



**Empowering People to Change the World**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent 2021  
Kings and Kingdoms**

**Steve Holt**

## Kings and Kingdoms: A Now Kingdom

### The Fourth Sunday of Advent 2021

- **Christmas Eve Services:** We will have three services. Come early; we will fill up fast.
- **Baby Dedications at our Services:** You need to sign up online.

### 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, but not sure of the details, called the chief priests and scribes, who were aware of the prophecies. They pinpointed the location of His birth as being Bethlehem.
- The world is always searching for a utopia, nirvana, ideal society/heaven on earth. Communism is built on the idea of a utopian society.
  - Hesiod dreamed of a coming Golden Age.
  - Plato envisioned an ideal state based on philosophical principles.
  - Virgil sang of one who would come and deliver the world from its sufferings and by whom “the great line of the ages begins anew.”
  - Marxism: The political and economic philosophy of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in which the concept of class struggle plays a central role in understanding society’s allegedly inevitable development from bourgeois oppression under capitalism to a socialist and ultimately classless society.
  - The Hebrew Christian view is always expressed through the lens of the Kingdom of God. The vision is of Christ the King ruling over a community of believers in the Kingdom of God.

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

**Prophesied in the Scriptures, the 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 a Messianic prophecy.
- 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.”***

## Five Kingdom Promises about the Messiah

1. **The Messiah will usher in a Kingdom that rests upon Him**—not upon a political party, but on a Person—the Messiah, the Christ, bringing a different kind of government.
  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.”** This is the kind of Kingdom we are praying for on the earth.
  3. **The Kingdom of God will never end**—a forever Kingdom.
  4. **The Kingdom of God will be established on righteousness, peace, and joy.**
  5. **The zeal of the Lord shall bring forth the Kingdom of God**—it will continue to grow and expand.
- 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.
  - Daniel was shown by God what this Kingdom will be like...

## What might such a government look like?

- Leaders of our day surround themselves with servants. Jesus surrounds us with His Servanthood.
- Most governments today imprison their people. Jesus came to set the captives free. The Kingdom of God is always about liberty.
- Leaders of our day use their power to build their empire. Jesus uses His power to build into men and women who can build and witness to the Kingdom of God on Earth.

- Leaders of our day trade their influence for money. Jesus gives us influence so we can better society and give joy and peace to others.
- Leaders of our day are desperate to be seen and heard and change society through new laws. Jesus never boasted or tried to be noticed by the world; He just changed the world through the power of changing hearts.

**Jesus is not in charge of the halls of Washington, London, Moscow, Tehran, or Beijing. It seems like Satan rules this world. So, how can we ever believe the “government will be upon His shoulder”?**

- We see His government, the Kingdom of God, at work when God miraculously restores a marriage, and breaks an addiction to drugs or alcohol.
- Whenever loving Christians care for those less fortunate, helping those who have lost hope through giving, caring, and action, we are watching the government of God at work.
- Whenever we see people eagerly studying the Bible and joyfully worshipping God, we can see Who the Governor is over their lives.
- When we see bodies being healed, lives being changed, and families being reunited, we know those people are under a new Governor.
- Whenever we see people give their finances for the King to be lifted up and for the Kingdom of God to be advanced, we know they are under a new government.
- When we see pastors and churches training their people to be Jesus disciples, we know they are under the King and His Kingdom.
- When we see a people spending hours in prayer, crying out to God for their friends, neighbors, city, and nation, humbling themselves and believing God can intervene miraculously into any situation, we know the Kingdom of God has come.

- *So, indeed, the government of the Kingdom of God is alive and working in over two billion people across the world. It is being noticed more and more across the world because the zeal of the Lord is present and His justice, mercy, and grace are unstoppable.*
- This Christmas, vote for a new King in your life. Make a choice to join the greatest, most radical movement the world has ever known, the Kingdom of God.

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

**Daniel 2:44**

***"And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."***

**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.
  - **Our vision at The Road: A Kingdom of God revolution in our city, our county, our state!**
- 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 called the "gospel" the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 4:23)
- He spoke of the Kingdom of God over 100 times.
- The greatest sermon ever given is considered by many historians, both secular and Christian, centered around Kingdom life. (Matthew 5-7)
- 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."

### **But it's spiritual warfare! 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.
- Jesus came to "destroy the works of the devil."
- ***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...

**Ex. As of today, we are on Day 461 of Noonday Prayer! It is a war for our country, for the Kingdom of God against Satan.**

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.*



- 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.”

Jesus made the Kingdom His mission, and it’s embodied in His Mission Statement:

**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 it 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.

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

**Jesus is calling us to repent so that times of restoration might come! Repent, be restored!**