

The Nature of the Kingdom of God

* **The Kingdom is the reign and rule of God's love.** God is love. His love is sovereign. His love is the royal law that rules His kingdom. The Kingdom is where His love happens. (I Jn 4:15-16; Ps. 109:21; Col. 1:13-14; Jas. 2:8; Mt. 22:37-40)

* **The Kingdom is here.** Eternal Life with all its divine benefits is now available, ("at hand"), fully affordable ("to the poor"), totally adaptable ("Kingdom come"), completely accessible ("seek first") today in the Kingdom. (John 3:16; I John 5:11; Matthew 4:17, 5:3, 6:10, 6:33; 2 Peter 1:11)

* **The Kingdom is the King.** Jesus is the King with unsearchable riches. We lift Jesus, follow Jesus, love Jesus, love like Jesus, invite others after Jesus for in Jesus is the Kingdom. (Ephesians 3:8; Romans 11:33; John 12:32; Matthew 4:19; John 15:9; John 13:34; Matthew 10:7)

* **The Kingdom is optional.** We have to want to enter the Kingdom. How do we get in? The Kingdom can be trusted by those who trust the Kingdom. We can leave the Kingdom behind. The Kingdom can be taken from us and given to someone else. (Matthew 20:32; 7:21; 19:22; 21:43; 25:12)

* **The Kingdom exists in the 10,000 minutes.** The church is a steward of the Kingdom in the 10K. The church gathers in the 80:00 to celebrate the work of the Kingdom. The church is not the Kingdom, nor the sole proprietor of the Kingdom, for the Kingdom is always at work. (Matthew 10:7-8; 13:11; Luke 10:17; Matthew 16:19; Mark 9:1; Luke 17:20-21; John 5:17)

* **The Kingdom is transferable.** The King commands us to invite others into the Kingdom. Love is the act of invitation. People may believe in the Kingdom but not believe the Kingdom. (Luke 9:2 & 60; 10:9-11; Acts 28:31; Mark 15:43; 2 Timothy 4:1-2)

* **The Kingdom is hidden.** It starts small, is childlike, most often grows quietly and results in a party with unexpected guests. (*Least - Yeast - Feast*) (Matthew 13:31; 18:3-4; 13:33; Mark 4:28; Luke 7:28; Matthew 22:2; Colossians 3:3)

* **The Kingdom co-exists.** For now, the kingdom of darkness and the individual kingdoms and queendoms are allowed to reign alongside the Kingdom. (Luke 4:5-6; 22:53; John 3:19; Revelation 16:10)

* **The Kingdom reigns forever.** The Kingdom is without end. We are invited to reign with the King and His Kingdom over all the earth. (Rev. 11:15; Hebrews 1:8; Matthew 13:41; 2 Timothy 4:18; Revelation 5:10 & 22:5)

* **The Kingdom is life.** Starting today and existing without ceasing, the Kingdom brings a goodness that makes good people. (Matthew 5:20; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 12:28; James 2:5; 2 Peter 1:11; Revelation 1:5-6)

Seek Jesus, find the Kingdom. Seek the Kingdom, find Jesus.

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The Word Revealing the Kingdom of God

*** The Kingdom is the reign and rule of God's love**

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. I John 4:15-16

But you, Sovereign Lord, help me for your name's sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me. Psalm 109:21

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. James 2:8

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. Matthew 27:37-40

*** The Kingdom is here**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. I Jn 5:11

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 4:17

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3

Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

You will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:11

*** The Kingdom is the King**

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. (NKJV) Ephesians 3:8

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Romans 11:33

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. John 12:32

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"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Matthew 4:19

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. John 15:9

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Matthew 10:7

* **The Kingdom is optional**

Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. Mt. 20:32

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21

When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Mt 19:22

Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Matthew 21:43

But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' Matthew 25:12

* **The Kingdom exists in the 10,000 minutes**

As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.' Matthew 10:7-8

He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them." Matthew 13:11

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." Luke 10:17

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Matthew 16:19

And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power." Mark 9:1

Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst." Lk. 17:20-21

In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." John 5:17

* **The Kingdom is transferable**

He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Luke 9:2

Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Luke 9:60

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Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.' Luke 10:9-11

He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance! Acts 28:31

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Mark 15:43

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 4:1-2

* **The Kingdom is hidden**

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed." Mt. 13:31

And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3-4

He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough." Mt. 13:33

All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. Mark 4:28

I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. Luke 7:28

The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. Mt. 22:2

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3

* **The Kingdom co-exists**

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to." Luke 4:5-6

Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns. Luke 22:53

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. John 3:19

The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in agony. Revelation 16:10

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* **The Kingdom reigns forever**

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever." Revelation 11:15

But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom." Hebrews 1:8

The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. Matthew 13:41

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. 2 Timothy 4:18

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth. Revelation 5:10

There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Revelation 22:5

* **The Kingdom is life**

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:20

While we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. Titus 2:13-14

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. Hebrews 12:28

Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? James 2:5

You will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:11

Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Revelation 1:5-6