

The Gospel of the Kingdom (Mt. 24:14)

I. THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WILL BE PREACHED TO ALL NATIONS

- A. Jesus connected the timing of His return to the preaching of the *gospel of the kingdom* to all nations. Central to this message is the witness that a King is coming to *openly* exert His rule over all nations.
- 12...lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold...14This gospel of the kingdom will be preached...as a witness to all the nations [ethnos], and then the end will come. (Mt. 24:10-14)***
- 6...to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down...7are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.” (Acts 17:6-7)***
- B. Jesus appeared to the disciples for 40 days, teaching them many things pertaining to the kingdom.
- 3...[Jesus] being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom...6they asked...“Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:3-6)***
- C. The gospel of the kingdom includes the good news about the authority and beauty of the King. When Jesus returns, all—believers and unbelievers—will see His beauty (Isa. 33:6-17; Rev. 1:7).
- 14The sinners in Zion are afraid...17Your eyes will see the King in His beauty... (Isa. 33:14, 17)***
- 7He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. (Rev. 1:7)***
- D. The kingdom was the primary theme in Jesus’ teaching. It exists in any sphere of life where God’s leadership, rule, and presence are manifested.” **George Ladd** defined the kingdom as “*God’s redemptive reign in Christ, destroying His enemies and bringing the blessings of His reign.*”
- 23Jesus went about...preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness... (Mt. 4:23)***

II. #1 ASPECT OF THE KINGDOM: PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEFITS

- A. We experience the kingdom *in our hearts* when we receive forgiveness and engage in the power of the Spirit to walk in liberty over sin and darkness—enabling us to obey Jesus’ leadership (Rom. 6). Thus, we are to enjoy our relationship with Jesus with confidence, joy, fascination, and partnership.
- 21“For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.” (Lk. 17:21)***
- 17For the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 14:17)***
- B. To be “under grace” means that we have access to God’s extravagant forgiveness, liberating power, and His gracious evaluation of our life. This includes God *enjoying* us and the indwelling Spirit *empowering* us to enjoy God, walk in victory over sin, and be used as vessels of His power.
- 14Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. (Rom. 6:14)***
- 20Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more 21...even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus.” (Rom. 5:20-21)***

III. #2 ASPECT OF THE KINGDOM: GOD’S RULE OVER HIS COMMUNITY OR FAMILY

- A. Webster defines a kingdom as “a *community, having a form of government headed by a king.*” God’s kingdom is expressed as His people function as a community unified under His leadership. The Lord gave elders (and spiritual fathers and mothers) in the church authority to care for, direct, protect, discipline, and mobilize His people to function as a *family* empowered to host His presence.
- B. Paul described leadership in the body of Christ in terms of kingdom authority—elders are *to rule*. Their rule includes mobilizing God’s people to serve and evangelize with unified efforts, etc.
¹⁷Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor. (1 Tim. 5:17)
¹⁷Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive [with a spirit of cooperation]... (Heb. 13:17)

IV. #3 ASPECT OF THE KINGDOM: IMPACTING EVERY SPHERE OF SOCIETY

- A. In Genesis 1:28, the Lord called His people to bring nations and all of society under His dominion.
- B. Discipling nations includes calling those who serve in various spheres to obey and express His will.
¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... (Mt. 28:19)

V. #4 ASPECT OF THE KINGDOM: DEMONSTRATING GOD’S POWER TO HEAL

- A. The kingly reign of God is present by the Spirit’s power in the ministry of Jesus and His Church.
²⁸“If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come.” (Mt. 12:28)
- B. God’s nature, as revealed in Jesus’ ministry and through His people, is to heal with compassion.

VI. #5 ASPECT OF THE KINGDOM: JESUS’ RETURN TO RULE EARTH FROM JERUSALEM

- A. Scripture has much to say about the *unique dynamics* to occur related to the return of King Jesus to *openly* exert His kingly rule over all the nations. He will release a great outpouring of the Spirit and harvest of souls in context to a victorious Church while confronting escalating darkness promoted by the kings of the earth who rage against Him (Ps. 2:1). There are over 150 chapters in the Bible that focus on the biblical narrative related to Jesus’ return as King—as He restores Israel (Acts 1:6) and transitions the earth to the age to come. See mikebickle.org for a list of these 150+ chapters.
¹Why do nations rage...? ²The kings of the earth set themselves...against the LORD... (Ps. 2:1-2)
¹⁹I saw the beast, the kings of the earth...gathered to make war against Him... (Rev 19:19)
- B. King Jesus will rescue Jerusalem as He confronts and replaces the kings of the earth who attack Jerusalem. The Antichrist will be at *war* against Jesus and His people (Rev. 11:7; 12:7, 17; 13:4, 7; 17:14; 19:19). Jesus will *war* against the Antichrist and his armies (Rev. 19:11, 21; cf. Zech. 14:3).
¹...the day of the LORD is coming...²I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem... ³Then the LORD will...fight against those nations... (Zech. 14:1-3)