

Kingdom Come Series ©

A study in the sovereignty of God and what it means for missions

Week 3: the workings of the Kingdom in this age

G Strauss Sept. 2008

I. Review:

- A. God rules eternally- His Kingdom is eternal
- B. God will make His rule fully known in our history in the age to come
- C. The history of missions and modern thought have exposed weaknesses and opened new opportunities for the people of God
- D. A reality check on this present evil age
 1. God is allowing His rule to be openly opposed and we often bear the consequences.
 2. the gift of the Kingdom is being offered as righteousness peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
 3. the wind of the Kingdom is blowing- we must deliver the message in the context of this present evil age
- E. We must view Missions in light of God's overall redemptive plan and how He has chosen to position His kingdom in this age
 1. God's own glory is the highest good and makes everything else secondary
 2. But God's love means the world is His highest priority (not just me as an individual)

II. God has ideally positioned His Kingdom in this present age to represent His glory and His love.

- A. **Mk 4:26-29: the kingdom is subtle but miraculous like a seed.**
 1. We add nothing to the life that is in the seed. It is all from God!
 2. We sow and we harvest but God gives the growth.
 3. Like mustard seed and leaven, the kingdom infiltrates quietly and unobtrusively but because of the power of God can have major impact.
- B. **Matt 13:3-8, 18-23 no guarantees like a sower sowing seed.**
 1. It depends on the response of a willing heart and a submissive will for growth.
 2. The kingdom is not about coercion.
- C. **Matt 13:24-30, 37-43 it is not separate us from sin like the wheat and tares growing together.**

-those who receive it must live with the sons of Satan until the end of the age. We will not shine until the kingdom comes fully.
- D. **Matt 13:44-46 The kingdom is an individual response to a precious gift like hidden treasure or a costly pearl**
 1. despite it seeming insignificance, it is of inestimable value
 2. not everyone knows to search for it.

- E. **Matt 13:47-50 It brings in the good and the evil like a dragnet**
 - 1. unlike the final kingdom which separates good and evil (Matt 13:41-43)
 - F. **Matt 25:1-13 The kingdom is unpredictable and therefore requires preparation like those waiting for a wedding.**
 - 1. requires waiting not rash assumptions.
 - G. **Matt 20:1-16 The kingdom of God may not seem fair from our point of view like the vineyard workers wages.**
 - 1. The kingdom blessings are based on God's promises not our efforts.
 - 2. The kingdom is ruled by a King- it is not a democracy!
 - H. **Matt 22:2-14 The kingdom is not about who you are but about whether or not you are prepared like those at the wedding feast.**
 - 1. even those from the highways and byways were thrown out if they were not properly dressed.
 - I. **Matt 18:23-35 The kingdom is rooted in mercy but is conditional like the forgiving master jailed the unforgiving servant.**
- III. The Kingdom is ideally positioned to infiltrate this world's environment of evil:**
- A. flexible and able to respond to the attacks and interference of the adversary
 - B. not based on power or control but directed by principles of love rather than specific rules of behavior
 - 1. See the sermon on the mount, beatitudes, etc. and Matt 22:37-40.
 - 2. **We do not need to be preoccupied with figuring out the rules but with living out the principles!**
 - C. attractive and visible in individuals which allows it to be "viral" in its spread. **Luke 17:21.**
 - D. designed to be found but not for the casual observer Matt 7:7, Matt 6:33
 - E. organic and relational. Demonstrated and worked out by the assembling of relationships (churches) rather than designed like a machine. I Peter 2:5, 9-10
 - 1. **the church is the assembly network of the kingdom. It connects us to and in the kingdom**
 - 2. **Heb 12:18-24-** we have not come to a physical kingdom. **The who's who of the kingdom!**
 - 3. Heb 12:28- a kingdom which cannot be shaken even now

next week-

God's redemptive plan is the global conquest to overcome sin and death

The gospel is how this story unfolded in the ministry of Jesus

God is seeking decisions (we need to be clear about what a "decision" looks like) to believe the gospel

Study guide for International participants

1. Review the parables of Matthew 13, Matthew 25:1-13, and Matthew 20:1-16, Matthew 22:2-14, and Matthew 18:23-25 and prepare a list of Kingdom characteristics.
2. How do these characteristics relate to the world you live in?