

Introduction to the Kingdom of Heaven

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I. What does Jesus mean when He talks about the *'kingdom of heaven'*?

A. God's eternal salvation plan & Jesus' *'kingdom of heaven'* ideas don't seem to fit

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Mat 13:44 Again, the **kingdom of heaven** is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he...selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

B. The Bible does teach that eternal heaven is all by grace—And grace alone

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

C. To understand the *'kingdom of heaven'* requires *'rightly dividing the word of truth'*

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

—Example of *'rightly dividing the word of truth'* with the word *'save'*

Mat 1:21 ...call his name JESUS: for he shall **save** his people from their sins.

Mat 14:30 ...and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, **save** me.

Act 2:40 ...**Save** yourselves from this untoward generation.

II. There is a '*kingdom of heaven*' up there—There is a '*kingdom of heaven*' down here

A. It is certain that there is a '*kingdom of heaven*' that is eternal and in heaven

2Ti 4:18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve *me* unto his **heavenly kingdom**: to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Mat 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Mat 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:

Mat 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Mat 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

1Co 15:24 Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the **kingdom** to God...

B. Yet, there was a kingdom that was to come (and did come) when Jesus came

2Sa 7:12 ...I will set up thy seed after thee...and I will establish his kingdom.

2Sa 7:13 ...and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

Dan 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron...

Dan 2:44 ...in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed...and it shall stand for ever.

Luk 1:32 ...the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Luk 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

C. The '*kingdom of heaven*' is not just eternal—It is in the earth—It is here and now

Mat 4:17 ...Jesus began to preach...Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is **at hand**.

1. As defined by the words of Jesus—'*At hand*' means 'now' and 'here'

Mat 26:45 Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them...behold, **the hour is at hand**, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Mat 26:46 Rise, let us be going: behold, **he is at hand** that doth betray me.

2. There is an aspect of the '*kingdom of heaven*' that is right here and right now

Mat 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs **IS** the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until **now** the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

III. Side note: The *'kingdom of heaven'* and the *'kingdom of God'* seem to be the same

Mat 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the **kingdom of heaven**, but to them it is not given.

Mar 4:11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the **kingdom of God**: but unto them that are without, all *these* things are done in parables:

Luk 13:20 And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the **kingdom of God**?

Luk 13:21 It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Mat 13:33 ...The **kingdom of heaven** is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

IV. Unlike eternal life—The *'kingdom at hand'* is a joint effort between King & servant

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the **kingdom of God**.

Luk 12:31 ...seek ye the **kingdom of God**; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the **kingdom**.

Luk 12:33 Sell that ye have...provide yourselves...treasure in the heavens that faileth not...

Luk 16:16 The law and the prophets *were* until John: since that time the **kingdom of God** is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Act 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the **kingdom of God**.

Mat 19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the **kingdom of heaven**.

Luk 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the **kingdom of God**.

Luk 18:29 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the **kingdom of God's** sake,

Luk 18:30 Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

V. The *'at hand'* (here and now) *'kingdom of heaven'* is worth more than all the world

Mat 13:45 ...the **kingdom of heaven** is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

Mat 13:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

VI. The *'kingdom of heaven at hand'* is an experience like heaven—But while still here

Luk 17:21 ...for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Mat 5:20 ...except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1Pe 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

1Jn 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1Jn 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Mat 11:28 Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Joh 10:10 ...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

Eph 1:13 ...after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Eph 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

2Co 5:4 ...in *this* tabernacle do groan...that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

2Co 5:5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

2Ti 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...

VII. The idea of a '*kingdom of heaven at hand*' is the key to real happiness and stability

Mat 4:17 ...Jesus began to preach...Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mat 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...

Mat 5:10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Mat 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Mat 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

Mat 7:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Mat 7:28 ...when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

Concluding Thought on the *'Kingdom of Heaven'

—It exists wherever or whenever a servant of the King submits to his or her King