

Kingdom Come Series ©

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

Week 4: the gospel of the Kingdom

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I. Review:

- A. God rules eternally- His Kingdom is eternal
- B. God will make His rule fully known in our history and 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. God has ideally positioned His Kingdom in this present age to express both His glory and His love so that His Kingdom will expand

II. So what is the problem?

A. The 4 barriers to the Kingdom: Satan, sin, death, and the blindness of man

- 1. Acts 26:18- the apostolic ministry to address these barriers
 - 2. I Peter 5:8- remember Satan still prowls about to devour
 - 3. Rom 5:12, Rom 6:23- Satan introduced sin, man sinned, all die
 - 4. I Cor 15:53-57- corruption and mortality must be eliminated to enter the final eternal kingdom
- B. These barriers are interrelated and God has provided the means to deal with all four.
- 1. God conquered Satan. Heb 2:14-15 (see week 2) But damage has already been done and must be corrected - note that even though Satan is bound during the millennium, there is still sin and death that Jesus must conquer. Rev 20:5
 - 2. Jesus provided the sacrifice that renders sin powerless but He is waiting to put all His enemies under His feet. Heb 10:12-13
 - 3. Prior to delivering the kingdom to the Father, Jesus will conquer all enemies (barriers). I Cor 15:25-26
 - 4. The gospel of the kingdom is God's ordained message to deal with the blindness of men now. Rom 1:16, I Cor 1:18**

III. The gospel of the Kingdom- the God ordained message for our mission

A. It is the great story of how the barriers to the kingdom have been broken down to rescue ("save") us from this present evil age.

II Tim 1:8-10, I Cor 15:53-57

- B. The story of God's redemptive work with a common set of basic truths
- 1. A story that may be told in many ways
 - the "Gospels" are all different presentations of the gospel of the Kingdom
 - different emphasis, same story
 - 2. The power of the resurrection of Jesus, available to those who believe, as an unmerited gift: Gal 2:20, Eph. 2:4-9

3. God acting among men to deliver them from bondage to Satan:
Gal.1:4, Matt 4:23-24, Matt 12:24-29
 4. God acting among men to deliver from the power of sin:
Rom 6:5-7, Heb 9:26-28
 5. God making eternal life available now as a relationship with Him in this present evil age:
John 10:10, John 3:16, John 3:36, John 17:3
 6. God dwelling within us individually:
Gal 2:20, I Cor 6:19
- C. Entry into the Kingdom in this age is based simply on a genuine decision to believe this story (it requires an act of God for us to see but it is OUR response)
1. Israel was to be the agent for entry to the kingdom but lost this privilege. Matt 11:20-24, Matt 21:33-45
 2. Instead, Jesus offered himself directly to individuals:
Matt 11: 28-30, I Jn 5:11-12, John 3:16
 3. **Jesus expected people to make a choice** characterized by:
 - Repentance Matt 4:17
 - Following Him no matter what the circumstances Lu 9:57-58
 - Following Him with uncompromising loyalty Lu 9:59-60
 - Following Him with a clear focus Lu 9:61-62
 4. It was expected to be a costly choice Matt 19:16-25, Matt 10: 34-39, Lu 9:23
 5. We may tend to try to produce a reaction to the sad story of an innocent mans death because of His great love. But a reaction is not enough!
 6. **The issue is not whether Jesus must be received as Lord or simply as Savior. The issue is He must be received decisively!**
 6. Remember God is the final judge of all the decisions we make.

It is not just about heaven and hell or about a reaction to a sad and heroic story: the gospel and our mission is about making a life choice to be rescued from this evil age to be able to live in the kingdom now and forever as a gift from God.

Study guide for international participants

1. What does II Timothy 1:9-10 tell us about the gospel and its intended impact?
2. What did Jesus teach in Matt 12:24-28 about God's plan for the gospel?
3. How is sin dealt with according to Romans 6:5-14
4. What does Luke 9:57-62 teach us about the kind of response Jesus was looking for?