was filming a herd of water buffalo. They were walking with their heads down and were going to a lake. Not paying much attention they failed to see lions several hundred yards away that were picking out a baby buffalo as their prey. As they were crouching as cats do, they grabbed the small calf out of the herd and started the process of killing it by chewing on its neck. The calf began to yell and cry as a lion had its throat. The calf tried to get away by edging toward the lake. Cats don't like to get into water. The lion had the calf's neck but it was able to get its tail end into the water. Suddenly an alligator in the lake got a hold of the calf's back end. The alligator was pulling the calf into the lake while the lion was trying to pull him out of the lake. It was a tug of war that last awhile with the water buffalo in between. Of course the water buffalo was crying out in pain an agony. Then suddenly the mother buffalo appeared with the herd. She attacked the lion with her horns and knocked him several feet into the air. The baby water buffalo was then able to get free and ran back into the herd. Hopefully the baby recovered from its wounds. When I saw this footage I thought of the passages we have been looking at. The Old Testament is telling us that the Messiah will come and bring everlasting peace even to the animal creation. In that day there will be wholeness, wellness and everything in creation will be put back in order.

This is the concept that the Old Testament and the Jewish people had of the future kingdom. When the Messiah comes, He would set all things in order. Jesus did not correct this concept of His kingdom, He only added a time element and new dimension to its understanding (Acts 1:6-7; Mk. 4:11). The Old Testament does not divide the first and second coming of the Messiah as the New Testament does. So the Jewish expectation of His coming was to be one event. Into this culture and understanding Jesus appeared. That which they longed for Jesus now begins to announce. "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17).

If you are going to be honest with the scriptures, Jesus message was the kingdom of God. Everything He says and does centers around this subject. Christ gospel not only centered around the kingdom of God but it also showed men how they may enter. The future hope that was promised in the Old Testament will now be fulfilled in the New.

What Jesus said and what Jesus did, brought together in reality the truth He was proclaiming. His miracles were a demonstration of His words. I remember several years ago I was talking to a friend. He was telling me that he had studied in the Bible the subject of healing for at least a year to try to discover a key to the miraculous. I told him, "Look at the message being proclaimed around the miraculous. What Jesus did demonstrated the message that He proclaimed." I don't believe that Jesus went around giving healing seminars, although He did a lot of healing. I don't believe His apostles gave healing seminars, but they did a lot of healing. The healing was around the message that was being proclaimed. "*Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people*" (Matt. 4:23). I believe that His message and His works demonstrated that He was the Messiah (John 7:31). I believe

that His message and His miracles demonstrated His authority over the evil one (Matt. 12:26-29). I believe His message and miracles demonstrated His right to rule (1 Cor. 15:25). A stronger man than the strong man (Satan), has come and spoiled the enemies house and taken his goods (Matt. 12:29).

Jesus also gave instruction to His twelve apostles to proclaim the same message as He did. *“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease... These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying,... as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give”* (Matt. 10:1, 5, 7-8). The gospel of the kingdom was the only gospel that Jesus instructed His disciples to preach. *“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick... And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where”* (Luke 9:1-2,6). These scriptures use the present tense and are saying that Jesus commission was to preach and continue to preach the kingdom of God. To heal and continue to heal those that have need of healing.

We are beginning to see a pattern. Go and preach the kingdom of God and demonstrate Christ rule an authority over Satan by healing the sick and casting out devils. In Luke chapter ten we see the same thing but on a much larger scale. *“After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two...heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you...He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me. And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you”* (Luke 10:1, 9, 16-19). Again Jesus commissions seventy people to preach the kingdom, heal the sick and demonstrate His authority as the Messiah King by healing and casting out devils. It is my conviction that Jesus never commissioned anyone to preach any other message or gospel than that which He Himself proclaimed. *“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come”* (Matthew 24:14).

The term “kingdom of God” was frequently on the lips of Jesus. The idea of the kingdom was central to His proclamation. He not only talked about the kingdom but He instructed and prepared people’s hearts to receive the kingdom. *“Jesus began to preach, and to say, “Repent: (have a change of heart and of mind) for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (Matt. 4:17). Jesus said you won’t see it or perceive it unless there is a transformation on the inside of you that Jesus called a New Birth (Jn. 3:3).

Is there a present reality of the kingdom? Yes. Is there a future reality of the kingdom? Yes. Each and every time that a miracles take place the powers of the age to come are

present now (Heb.6:5). Each and every time there is a spiritual New Birth the powers of the age to come are present now. If you want to hear Jesus say, *“Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”* (Matt. 25:34), then you must *“Repent...and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out”* (Acts 3:19). The real enemy of mankind was not the governments of this world but the spiritual forces of darkness that rule over the hearts of men. To enjoy the age to come, one must renounce the god of this present evil age. Only by doing so, shall you enjoy the blessings of the kingdom of God.

The second coming of Christ promises the consummation of the kingdom for the children of God. Today, the children of the kingdom and the children of the wicked one are mixed together in this present evil world. At a future time there will be a separation. Whose side will you be on?

Questions

1. **Read Isaiah 2:4; 11:6-9.** What unifies the Old Testament and New Testament is the teaching concerning the Kingdom of God. The Old Testament scriptures declared the Kingdom as a day when men and women would live together in peace, social problems would be solved and evil would be done away. True or False.
2. **Read Luke 9:1-2.** The gospel of the Kingdom is the only gospel Jesus commanded his disciples to preach. True or False.
3. **Read Luke 10:1, 9; 9:60; Matthew 24:14.** When Jesus sent out others He also commanded them to preach the gospel of the Kingdom. True or False.
4. **Read Matthew 4:17; Luke 13:3, 5; John 3:3, 5; Hebrews 2:3.** Jesus words told us how to enter the Kingdom. True or False.
5. **Read Hebrews 6:5.** Jesus miracles were a taste of the powers of the age to come. True or False.
6. **Read Acts 28:23, 30-31.** Jesus gave the Apostle Paul a different message to proclaim. True or False.
7. **Read Matthew 6:10.** Jesus prayer modeled for the disciples the desire that the Kingdom of God would come to the earth. True or False.
8. **Read 2 Peter 3:13.** When God’s Kingdom (in its full manifestation) comes to earth, all things will be new. True or False.
9. **Read 1 Timothy 2:6; Matthew 20:28.** To make the blessings of the Kingdom everlasting, mankind had to be ransomed from death and legally released from the condemnation which was passed upon all in Adam. True or False.

10. **Read Matthew 25:31, 34, 46.** Jesus second coming promises the consummation of the Kingdom for His children. True or False.
11. **Read 2 Peter 3:13; Daniel 7:18, 27.** The Kingdom of God brings an end to the old order of humanity and begins a new existence in a heavenly order. True or False.
12. **Read Mark 1:14-15. Colossians 1:13-14; Acts 26:18.** The Kingdom of God is a realm in which one must enter now. True or False.
13. **Read Matthew 25:34; 1 Cor. 15:50, 53.** The Kingdom of God is a realm in which one must enter tomorrow. True or False.
14. **Read Acts 26:16-23.** In order to enter the Kingdom, one must: a. have their spiritual eyes opened. b. turn from darkness to light. c. turn from the power (authority) of Satan unto God. d. receive the forgiveness of their sins. e. turn to God in repentance and faith. f. all of the above.

Answer Key

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