



**Part 1 – The Kingdom Story:** *What God Originally Intended In The Beginning He Will Get In The End*

**Part 2 – The Kingdom Journey:** *How God moves from original plan in Genesis to restoration in Revelation*

**Step 1 – Return The Land Through Abram/Abraham:** A Man Who Loved God

**Step 2 – Return The Rulership Through David:** A Man Who Loved God

**Step 3 – Return The Relationship Through Jesus:** The Son Of God

**Part 3 – The Kingdom Vision:** *Seeing what the Kingdom of God will be like through the prophets.*

**Kingdom of God** = the time “everything wrong with world is made right.”

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**This Week: The Kingdom Message** – *In addition to the kingdom being our hope, it is also the theme of the gospel itself.*

For many, there’s a disconnect between what we have been looking at and Jesus and the New Testament. In fact, when we first meet Jesus, the things we have looked at in these last weeks are the foundation upon which Jesus’ ministry is built. We then should ask **“what was the main message & purpose of Jesus?”**

**1 - The Kingdom was the theme of the gospel that Jesus preached:**

**Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 4:23** - Kingdom is theme of the gospel.

Opening statement: **“Repent, Kingdom is near...”** Jesus would teach about the kingdom and heal.

**Luke 4:40-43** – Jesus’ purpose statement

**2 - The Kingdom was interwoven in Jesus’ Teaching on Living/Ethics:**

**Matthew 5:3-8, (etc.)** – Kingdom focus & Sermon on the Mount

## **Matthew 6:9-11-13** - The Lord's Prayer

*"your kingdom come, your will be done ON THE EARTH, as it is in heaven."*

kingdom of God/kingdom of heaven = same thing.

1 - Matthew only gospel with the phrase "kingdom of heaven"

2 - Matthew had a Jewish audience and there was a hesitancy in using "God" out of reverence. "Heaven" would also be used in place of God like we say "heaven forbid" or "for heaven's sake"

3 - Reference to Daniel 2:44 "the God of heaven will set up a kingdom..."

4 - Parallels like **Matthew 19:23-24**

## **Matthew 13** – Jesus' parables are about the Kingdom

18-19a (sower), 24 (wheat/tares), 31 (mustard seed), 33 (leaven), 44-46 (treasure/pearl), 47 (dragnet)

## **3 - Jesus sent his disciples to preach the kingdom of God too:**

**Luke 9:1-2** → v. 6 – "proclaim kingdom and heal" (v.1-2) cp. "preach the gospel and heal" (v. 6)

Jesus *never* preached his death & resurrection as the gospel

**Luke 16:16** - John the Baptist and on - "gospel of the Kingdom"

**Matthew 16:21-23** – disciples didn't understand info his death/resurrection. Peter rebukes him!

**Luke 18:31-34** – disciples didn't understand the information about the cross, and yet, they had already been out "preaching the gospel." This tells us that there is more to the gospel that *just* the cross.

## **4 – Other places the Kingdom is a part of Jesus' teaching:**

**Matthew 24:14** – Included in end times teaching

**Matthew 25:31-36, 41** - Jesus taught that the Kingdom was the hope of the righteous.

## **5 - The Kingdom Message Is The Backstory to Jesus' Passion:**

**Luke 22:15 & 16, 28-30** – The last supper, communion.

**Matthew 26:62-64** - Jesus' "trial"

**Luke 23:42-43** – Jesus on the cross

- Jesus does not tell the criminal he will be with him in heaven, but tells him he will be with him in paradise in response to his question about being in the kingdom.

**Acts 1:3** - Post resurrection, Jesus is teaching about the kingdom.

## **6 - The early church preached the Kingdom message AND THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST:**

**Acts 8:12** - Philip preached kingdom of God & name of Jesus Christ

**Acts 19:8** - Paul's message

**Acts 28:23-24, 30-31** - Paul's Message

Where we get mixed up today is we see the early church's emphasis on the cross that we assume that was the only thing they were talking about. But what we forget is that their initial audience already understood the kingdom message and now they were pointing to who the King of that kingdom was. But our neighbors today may not. That's why we must speak of this the Kingdom to the world.

### **Why didn't Kingdom come?**

- Jesus' audience didn't understand the most important part of the kingdom story: being with God again.
- For if Jesus came to rule at his first coming, no one would be in the Kingdom! The king of the kingdom died so that others could be a part of it!
- Why does he delay his coming now? - For you and I to be a part of it and so that we can then invite others to be as well!

**Next Week:** Kingdom People: How the church of Christ and people of God become the people of the future kingdom now.

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