

104.24. KINGDOM OF GOD

Where is the Kingdom of God today? To some, it may seem that God is hidden or missing these days; due to all the open outright willful, unrepentant disobedience & sin that we are seeing, just like in the days after Moses, when God said; I will surely hide my face in that day, due to all the evil the people do & because they have turned to other gods, Deut. 31:18.

It was also said to the leaders & prophets who wronged God's children; You will cry out to God, but He will not answer, He will hide his face because of the evil you have done, Micah 3:4. But you can be assured that the Kingdom of God is near & is here on earth, right where Christ brought it to be.

God the Father Reign's as Creator of all things, with authority over all things, this same authority that He afforded to His son, Jesus Christ, who is the Redeemer of all who believe & turn away from sin, via repentance & accept the change of heart & mind towards God, that's needed to join into the glories of the Kingdom of Heaven, which is at hand.

The earth, the world & all who live in it, are the Lord's, Psalm 24:1. His Kingdom rules over all, Psalm 103:19. For by Him were all things created; in Heaven & on earth, visible & invisible; thrones, dominions, principalities & powers, as all things were created by Him.

God gave man responsibility over the earth, to participate in the Kingdom, Colossians 1:16 & Jesus even said, I must proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God, for I was sent for this purpose, Luke 4:43.

Satan's rebellion against God has brought a counterfeit kingdom to earth, convincing men to believe & trust in their selves, following their

own desires, rather than God's & many have chosen to follow satan's ways of sin & pleasure, which leads to spiritual death & separation from God & His Kingdom. God had much planned for them, but due to their continued unbelief, He blinded their minds, so that they could not see the light, or the glory of Jesus, 2 Corinth. 4:4. Jesus promised that if we seek Him, we will find Him & if we knock on the door He will answer, but we have free will & must choose either to follow His lifegiving promises, or the coming doom, from satan's temptations & lies.

God promised David, in the Old Testament, that his lineage would always be on the throne, 2 Samuel 12, which was fulfilled, nearly 1000 years later, when the Kingdom of God was established on earth, as Jesus, from the lineage of David, came as our final King. God always keeps His promises, but we must be patient, as His timeline is not as ours.

In preparation of the ministry of Jesus, John the Baptist called people to repent for the Kingdom of God was near, Math 3:2 & the next day as he saw Jesus coming, he said look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, John 1:29. Jesus' ministry called for repentance, Matt 3:2, while preaching the Good News that the Kingdom of Heaven was near & that we are to receive it, as a small child; such that we are to become new, as baby Christians & humbly accept the power of the Kingdom within us & to be saved into this Kingdom, through grace, for it is by the gift of God that we are saved, through faith in His redeeming grace, Eph. 2:8-9.

Repentance & belief in Christ leads to a spiritual rebirth that guarantees entrance into the Kingdom, John 3:3-5. Jesus taught that the Kingdom of

God resides within repentant believers, Luke 17:21, with repentance as key, as even satan & the demons believe in God, but are not repentant & are separated from Him.

Jesus teaches much on the Kingdom of God, through instructive lessons called Parables. Through one of the Parables, Jesus teaches of a spiritual reign on earth, between when He leaves & returns at His 2nd coming. Here we see that this will encompass all people who believe, as well as those who do not.

Through this parable of the mustard seed, in the Gospels, we see the Kingdom of God as a great movement, which starts small, like a mustard seed, the smallest of seeds; yet when sown it grows & becomes the greatest of all, with large branches, so all can nest in it, Mark 4:30.

Many in the time of Jesus expected the reign of God to appear in its full grandeur, but again Jesus reveals that it begins as the smallest of seeds & the full extent of God's Kingdom will flourish at a later time, in God's timing.

While the Kingdom of God is here on earth, it has not yet been made complete. There is yet a coming of the fullness of the Kingdom, at the end of the age, that we are to pray for. As members of God's Kingdom, through Christ, we are Ambassadors of God, 2 Corinthians 5:20.

Our role is to proclaim "the Good News" of the Kingdom to others, while calling them to repentance & salvation through the faith of Christ & though we may not understand all about the Kingdom of God, we trust our Teacher & worship Him as Lord, as we live out His teaching in our lives, awaiting His return & we pray like He taught the disciples to pray; for God's Kingdom on earth; Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven, Matt. 6:10.

Jesus uses the Greek “basileia tou theou” for the Kingdom of God. The word basileia means, reign, rule, authority, sovereignty. We see this in a parable where He speaks of a nobleman who went to a distant country to have himself appointed king & then returns, Luke 19:12, in Greek this says, he went to receive a Basileia i.e., a greater authority, just as God’s Kingdom is His divine power & authority & people praise Him for who He is, not where He is.

So when Jesus says that the Kingdom of God has come near, He doesn’t mean a place, but a who, as God’s Royal Authority & power have come, i.e. God’s reign is at hand, God’s power is being unleashed, through Christ & us, so turn to Him & trust in His Good News, Mark 1:15 & seek deeper understanding of the Kingdom of God, which is God’s reign, rule, authority & sovereignty, which has come near & is here, by way of the power of Christ.

Jesus’ healing people was one sign of the presence of God’s reign on earth. God comes to save & redeem & the eyes of the blind shall be opened & the ears of the deaf unstopped & the lame shall leap, Isa 35:5-6. These proved the presence of the Kingdom.

Jesus multiplies food, walks on water & stills the storm, these are part of God’s Kingdom; Jesus’ power over nature shows that God’s promised Kingdom has arrived & that God is present in Jesus’ ministry, as the Kingdom of Heaven is not the Kingdom that exists in Heaven, but is the reign of God over Heaven & earth.

Jesus said, My kingdom is not of this world, John 18:36; it is from another place, He is not speaking of the location, but of the source of His authority, as the Kingdom of God, is God’s reign, God’s rule, on earth & in Heaven, by God’s spirit.

The Kingdom of God is within you, Luke 17:21. God's reign touches hearts, as inner beings are healed, transformed & renewed, but the kingdom of God is not limited to internal, subjective experiences. Jesus said, the Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be seen; nor will they say, look, here it is, or there it is, as the Kingdom is among you, Luke 17:20.

Jesus says the Pharisees hearts are full of greed, self-indulgence & filth, Matt 23:25, so He is not telling them to look into their hearts for the Kingdom, as it is not in your heart, it is in your midst & if you want to find it, look, not into your sinful hearts, but in front of your eyes, at Jesus, His words & His works.

The Kingdom of God is something that we should experience every day in all aspects of life, as God's reign embraces & transforms hearts & is not limited. The Kingdom impacts actions, thoughts, relationships, families, institutions & government & touches everything; as the Kingdom is not just in Heaven, or hearts & like the mustard seed, the Kingdom may seem small in the moment, but is great in its context & it is the plan for every being, to be able to take part in the Eternal Kingdom of God & become part of the eternal family, of the Father God & the Son, Jesus Christ.

So, look around you, open up your heart, mind & soul & look beyond what your eyes tell you & see & experience the Kingdom of God, in all that you truly see & do.