

## The Message of Acts: The Kingdom of God (part 5)

### What is the Kingdom of God?

- A. *God is King of all His creation (the whole universe, principalities and powers, human governments, and history)*
- B. *In a special way, over the nation of Israel*
  - *God Himself is their King*
  - *David and his descendents were “delegated kings” under God’s authority*
  - *Ultimately the Messiah would come as “Son of David” and Son of God”, to rule over Israel*
- C. *Jesus the Messiah (the Christ, the Anointed One)*
  - *Is “the King of Israel”*
  - *His message was “the kingdom of God is at hand” (it is a present reality to those who respond)*
  - *But not everyone will be in this kingdom*

### The Nature of the Present Kingdom is Spiritual and Heavenly

Lk. 17:20-21 – the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Jn. 18:33-36 – My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Col. 1:13 – Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son

Yet we must not think that this means the OT prophecies were “wrong”, or that they should be spiritualized instead of taken literally. Remember Ac. 1:6-8. Jesus did not deny that there would be a literal fulfillment, but simply told them that it was not for them to know the times and seasons.

### The Kingdom of God as a Future Reality

**It will be at the time of the end, the end of the age, the time of the restoration and deliverance of Israel, the destruction of her enemies, the resurrection of saints, and the second coming of Christ with His holy angels**

Mt. 8:10-12 – many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness ...

Lk. 13:24-30 – shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west; and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. (Isa. 43:5-7)

Mt. 19:28 – “in the regeneration” when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. See Ac. 3:19-21 – “the times of refreshing”, “the times of restitution of all things” (the Messianic kingdom prophesied in the OT)

Mt. 24:4-14 – this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations: and then shall the end come

Lk. 21:7-31 –when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

### The “Kingdom Parables”

- Mt. 13:31-33 – mustard seed; leaven - The kingdom starts small but grows large.
- Mt. 13:44-46 – treasure in the field; goodly pearl - Our first thought is that the kingdom is to be valued above all else, that we should forsake all to gain the kingdom. But it also shows that there is a time when the kingdom is here and available, and yet hidden to most people.
- There will be a significant delay of unknown duration between the time of the NT and the end of the age. Good and evil will coexist until the day of judgment –
  - Mt. 13:24-30, 37-43 – the wheat and tares - In the end of this world, the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.
  - Mt. 13:47-50 – the dragnet (good fish, bad fish)
  - Mt. 25:31-46 – the sheep and goats judgment. v.31 – Son of man comes in glory with the angels, and sits on throne of glory. v.34 – Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand ... inherit the kingdom ... says to them on left, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire ...
  - Mt. 25:1-13 – wise and foolish virgins – speaks of a delay, requiring preparation, and watchfulness
  - Mt. 25:14-30 – the talents (see also Lk. 19:12 – nobleman went into far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return)

**Preview of Future Lessons:**

The mystery of Gentiles' inclusion in the kingdom

Paradise

The Millennial Kingdom

The Eternal Kingdom (new heavens, new earth; the new Jerusalem)