

## The Message of Acts #3: The Kingdom of God

### What are the common themes of the book of Acts?

1. Repentance from sins
2. The Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth – there is salvation in his name ONLY
3. That this Jesus of Nazareth was raised from the dead
4. **That the kingdom of God is coming, and has come to those who believe**
5. Water baptism of believers
6. The baptism in the Holy Spirit as an experience subsequent to regeneration

As we have previously studied the Name, and the Resurrection of Christ, so now “the kingdom of God”.

### References in Acts

- A. 1:3 – After resurrection, Jesus spoke to them “of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God”
- B. 1:6 – Lord, wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?
- C. 8:12 – the Samaritans believed Philip “preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God,,,”
- D. 14:22 – “we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”
- E. 19:8 – Paul spoke for three months, “disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.”
- F. 20:25 – Paul to the Ephesian elders “among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God”
- G. 28:23 – Paul “expounded and testified the kingdom of God”
- H. 28:31 – Paul was “preaching the kingdom of God...”

### What is a kingdom?

- A. The form of government characterized by ultimate authority being vested in a single figure, the “king”.
- B. The king’s position of authority – e.g., 1 Sam. 24:20 - ... thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thy hand, Dan. 5:31 – Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old. Lk. 23:42 – Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom
- C. The physical domain of the king’s rule – e.g., United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland); the kingdoms of Judah and Israel
- D. The subjects or citizens of rule, the people of the kingdom
- E. The characteristics of the rule – Mt. 6:33 – But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness Rom. 14:17 – For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. These can be thought of as the blessings, benefits, and responsibilities of citizenship in God’s kingdom.

### What is the Kingdom of God?

- A. God’s Kingship in general
  - God rules over all, in omnipotent power, preserving and ordering all things according to His sovereign will and infinite wisdom. Col. 1:16-17
  - a. Over creation
    - i. Principalities and powers (angels, demons, and all spiritual beings) – He is called “Lord of hosts”, of the “armies of heaven”
    - ii. Mankind in general, all men in specific
    - iii. Chemical and physical activities
    - iv. Plants and animals – photosynthesis, migrations, hibernations, reproduction, ...
    - v. Earth and weather events – volcanoes, rain or drought, tides, ...
    - vi. Heavenlies – orbits, rotations, stars, galaxies, ...
  - b. Over all the earth – Ps.47:6-8
  - c. His is an eternal kingdom – Dan. 4:3 - His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation 6:26 – his kingdom shall not be destroyed ...
  - d. Over the governments of men – He rules over the kingdoms of men, as King of kings and Lord of lords. The mightiest and proudest of human kings are merely His under-lords, and He raises them up and brings them down according to His own will and timing. Dan. 4:17 –the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.
  - e. Over history – God predicted the rise of the world kingdoms/empires, destructions of Israel by Assyria and Judah by Babylon, named Cyrus as the one to direct the return of the Jews from their exile, directed Abraham’s descendants into Egypt for 400 years. He has predicted the final gathering of all nations against Israel and Jerusalem.

- B. Political, Spiritual and Future Aspects of the Kingdom
  - a. Israel as a nation
  - b. The Messiah King
    - i. Over Israel
    - ii. Millennial world-reign of Christ from Jerusalem
    - iii. New heavens and new earth, the “new Jerusalem”
  - c. The “gospel of the Kingdom”
  - d. Citizenship in the Kingdom