



## **Week Six: Premillennialism in the Gospels**

What is the “kingdom of God” and do the Gospels anticipate a future earthly kingdom of God?

### **KINGDOM IN THE GOSPELS AND ACTS**

Kingdom in Matthew – 55 times

Kingdom in Mark – 20 times

Kingdom in Luke – 45 times

Kingdom in John – 5 times

Kingdom in Acts – 8 times

A kingdom implies:

- A ruler - King
- A realm - Kingdom
- Exercise of authority - Throne

### **SIX ASPECTS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

- God’s sovereign rule over the entire universe – Psalm 145:13
- God’s rule over His regenerated people – Colossians 1:13
- God’s rule over the nation of Israel – Exodus 19:6
- God’s rule over earth from Israel’s rejection of Christ until Israel’s reception of Christ – called the mystery of the kingdom in the kingdom parables. Matthew 13:11-12
- God’s rule over the earth in the millennium, when He fulfills His promises to Israel – Acts 1:6
- God’s future, eternal rule over the universe – Daniel 2:44

The church is not the fulfillment of kingdom promises and is not equal to the kingdom of God. We have been transferred into the kingdom of God’s Son, a spiritual kingdom which is part of the mystery form of the kingdom of God.

### **THE KING IS BORN - Luke 1:30-33**

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God." And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

Note what this extremely important passage tells us about Christ:

### **THE KING PREACHED THE ARRIVAL OF THE KINGDOM – Matthew 4:17**

From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

### **THE KING TOOK THE KINGDOM FROM ISRAEL AND GAVE IT TO THE CHURCH – Matthew 21:43**

"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.

### **ISRAEL’S KING IS CRUCIFIED**

Recorded in all four gospels, Pilate asks Jesus, “Are you the King of the Jews?” On the sign posted above Christ when crucified Pilate had them write: “Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews.”

### **THE COMING KING IN MATTHEW 24-25**

Jesus clearly taught a progression of time leading up to His return to earth in the Olivet Discourse. He is describing events in the tribulation period. The people who are taken are not believers but unsaved people taken in judgment, just like the unsaved people in Noah’s day were taken away in judgment. Noah and his family remained for the new world.

The disciples’ questions: “When will these things happen, and the sign of your coming, and the end of the age?” Matthew 24:3

Christ’s answers:

First, don’t be deceived by imposters, false prophets, and all kinds of earthly chaos. Matthew 24:4-8

Second, a time of tribulation will come, the gospel will be preached, and many will fall away from the faith, betraying one another. Matthew 24:9-14

Third, a great tribulation will be more severe than anything ever experienced on earth, beginning with the abomination of desolation in the holy place (temple). Jews will flee to escape slaughter. These days will be cut short to 3 ½ years (Daniel 9:28 and Revelation 12). Matthew 24:15-26

Fourth, the world will see the unmistakable coming of Christ in power and great glory to gather all believing survivors of the tribulation period (Jews and Gentiles). Matthew 24:27-35

Fifth, no one knows when the second coming will take place. It will be unexpected, like the flood of Noah’s day. Unbelievers will be taken away in judgment. Believers will remain to enter the earthly millennial kingdom. Be on the alert. Matthew 24:36-51

Sixth, Christ will sit on His glorious throne and judge the nations based on how they treated His people. This is a judgment at the beginning of the millennial reign of Christ, not the final Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20. Matthew 25:31-46

## **THE KINGDOM IN ACTS**

The word “kingdom” is used 8 times in Acts.

Before Christ ascends to heaven following His resurrection the disciples ask Him “Is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” Acts 1:6. This is a key passage about the kingdom. How Christ replies tells us much about the kingdom. Instead of correcting them by telling them the kingdom won’t be restored to Israel, He lets them know, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.”

Paul and Peter both preached the kingdom of God as part of the gospel. To come to Christ was to come into the spiritual kingdom of God. Acts ends with Paul preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 28:31

## **THE CHURCH AND THE KINGDOM**

So, is the church the kingdom of God? Yes and no! They are not equivalent terms.

- The church is part of the universal kingdom of God.
- The church is the spiritual kingdom of God in this age, with Christ ruling in our hearts as our King.
- The church is part of the mystery form of the kingdom between the two comings of Christ.
- The church will have a key role in the future earthly kingdom of God reigning with Christ over the world.
- The church will inherit the eternal kingdom of God.
- But the church is not the theocratic kingdom of God like Israel was in the Old Testament and like the kingdom will be in the millennium. That’s why the church has no sacred space on this earth, like a holy temple or a holy land. The church exists in every nation as a spiritual kingdom.