

There are many more scriptures throughout the New Testament having to do with the Gospel of the Kingdom. Yet for the sake of our study, we will only consider several important truths concerning the Kingdom of God that Jesus both taught and preached as seen in the Gospels.

PART B. JESUS CHRIST: HIS MESSAGE & MINISTRY

1. WHAT WAS THE MESSAGE THAT JESUS BROUGHT?

During His earthly ministry, Jesus taught many things but the main theme of His Message, was the Gospel (good news) of the Kingdom of God.

(1) _____

_____ *Matthew 4:17*

“And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.” Luke 4:43

“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” Mark 1:14-15

“And 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.” Matthew 4:23

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33

2. IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PHRASES, ‘KINGDOM OF HEAVEN’ AND ‘KINGDOM OF GOD’?

Both phrases are used to identify the same KINGDOM. The phrase, ‘Kingdom of heaven’, simply identifies its heavenly origin and nature, while the phrase, ‘Kingdom of God’ describes whose Kingdom it is.

(2) According to *John 18:36*, Jesus said, “My Kingdom is _____

3. WHAT DOES THE WORD, 'KINGDOM' ACTUALLY MEAN?

The word, '**Kingdom**' actually means; *rule, dominion and government*. It describes both the expression and the results of our Lord's absolute rule and authority through His ordained order.

4. IN WHAT WAY IS THE NEW BIRTH RELATED TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

Jesus told Nicodemus that unless one is '**BORN AGAIN**' He cannot see (*perceive*) the Kingdom of God. Since God's Kingdom already exists within a spiritual realm, one must experience a **SPIRITUAL RE-BIRTH** to perceive its reality and to begin to understand its meaning.

*"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God**. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**" John 3:3-5*

5. WHAT OTHER THINGS DID JESUS MENTION THAT WOULD HELP US TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

Jesus preached and taught many things concerning the Kingdom of God. The following are four very important things that we should know.

A. The Kingdom of God Cannot Be Immediately Perceived By Natural Vision

*"And when he was demanded of 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 (among) you. Luke 17:20-21*

*"Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and **HID in three measures of meal**, till the whole was leavened." Matthew 13:33*

*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure **HID IN A FIELD**; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." Matthew 13:44*

B. The Kingdom of God Increases by Stages

*"And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it **GROWETH UP**, and **BECOMETH GREATER** than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it." Mark 4:30-32*

“And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; **first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.** But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.” Mark 4:26-29

C. The Kingdom of God Is Expressed Fully by Word & Power

(3) _____
_____ - Luke 11:20

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do **HEAR** and **SEE**: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.” Matthew 11:4-5

“And **HEAL THE SICK** that are therein, **AND SAY UNTO THEM**, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.” Luke 10:9

(4) _____
_____ - Luke 9:2

“And 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.” Matthew 4:23

D. The Kingdom of God Is Both A ‘PRESENT’ Reality And A ‘FUTURE’ Hope.

A Present (SPIRITUAL) Reality:

For those of us ‘in Christ’ we can **NOW** enter the experience of victorious Kingdom living through the Spirit of God (Romans 14:17).

“And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, **PREACHING** and **SHOWING** the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him...” Luke 8:1

“But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God **IS COME** upon you.” Luke 11:20

By using the phrase, “finger of God”, Jesus was indicating that it was by the “authority of God” through which he cast out devils and overthrew the works of darkness in the lives of those he ministered to.

A Future (LITERAL) Hope:

After Jesus Christ returns to the earth as **KING of KINGS** and **LORD of LORDS** and after all final judgment has taken place, then only His Kingdom alone will exist forever and ever (*2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 11:15-19*).

