

## What in God's Earth is the Kingdom of Heaven?

### Section 1: An Introduction to the Kingdom of God: A Survey of Kingdom Concepts

## Chapter 1: What is the Bible All About? The Primacy of the Kingdom

I. Brief Explanation of My Journey Regarding Perceiving the Kingdom of God. (1974, 1975, 1986, 2014)  
(Covenant Churches, Reformed Reconstructionist, History; Biblical Studies, John Bright, N.T. Wright, Etc.)

### II. What the Kingdom of God is Not. (Series Theme Verses)

(Matthew 6:10) "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven." (Prayer's Place / Goal)

A. Not Heaven, Going to Heaven or the Plan of Salvation (The most popular current Christian ideas)

B. Not the popular notions during the days of the first Advent of Christ (More correct, but incorrect.)

(Acts 17:11-12) Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. <sup>12</sup> Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.

C. Chapter 2 Preview: What On God's Earth is the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God Defined.

### III. Chapter 1: What is the Bible All About? The Primacy of the Kingdom

A. Question: Is There a Central, Comprehensive, Overriding or Dominant Theme of All Scripture?

B. Answer. Yes. The Kingdom of God is the Primary, Principal and Prevailing Biblical Topic / Motif.

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

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

B. Matthew: (More Detail from Matthew to Come in Chapter 3)

1. The Ministries of John the Baptist, Jesus and His New Called Out Community

(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 6:10) "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven." (Prayer's Place / Goal)

(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)

(Matthew 12:25) And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. (See John 17:20-23) (Kingdom vs. Church).

(Matthew 13:31-33) He gave them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. <sup>32</sup> It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest garden plant and becomes a tree, so that *the wild birds come and nest in its branches.*" (NET) (Ezek. 17:22-24)

(Number 3 of 7 Kingdom Parables in Matt. 13: Middle of Middle.) (Matthew has over 50 Kingdom References.)

2. The Great Commission Develops – Restoration & Fulfillment of Cultural Mandate, Abraham, David

a. John the Baptist, Jesus, 12 Called, Equipped, Trained & Commissioned (Matt. 3:2; 4:17 Above)

b. Matthew 10: Initial Mission & Changing Expectations of Kingdom; Cross (Suffering / Servant)

(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)

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

C. Mark (More Detail from Mark in Future Chapters: Jesus on the Kingdom & Children, Wealth, Etc.)

(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 (More Detail from Luke & Acts in Future Chapters; Some Things Unique to 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; <sup>33</sup> 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.” (Right or Wrong. It cannot be 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, Final Judgment or Heaven.)

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

(Acts 1:3) He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.(Final Orders to 12 & 120) (Also, Stephen Philip, Paul, Etc.)

(Acts 28:30-31) He (Paul) lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, <sup>31</sup> proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

E. John (More Detail from John, 1, 2 & 3 John & Revelation in Future Chapters: John 3:3, 5, Etc.)  
(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)

F. Paul (See Acts 28:30-31 Quoted Above.) (More on Paul’s Views of the Kingdom in Future Chapters)  
(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, (Romans 14:17)

G. Peter (More on Peter, James, Jude & Hebrews in Future Chapters)  
(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; (See Caps)  
(2 Peter 1:10-11) Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup> for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. (Context Character)

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

A. The 5 Books of Moses / Pentateuch - (Genesis 1:26-28) (Covered in Chapters 3 - 9)  
(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; <sup>6</sup> 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 Other Historical Books (Covered in Chapters 3 - 9) (2 Samuel 7:12-16 Discussed in Chapter 3)

C. The Wisdom Books (See Psalms 1, 2; 22; 23; 45; 72 & More) (Covered in Chapters 3 - 9)  
(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.” <sup>2</sup> The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, *saying*, “Rule in the midst of Your enemies.”  
<sup>3</sup> Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; ... <sup>4</sup> The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.” <sup>5</sup> The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath.... (Quoted 7 Xs)

D. The Major Prophets (Covered in Chapters 3 - 9) (Isaiah 2:2-4)  
(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.  
<sup>7</sup> There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (Chapter 3: Daniel 7:13-14; 22; 27 & Ezek. 17:22-24)

E. The Minor Prophets (Covered in Chapters 3 - 9) (Micah 4:1-7)

## **VI. Preview Upcoming Chapters – Definition, Institutions, History, Mystery, Cross, Community, Clash, Etc.**