

Chapter 4

The Basis for The King & His Kingdom

In the Old Testament, what made Israel distinct from all other nations was that it was a theocracy. In other words, it was ruled directly by God (Is. 43:15). Later in Israel's history, they wanted to be like the other nations of the world, to be ruled by an earthly king (1 Sam. 8:5-19). So God granted their request and chose for them a king named Saul (1 Sam. 10:24-25). Later, because of Saul's disobedience, God raised up David to be king, a man after His own heart (Acts 13:21-22 and 1 Kin. 15:3).

The king was to be the visible representative of the invisible God (Deut. 17:14-20). When the king followed the Lord, he and his kingdom would prosper. When the king failed to follow the Lord, he and his kingdom would go into captivity and ruin (1 Sam. 15:22-23).

When God chose a king, He would send a prophet to anoint that one with oil. This typified the Holy Spirit coming upon this one to empower and anoint him to rule. At this time, the Spirit of God would come upon him and change his heart to rule in righteousness, for God was with him (1 Sam. 10:1, 6-7, and 9). This anointing to rule (or to be king) is where the idea of the Messiah comes from. The word "anointed" in Hebrew is *Mashiac* (Messiah) and translated *christos* (Christ) in Greek. The Old Testament prophets prophesied that in the future, the Messiah (or Anointed One) would come, and the God of heaven would set up a kingdom which would never be destroyed (Dan. 2:44, 7:14, and 27). In the Scriptures, if you notice, Jesus never explained to the Jews what He meant when speaking about the kingdom. It was an Old Testament concept that they were already looking for (Is. 9:6-7, 11:1-6; Dan. 2:44, 7:13-14, 18, and 27).

It is impossible to understand the message of Jesus without a basic understanding of the kingdom. The kingdom was the message that Jesus spoke and the only one He instructed His disciples to preach (Mark 1:14-15, Luke 9:1-2, Acts 28:23-31, Luke 16:16, and Matt. 24:14). This message was also referred to as "salvation" or the offer of "eternal life" (Heb. 2:3; Matt. 19:16 cp., 19:23; Acts 28:23-24, 28, and 30-31). Within the phrase "the kingdom of God" is the idea of a group of people that would be ruled by God. In order to enter God's kingdom, conditions had to be met. A change of heart was required. This change of heart is what the Bible calls repentance. It was a change of heart toward God; that is, it was a turning away from Satan, sin and its ways, unto God, Christ and His ways. As one turns, God offers (as a gift through Jesus' shed blood) the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life (Rom. 6:23). This "good news" is referred to as the

“Gospel of grace” or the preaching of the “kingdom of God” (Acts 20:24-25). The kingdom of God is characterized by grace (Matt. 20:1-16) and has come quietly and secretly in the ministry of Jesus (Matt. 13:33). It will one day in the future come to a glorious and visible consummation (Matt. 13:36-43).

Questions

1. **Read Daniel 2:44.** The Old Testament prophets prophesied that in the future, the Messiah (or Anointed One) would come, and the God of heaven would set up a kingdom which: A. would last for 1,000 years. B. would never be destroyed. C. would be temporal.
2. **Read Matthew 4:17, 23.** What was Jesus’ message?
3. **Read Mark 1:14-15.** Jesus preached the Gospel of _____.
4. **Read Luke 4:43.** The reason that Jesus was sent from God was to _____.
5. **Read John 4:25.** In the Scriptures, Jesus never explained to the Jews what He meant when speaking about the kingdom. It was an Old Testament concept that they: a. knew little about. b. thought would never come. c. were already looking for.
6. **Read Luke 9:1-2.** What three things did the twelve disciples do?
7. **Read Luke 10:1-2, 8-9.** What message did Jesus tell the seventy to proclaim?
8. **Read Luke 23:2.** According to the Jews’ own definition, the word “Christ” means one that is a _____.
9. **Read Acts 17:7.** Contrary to Roman law, the Jews said that the Apostle Paul taught that there was another _____ one _____.
10. **Read Acts 19:8-10.** Paul spoke boldly in Ephesus disputing and persuading others concerning _____.
11. **Read Acts 28:23-31.** In verse 31, what was it that the Apostle Paul was preaching?
12. **Read Matthew 24:14.** What is the message that is to be preached in all the world?

13. **Read Acts 20:24-25.** Sometimes the Gospel of the kingdom is referred to as the Gospel of _____.

14. **Read Luke 16:16.** It is impossible to understand the message of Jesus without a basic understanding of the kingdom. The kingdom was the message that Jesus spoke and the only one He instructed His disciples to: a. preach. b. disregard. c. ponder.

15. **Read Matthew 6:10.** Basically, the kingdom of God is the rule of God. How is this expressed in this verse?

16. **Read Colossians 1:13-14 and Romans 14:9.** Within the phrase “the kingdom of God” is the idea of a group of people that would: a. ask Jesus into their hearts b. accept God’s rule (and reject Satan’s) and receive His forgiveness. c. join the church

17. **Read Matthew 4:17.** In order to enter God’s kingdom, a change of heart is required. This change of heart is what the Bible calls: a. penance. b. works of the Law. c. repentance.

18. **Read Acts 26:18.** Have you turned from _____ to light, from the _____ (authority or rule) of Satan unto _____ to receive the forgiveness of your sins?

19. **Read Ezekiel 36:26-27 and Acts 11:15-18.** Have you been given a new heart and a new spirit that causes you to walk in God’s ways?

20. **Read Luke 18:13-14.** Have you called upon God for the forgiveness of your sins?

Answer Key

1. **Read Daniel 2:44.** The Old Testament prophets prophesied that in the future, the Messiah (or Anointed One) would come, and the God of heaven would set up a kingdom which: A. would last for 1,000 years. B. would never be destroyed. C. would be temporal.

2. **Read Matthew 4:17, 23.** What was Jesus’ message? Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3. **Read Mark 1:14-15.** Jesus preached the Gospel of the kingdom of God.

4. **Read Luke 4:43.** The reason that Jesus was sent from God was to preach the kingdom of God.

5. **Read John 4:25.** In the Scriptures, Jesus never explained to the Jews what He meant when speaking about the kingdom. It was an Old Testament concept that they: A. knew little about. B. Thought would never come. C. Were already looking for.

6. **Read Luke 9:1-2.** What three things did the twelve disciples do? Cast out demons, cure diseases, and preach the kingdom of God.
7. **Read Luke 10:1-2, 8-9.** What message did Jesus tell the seventy to proclaim? The kingdom of God.
8. **Read Luke 23:2.** According to the Jews' own definition, the word "Christ" means one that is a King.
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11. **Read Acts 28:23-31.** In verse 31, what was it that the Apostle Paul was preaching? The kingdom of God and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ.
12. **Read Matthew 24:14.** What is the message that is to be preached in all the world? The Gospel of the kingdom.
13. **Read Acts 20:24-25.** Sometimes the Gospel of the kingdom is referred to as the Gospel of the grace of God.
14. **Read Luke 16:16.** It is impossible to understand the message of Jesus without a basic understanding of the kingdom. The kingdom was the message that Jesus spoke and the only one He instructed His disciples to: A. preach. B. disregard. C. ponder.
15. **Read Matthew 6:10.** Basically, the kingdom of God is the rule of God. How is this expressed in this verse? God's will being done in earth like His will is done in heaven.
16. **Read Colossians 1:13-14 and Romans 14:9.** Within the phrase "the kingdom of God" is the idea of a group of people that would: A. ask Jesus into their hearts B. accept God's rule (and reject Satan's) and receive His forgiveness. C. join the church
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