

# What is the Kingdom?

- What is the Kingdom of God/Heaven?
- What is a Kingdom?

# Jesus and the Kingdom of God

- Jesus central teaching is the Kingdom of God

*Acts 1:3* After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

- Most of the Jesus parables are about the Kingdom of God. (“The Kingdom of God is like. . .”)
- Most Christ followers today don’t understand the Kingdom and what it means for us today.

*Matthew 11:12* From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

# The Coming of the Kingdom

## Mark 1.14-15

*‘Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled. The kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel”’.*

## Matthew 4.17

*‘From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”’.*

## Luke 10.8-9

*‘Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you”’.*

# The Coming of the Kingdom

**Matthew 10:5-8** *These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: . . . As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*

# What is a Kingdom?

The Kingdom of God is “God’s redemptive reign - dynamically active - which establishes his rule among humanity.”

George E Ladd, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*,

# The Two Ages

The day of Yahweh

This Age

The Age to Come

---

evil & oppression  
demonic presence  
sickness & death  
no Spirit

the great reversal  
overthrow of Satan  
healing and resurrection  
Spirit given to everyone

## *What's the good news?*

The long anticipated kingdom has *finally arrived* in the ministry of Jesus

now *everyone has access* to the benefits of God's generous rule through simple confidence in Jesus

## ***The mission of Jesus Luke 4:18-19***

Announcing good news to the poor

Healing the sick and driving out demons

Eating and drinking with sinners

Raising the dead

Gathering a ***preview community*** to live out the life of the future = The Church

# The community of the King

- The church is an *eschatological community*, called to *display* the life of the future in this present evil age
- a *sign* and a *foretaste* of the Kingdom
  - A preview Community- a Kingdom community
- the *instrument* or *agent* of God's kingdom in the world
  - Ambassadors and heralds of the King and His Kingdom

# A Spiritual Kingdom

- . . . Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can **see the kingdom of God** unless he is born again. . . "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

*John 3:3,5*

# A Kingdom of Power

## **1 Corinthians 4:20**

*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.*

## **Acts 10:38**

*(and you know) how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*

## **1 Corinthians 2:4-5**

*My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.*

# Receiving Spirit and Power

- *When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Luke 11:1-2*
- *Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. John 20:21-22*
- *"For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. . . But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. . ." Acts 1:5,8b*

# ***Destroying the Devil's Work***

***1 John 3:8b*** "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devils work." ***Matthew 12:28*** But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

**Sin**



**Forgiven**

**Sickness**



**Healed**

**Demons**



**Driven out**

**Outcasts**



**Welcomed to the  
messianic banquet**

**Death**



**Defeated by resurrection**

# What is our Kingdom Role

- **Pray** - “Your Kingdom come. . .”
- **Believe**- It is God’s desire to bring the Kingdom into our present reality in a progressive way.
- **Receive**- *“ . . .the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.”*  
*Matthew 11:12*
- **Extend**- *“He sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God. . .”* *Luke 9:2a*
- **Contend**- *Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”*  
*John 20: 21,22*