

KINGDOM OF GOD: PRESENT REALITY AND FUTURE HOPE

What is the “Kingdom of God (a.k.a. Kingdom of Heaven)”?

The Kingdom of God is the rule of God and is both a present reality and a future hope. The current Kingdom of God here on earth is primarily “spiritual” in nature; someday Jesus will fully rule the eternal new heaven and new earth. Each of us that has personally believed and received the gift of salvation that Jesus offers is a member of God’s Kingdom – and we have the privilege to partner with Him to strengthen and expand His Kingdom (Book of Matthew; Luke 17:21; John 18:36; Revelation chapters 21 & 22).

→ The key component of the Kingdom of God is people!! ←

Jesus while on earth taught extensively about the Kingdom of God!

Read Matthew 9:35-38

Following are some key biblical teachings about the Kingdom of God:

- 1) **Kingdom of God started small, but has g_____and will continue to g_____.** (Parables of “Mustard Seed” and “the Yeast” – Matthew 13:31-33)

Jesus: “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Mathew 16:18).

- 2) **Kingdom of God is very v_____.** (Parables of “Pearl”, “Hidden Treasure” and “New Treasure” - Matthew 13:44-46, 52)

- 3) **There are o_____ to entering the Kingdom of God. God invites all to enter, but many will miss out.** (I Timothy 2:1-6; 2 Peter 3:9)

Parables of the “Wedding Banquet” and “Great Banquet” – Mathew 22:1-14; Luke 14:15-23

- Some are **too busy with earthly things**; some mistreat and disrespect God’s messengers

Parable of the “Tenants” – Matthew 21:33-44

- Kingdom of God given to those who follow Jesus and His teachings; often those who follow Him are the “outcasts” not the “elite”

Parable of the “Two Sons” – Matthew 21:28-31

- Some don't follow through on good intentions – actions speak louder than words

Pride is an obstacle (Matthew 18:1-4)

Earthly **riches** can be an obstacle (story of rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-26)

- 4) **E_____ person can enter the Kingdom of God thanks to the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.** (1 Timothy 2:1-6)
Must humble ourselves like a little child (Matthew 18:1-4)

To become a true member of God's kingdom (i.e. be "born again", "saved") we must believe and receive the gift of salvation that Jesus offers us.

Read John 3:1-18

John 1:12-13 "... to all who **received** Him (Jesus), to those who **believed** in His name, He gave the right to become children of God ..."

Colossians 1:12-14 teaches that receiving the gift of salvation results in us being rescued from the kingdom of darkness and being moved into the kingdom of light (i.e. kingdom of Jesus).

- 5) **The earthly Kingdom of God is now "m_____", but someday God will sort out the true members from the pretenders.** (Parables of the "Weeds" and the "Net" - Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; 47-50)
- 6) **Entering the Kingdom of God l_____ in life does not limit the reward potential (due to God's grace).** (Parable of the "Workers in the Vineyard" - Matthew 20:1-16)
- 7) **If we s_____ His Kingdom, God will supply our basic needs** (Matthew 6:25-33).
- 8) **As m_____ of the Kingdom of God, we should possess certain characteristics and priorities (i.e. living a Kingdom lifestyle).**
- **Forgiving & Merciful** (Parable of the "Unmerciful Servant" – Matthew 18:21-35)
 - **Humble** (Matthew 5:3, 18:1-4)
 - **Obedient** (Parable of "Two Sons" – Mathew 21:28-31; also Matthew 7:21-23)

- **Faithful managers of God’s resources** (Parables of the “Tenants” and “Talents – Luke 19:11-26; Matthew 25:14-30)
- **Sharing God’s word and putting it into practice** (Parable of “Sower” – Matthew 13:3-8,18-23)
- **Compassionate to the “least and the less”** (Matthew 25: 31-46)
- **Outreach oriented, helping people find Jesus and God’s kingdom** (Matthew 28:18-20; I Corinthians 10:23 – 11:1)
- **Love God and people** (Matthew 22:34-40; John 13:34-35)
- **Whatever we do, doing it for the glory of God** (I Corinthians 10:31)

9) **We can help strengthen and g_____ the Kingdom of God.**

- **Live out the kingdom lifestyle God desires (see #8) and let others see our good works and bring glory to God** (Matthew 5:13-16; John 13:34-35)
- **Pray** (Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, *your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven ...*”)
- **Share good news of Jesus and reach out to those not yet in God’s kingdom** (God supernaturally brings the harvest/results – Parable of the “Growing Seed” in Mark 4:26-29).
- **Focus on God and His agenda, not ours** (Matthew 6:19-33)
- **Rely on Jesus and the Holy Spirit and partner with them** (Philippians 4:13; Acts 1:8)
- **Partner with God and other believers to build a strong, healthy, loving, united and growing local church** (Acts 2:42-47; John 13:34-35, 17: 20-23)

10) **The eternal Kingdom to come (new Heaven and new Earth) will be a_____beyond anything we can possibly imagine. This future hope should inspire us and give us an eternal perspective** (Isaiah 65:17-19; John 14:1-3; I Corinthians 2:9; Revelation chapters 21 & 22; refer to Randy Alcorn’s book “Heaven”)

I Corinthians 2:9: “...no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him”.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Am I a member of the Kingdom of God? If yes, what would God like me to do to help further strengthen and grow His Kingdom?