

Emphasis 6: The Kingdom of God: Perception, Proclamation, Demonstration & Embodiment

Emphasis 6A: The Central & Primary Importance of the Kingdom of God

Bible Study Prepared for RCF at WSU Fall 2017 by Greg Weis / Presented at WSU RCF Tuesday 9/10/2107

- I. **Fifteen (15) Biblical Emphasis for Rediscovery and Restoration to Biblical Patterns** (See List Elsewhere)
- II. **2016 – 2017 School Year: Emphasis 5: Rediscovering & Restoring the Entire Bible as the Word of God**
- III. **Tonight: Begin the 2017 – 2018 School Year Emphasis 6: What On Earth is the Kingdom of God?**
aka The Kingdom of God: Perception, Proclamation, Demonstration & Embodiment
Tonight: Emphasis 6A: The Central & Primary Importance of the Kingdom of God in Scripture
aka The Kingdom of God is What the Bible Is All About

A. Some Introductory Theme Verses: (Matthew 3:2; 4:17)

(Matthew 6:10) 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

(Matthew 12:28) But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

(Matthew 13:31-33) ³¹ He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field;³² and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES." ³³ He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened."

(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.

(Mark 1:14-15) ¹⁴ Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

(Luke 17:20-21) ²⁰ Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed;²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

(Acts 1:1-3) The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. ³ To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

(Acts 28:30-31) He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, ³¹ proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and ... (ESV)

B. Four Contemporary Answers to the Question: What is the Major Theme of the Bible?

- 1.) Answer #1: The Story of Redemption
- 2.) Answer #2: The Progressive Revelation of God's Only Begotten Son – Our Lord Jesus Christ
- 3.) Answer #3: God's Unfolding Covenants
- 4.) Answer #4: The Kingdom of God

IV. The Primacy of the Kingdom of God in The New Testament's New Pentateuch(s) – Gospels & Acts

A. The New Pentateuch's Explained – Multiple Directions from Matthew, Luke, John & Church Fathers

B. Matthew: (Matthew has over 50 Kingdom References.) (Matthew's Use of " ... of Heaven")

(Matthew 3:2) "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (The first public words of John the Baptist)

(Matt. 4:17) From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

(Matthew 6:33) But above all pursue (seek first) His kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (NET) (ESV in Brackets) (See Matthew 12:25) **(Matthew 13)** Seven Parables of the Kingdom

(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. (This Kingdom Reference is crucial & climatic.) (See also Matthew 16:18-19)

(Matthew 28:18-20) The Great Commission / All Authority / The New Creation King

C. Mark

(Mark 9:1) And Jesus was saying to them, “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

(Mark 14:25) Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

D. Luke & Acts

(Luke 1:32-33) 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;³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”

(Luke 9:2) And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

(Luke 9:27) But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.” (It cannot be 2nd Coming, Final Judgment or Heaven.)

(Luke 12:31-32)³¹ But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. ³² Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.

(Acts 1:3) See Above. (Acts 28:30-31) See Above.

E. John

(John 18:36) Jesus replied, “My kingdom doesn’t originate from this world. If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn’t have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My kingdom isn’t from here.” (CEB)

V. **The Primacy of the Kingdom of God Among the New Testament Apostles**

A. Paul (See Acts 28:30-31 Quoted Above.)

(See Acts 14:21-23) ... “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” (Romans 14:17)

(1 Corinthians 4:20) For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power. (Obviously not Heaven)

(Colossians 1:13) For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **(Read Romans 14:17)**

B. Peter

(1 Peter 2:5) You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple (house). You are being made into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (CEB)

(1 Peter 2:9) But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God’s* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (Note Caps)

VI. **The Primacy of the Kingdom of God in The Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)**

A. The 5 Books of Moses / Pentateuch - (Genesis 1:26-28; 12:1-3)

(Exodus 19:5-6) Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.” (Context & 1 Peter 2:5, 9)

B. The Wisdom Books (See Psalms 1, 2; 22; 23; 45; 72 & More)

(Psalm 110:1-5) The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.” (Quoted 7 Xs) (Read Psalm 2 if Time Permits)

C. The Major Prophets (Read Isaiah 2:2-4 if Time Allows)

(Isaiah 9:6-7) For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom,

D. The Minor Prophets (Read Micah 4:1-8 – It Starts by Quoting Isaiah 2:2-4)

VII. **Next Message: Chapter 2: What On Earth Is the Kingdom of Heaven? The Kingdom Defined.**



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