“For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods... **After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.**” Matthew 25:19

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. **Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:** For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in...” Matthew 25:31-35

6. WHAT DID JESUS TEACH CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HOW IT RELATES TO HIS DISCIPLES?

A. It Is His Will That We Now Enter The Present Reality of His Kingdom

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**” John 3:5

B. It Is His Will That We Understand Those Mysteries Related To The Kingdom of God

“He answered and said unto them, Because **it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**” Matthew 13:11

“Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.” Acts 1:2-3

(5) According to *Matthew 13:19*, what happens when we lack understanding concerning the Message of The Kingdom of God

C. We are Commanded To Seek First The Kingdom of God

“But **seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**” Matthew 6:33

*“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, **and the violent take it by force.**” Matthew 11:12*

Ever since the common people heard the message of the Kingdom of God, beginning with John, they began to lay hold of it with great zeal and passion. Jesus still desires for us to ‘seek’ (aggressively pursue) His Kingdom first in our lives.

D. We are Called To Pray For The Kingdom of God To Come In The Earth

*“And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **Thy kingdom come.** Thy will be done, **as in heaven, so in earth.**” Luke 11:2*

We are taught to pray for the expression of Christ’s rule and dominion to come into the earth as it already exists in heaven (the heavenly realm).

E. We Are Commissioned To Preach and To Demonstrate The Kingdom Of God

*“Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but **go thou and preach the kingdom of God.**” Luke 9:60*

*“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.**” Luke 9:1-2*

*“**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*

F. Jesus Plants His Children of the Kingdom In The World, Just As A Farmer Sows His Good Seed Into A Field

*“He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; **the good seed are the children of the kingdom;** but the tares are the children of the wicked one.” Matthew 13:37-38*

Since ‘children of the Kingdom’ are called **GOOD SEED**, then it is quite apparent that the Lord desires for us to become fruitful and to multiply in the very world where He has planted us! Keep in mind that the **KINGDOM LIFE** within us and among us will grow and spread much like the life within the seed grows. It requires both time and process!

G. The ‘Keys of the Kingdom’ Have Been Given To His Church

*“And I will give unto thee **the keys of the kingdom of heaven:** and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:19*

To better understand this particular verse of scripture, we must consider the verb tenses in the Greek language.

*“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth **must be what is already bound in heaven**; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth **must be what is already loosed in heaven**.” Matthew 16:19 (Amplified)*

Jesus made it clear that Peter knew who He was only by “**revelation**” knowledge. When we have “**ears to hear what THE SPIRIT IS SAYING**”, than we’ll have actual kingdom authority to **BIND** (tie up and to restrict) and to **LOOSE** (untie and to bring release) those things in the earth as they have already been bound and loosed in heaven (the heavenly realm).

Closing Comment

When considering earthly kingdoms we mostly speak in terms of their royal boundaries and borders. However, when we speak of the Kingdom of God, we are focusing upon the actual rule, government and dominion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherever the King is, there is where His Kingdom reign should be preached, taught, understood, experienced, expressed and increased!

Before His ascension, Jesus spent His final forty days here on earth with His disciples, “**speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God**” (**Acts 1:3**). This means that there is more to consider and to be understood concerning the Kingdom of God, most of which is contained throughout the rest of the New Testament.

The intent of this lesson however, is to identify ‘**some**’ of those key foundational truths about the Gospel of the Kingdom of God that Jesus Christ Himself brought to us during those beginning days of His earthly ministry as was recorded in the Gospels.

TRUTH IN REVIEW

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| STAGES | SEEK | FUTURE |
| DEVILS | POWER | KINGDOM |
| KEYS | PERCEIVE | EARTH |
| SPIRITUAL | GOVERNMENT | SEED |
| HEAL | PRESENT | |

1. The New Birth enables us to _____ the Kingdom of God.
2. The Kingdom of God speaks of the _____ and rule of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus said that we should _____ first His Kingdom.
4. God's Kingdom is firstly a _____ Kingdom.
5. The Kingdom of God grows and increases by _____.
6. Jesus taught His disciples to pray for His Kingdom to come in the _____.
7. The Kingdom of God is expressed by the spoken word and _____.
8. Jesus told His disciples to _____ the sick and to cast out _____ when proclaiming the Gospel of His Kingdom.
9. The Kingdom of God is both a _____ reality and a _____ hope.
10. Through revelation knowledge, the church has been given the _____ of the Kingdom of Heaven.
11. As children of the Kingdom, Jesus likened us to good _____ which He has sown into the world