

What Is the Kingdom of Heaven at Hand?

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I. The idea of the King & His kingdom runs thru the Bible—Thru time—Thru eternity

A. Genesis 1 thru 11—As Creator—God is the supreme ruler (King) over His creation

1. God ruled in the garden
2. God ruled in the flood
3. God ruled at the tower of Babel

B. Genesis 12 thru Malachi—The remainder of the Old Testament

1. God chose Abram and made of him a kingdom—Over which God would rule

1Sa 8:5 And said unto him...now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

1Sa 8:6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us...

1Sa 8:7 And the LORD said unto Samuel...they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

Hos 13:11 I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took *him* away in my wrath.

2. Throughout this time—God had a plan to become a visible king

2Sa 7:16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isa 9:7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Dan 2:34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands...

Dan 2:44 And 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.

Act 4:11 This is the stone...which is become the head of the corner.

Luk 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and 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. Matthew thru Revelation—The New Testament

1. While here, the King did establish a spiritual kingdom that remains here on earth

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

2. *'The kingdom of heaven is at hand'* is the message of the New Testament

Act 28:31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

D. The Bible promises of a 2nd coming of the King and His eternal kingdom in heaven

1. The King is coming back—Then the King will glorify His kingdom

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:...

2. The King is going back—Then the King will take His kingdom home with Him

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

II. What Jesus' *'kingdom of heaven at hand'* is not—And what it is

A. What Jesus' *'kingdom of heaven at hand'* is not:

1. It is not just another world philosophy to help you feel good

—It is not another version of *'the power of positive thinking'*

—It is not some kind of Far-Eastern meditation, *'mind-over-matter'* technique

—It is not some mystical *'inner-strength'* that we all have within us and should develop

2. It is not just a variation on some program designed to help the down and out

—It is not another *'12-Step'* program

—It is not group therapy

—It is not an hour on the psychiatrist couch

3. It is not just another *'escape mechanism'*

- It is not: “*Drinking a drink they call loneliness, but it’s better than drinking alone*”
- It is not: “*Mama told me not to come. She said, that ain’t the way to have fun, son*”
- It is not: A bottle of ‘*happy pills*’
- It is not: “*The worst day fishing is better than the best day working*”
- It is not: ‘*Girls’ Night Out*’ or ‘*Mothers’ Day Retreat*’

4. It is not something that the physiologist can explain away

- It is not a way to jog endorphins from the brain
- It is not a way to jog adrenalin from the glands

5. It is not just another religion to control the minds of the simple-minded masses

- It has nothing to do with deception
- It is not a political maneuver of manipulation
- It is not some kind of conspiracy that history will someday uncover

B. What Jesus’ ‘*kingdom of heaven at hand*’ is:

- 1. It is a Jesus-taught (New Testament taught) way to live life to the fullest**
- 2. It is a way to have a bit of the heaven that awaits us—Even while we are still here**
- 3. It is a ‘*within you*’ attitude of submission to serve King Jesus**
- 4. It is a ‘*within you*’ desire to fellowship with King Jesus**
- 5. It is a ‘*within you*’ thing that becomes a thing outside of you**
- 6. It is a ‘*within you*’ thing that affects not just you—But the world around you**
- 7. It is you (even now)—“*Livin’ Whatcha Been Given*”**
- 8. It exists wherever or whenever a servant of the King submits to his or her King**

III. Jesus’ ‘*kingdom of heaven at hand*’ is akin to other Bible terms and phrases

A. It is Jesus’—‘*Life more abundantly*’

Joh 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

B. It is Paul’s—‘*Sealing of the Spirit and the earnest of our inheritance*’

2Co 1:20 For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

2Co 1:21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God;

2Co 1:22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

C. It is Paul’s—‘*Living by faith*’

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

D. It is Paul's—'New Covenant'

Heb 8:10 For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Heb 8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

Heb 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

E. It is Paul's—'Now you know grace, therefore...'

Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

F. It is Paul's—'Peace that passeth understanding'

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

G. It is Peter's—'Joy unspeakable'

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:

H. It is Jude's—'Building up yourselves on your most holy faith'

Jud 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Jud 1:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

I. It is John's—'Fellowship that your joy may be full'

1Jn 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life...

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.

J. It is Paul's—'Salvation that is in Christ Jesus'

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.

K. It is Jesus'—*'An hundredfold now'*

Mar 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

Mar 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

L. It is Jesus'—*'Rest for your souls'*

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