



Empowering People to Change the World

Kings and Kingdoms: A Now Kingdom

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The Fourth Sunday of Advent 2020

The Road Declaration...

Matthew 2:1-12

- Even pagan wise men—probably astronomers of the time—were aware of a kingly star and a King being born.
- Herod knew about this.
- Chief priests and scribes were aware of the prophecies.

It was prophesied that the coming Messiah would be a King ruling over a new Kingdom on Earth.

Prophesied in the Scriptures, Messiah would be a King.

Genesis 49:10

**The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor a lawgiver from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes;
And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.**

- This passage is universally accepted by Jewish sources also as the Messianic prophecy.
- This is the first time the idea of a King is mentioned.
- Notice the word “scepter,” the idea of a king, from the tribe of Judah.
- A King will come out of a man born from a woman, from the tribe of Judah. He will come as a Ruler that will bring forth the obedience of the people.

It will be an eternal Kingdom built on the throne of David.

Isaiah 9:6-7

**For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.**

5 Kingdom Promises about the Messiah:

- 1. The Messiah will usher in a Kingdom that rests upon Him.**
- 2. The character of God's Kingdom is embodied in the character of the King: His Name will be "Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**
- 3. The Kingdom of God will never end.**
- 4. The Kingdom of God will be established on judgment and justice.**
- 5. The zeal of the Lord shall bring forth the Kingdom of God.**
 - The increase of His government will never end. He will never need to be reelected. He will rule forever, period, end of story!
 - It will eventually encompass the entire planet—all people will be submitted to this King; not just Jews, but everyone on the Earth.

God's Kingdom will have dominion over the entire Earth.

Habakkuk 2:14

**For the earth will be filled
With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord,
As the waters cover the sea.**

Psalms 72:8-19

**He shall have dominion also from sea to sea...to the ends of the earth.
Yes all kings shall fall down before Him;
All nations shall serve Him...
All nations shall call Him blessed.
Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
Who only does wondrous things!
And blessed be His glorious name forever!
And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.**

- So, Jesus comes as a King from the tribe of Judah, from the root of Jesse, as a Son of David, and His Kingdom will eventually cover the Earth!

Jesus came as a King proclaiming the Kingdom of God had arrived.

- Jesus made the Kingdom of God His central message.
- Jesus's first words at the beginning of His public ministry were a proclamation of the Kingdom. (Matthew 4:17)
- Luke mentions the Kingdom of God 53 times in Luke/Acts (more than any other gospel writer).
- Jesus preached the "gospel" of the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 4:23)
- He spoke of the Kingdom of God over 100 times.
- Jesus proclaimed that the "Kingdom of God was at hand" through Him. (Mark 1:15; Matthew 12:28)
- The greatest sermon ever given is considered by many historians, both secular and Christian, centered around Kingdom life. (Matthew 5-7)

- At one sitting, Jesus gave eight consecutive parables dealing with the same subject—the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 13)
- Jesus hung on a cross accused of being a “king.” (Luke 23:1-3, 38)
- Jesus taught all of us to “seek first the Kingdom of God.” (Matthew 6:33)
- Jesus taught us to pray, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Spiritual Warfare of the Kingdom of God and the Kingdoms of this Earth

- The climax of Jesus’s warfare with Satan involved the kingdoms of the world. In Matthew 4:8-10, “Again, the devil took Jesus up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Jesus, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said, ‘Away with you Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”
- Before men understood the mission of Christ, Satan fully understood that Jesus had come as a King, to bring a new kind of Kingdom!
 - The temptations of Satan were to take Jesus off His mission and tempt Him with earthly demonic power.
 - This has been the great desire of men—to rule over others, to possess power to control nations.
 - This is what makes America unique in the forms of government of nations—that our Founders would build a government “for the people and by the people.”
 - But the history of nations is a sad story of power-hungry men who cooperate with Satan through forms of government that enslave the people.

- Satan is also building his kingdom on the Earth...

If I were the devil (using my imagination, this is what I would do if I were the devil):

- I would create a pandemic that would cause all of the governments of the world to make legislation to make illegal all that is meaningful in faith, work, and relationships and call it “nonessential.” At the same time, I would legislate liquor stores and pot shops as legal and “essential.”
- If I were the Prince of Darkness, I would want to engulf the whole world in fear.
- I would take away meaningful work and encourage people to stay home and depend on the government for everything they need.
- If I were Satan, I would make pornography as easy to access as a push of a button, and I would legalize drugs and prostitution.
- I would shout down churches and make it illegal to worship.
- If I were Satan, I would legalize the killing of unborn children.
- I would create a government system that outwardly purports to take care of everyone, while quietly and secretly enslaving them.
- I would take over the education system and indoctrinate our youngest minds to disregard God and the Christian roots of our nation and to believe that the founding of our nation was primarily built on hatred, greed, and racism.
- I would further indoctrinate the unsophisticated naive public through censoring information in the news, so that I could convince them into believing that right is wrong, and wrong is right.

- If I were the devil, I would do everything possible to persuade people that the Bible is a myth, Jesus was just another nice guy, and there is no heaven nor hell.
- If I were the Prince of Darkness grim, I would just keep doing what I'm doing.

Jesus came as a King to herald His coming Kingdom! Jesus invaded our world preaching the Kingdom of God. What is the Kingdom of God?

E. Stanley Jones:

The Kingdom of God is God's total order, expressed as realm and reign, in the individual and society; and which is to replace the present unworkable world order with God's order in the individual and society; and while the nature of the Kingdom is social, the entrance into it is by a personal new birth now; the character of that Kingdom is seen in the character of Jesus—the Kingdom is Christlikeness universalized; while it comes on the earth in the time process it is eternal and is the same rule which is in heaven and because it is Christlikeness this makes it heaven—there and here; and while it is a total order demanding total obedience, it brings total freedom.

Luke 4:18-19

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”**

- Humankind needs nothing so much as he needs something to bring life together into total meaning and total purpose.
- Life for the postmodern human in the East and the West longs for something to give total meaning to an otherwise fragmented life. We

are all desiring an absolute in a broken-up relativistic world. We know everything about life except how to live it.

- The Kingdom of God is God's total answer to man's total need. Jesus came proclaiming a new Kingdom, a new way of living, an answer to life's most difficult questions.
- H.G. Wells, the famous writer and historian, who when fumbling through history in search for the relevant, came across the Kingdom of God and was shocked. He wrote, "Why here is the most radical proposal ever presented to the mind of man, the proposal to replace the present world order with God's order, the Kingdom of God."

This Christmas, have you made Jesus the King of your heart? Have you embraced His Kingdom Way?