

Kingdom of God March 8, 2009 p.m.

Have we taken a primary theme of scripture and relegated it to a secondary focus?

1. The kingdom of God was a primary theme for Jesus.

Matthew 4:23 (HCSB)

²³ Jesus was going all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Luke 4:43 (HCSB)

⁴³ But He said to them, “I must proclaim the good news about the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because I was sent for this purpose.”

Luke 8:1 (HCSB)

¹ Soon afterwards He was traveling from one town and village to another, preaching and telling the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with Him,

Mark 1:14-15 (HCSB)

¹⁴ After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the good news of God:

¹⁵ “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news!”

2. The kingdom of God was a primary focus as Jesus was training His disciples.

What did Jesus tell His disciples to proclaim?

Matthew 10:7-8 (HCSB)

⁷ As you go, announce this: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’

⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, drive out demons. You have received free of charge; give free of charge.

How did Jesus teach His disciples how to pray?

Luke 11:1-4 (KJV)

¹ And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

² And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

³ Give us day by day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

What did Jesus talk with His disciples about between His resurrection and Ascension?

Acts 1:3 (KJV)

³ To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

3. The Kingdom of God was a primary part of the message of the early church.

Acts 8:12 (HCSB)

¹² But when they believed Philip, as he proclaimed the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

Acts 19:8 (HCSB)

⁸ Then he entered the synagogue and spoke boldly over a period of three months, engaging in discussion and trying to persuade them about the things related to the kingdom of God.

Key Concepts From These Passages About the Kingdom:

- **Good News**
- **To Be Proclaimed, Taught, Try to Persuade**
- **At Hand, Near**
- **Thy Kingdom Come**
- **Thy Will Be Done on Earth as in heaven**
- **Both phrases have a present realization and a future fulfillment**

4. The Jews expected a physical kingdom and an overthrow of Rome.

Rome was ruling ruthlessly; and the Jews rightly understood that they were living in a time where evil reigned, in an age of darkness. They also correctly understood that there was a day coming when the Messiah – the anointed one = “Christ” – would come suddenly with the army’s of heaven and establish the kingdom of God’s rule over this world. They were looking forward to the time when God’s chosen people would rule with Him over all the gentiles, especially over the Romans.

Matthew 20:20-22 (HCSB)

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons approached Him with her sons. She knelt down to ask Him for something.

²¹ “What do you want?” He asked her. “Promise,” she said to Him, “that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right and the other on Your left, in Your kingdom.”

²² But Jesus answered, “You don’t know what you’re asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?” “We are able,” they said to Him.

5. Jesus taught that this physical kingdom will be fulfilled in the future.

Luke 21:26-28 (HCSB)

²⁶ People will faint from fear and expectation of the things that are coming on the world, because the celestial powers will be shaken.

²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

²⁸ But when these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near!”

Luke 22:29-30 (HCSB)

²⁹ I bestow on you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one on Me,

³⁰ so that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom. And you will sit on thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

Matthew 19:27-30 (HCSB)

²⁷ Then Peter responded to Him, “Look, we have left everything and followed You. So what will there be for us?”

²⁸ Jesus said to them, “I assure you: In the Messianic Age, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

²⁹ And everyone who has left houses, brothers or sisters, father or mother, children, or fields because of My name will receive 100 times more and will inherit eternal life.

³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Revelation 20:1-6 (HCSB)

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for 1,000 years.

³ He threw him into the abyss, closed it, and put a seal on it so that he would no longer deceive the nations until the 1,000 years were completed. After that, he must be released for a short time.

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and people seated on them who were given authority to judge. [I] also [saw] the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of God’s word, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and who had not accepted the mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with the Messiah for 1,000 years.

⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the 1,000 years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! The second death has no power over these, but they will be priests of God and the Messiah, and they will reign with Him for 1,000 years.

6. Jesus taught that the kingdom was already at hand as people became His followers.

Luke 17:20-21 (HCSB)

²⁰ Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God will come, He answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming with something observable;

²¹ no one will say, ‘Look here!’ or ‘There!’ For you see, the kingdom of God is among you.”

John 18:36 (HCSB)

³⁶ “My kingdom is not of this world,” said Jesus. “If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I wouldn’t be handed over to the Jews. As it is, My kingdom does not have its origin here.”

7. Jesus gave insights into how we can come into the kingdom of God.

Matthew 6:33 (HCSB)

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Matthew 19:23-26 (HCSB)

²³ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “ I assure you: It will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven!

²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were utterly astonished and asked, “Then who can be saved?”

²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Mark 10:13-16 (HCSB)

¹³ Some people were bringing little children to Him so He might touch them, but His disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴ When Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me. Don’t stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

¹⁵ I assure you: Whoever does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

¹⁶ After taking them in His arms, He laid His hands on them and blessed them.

Luke 13:22-30 (HCSB)

²² He went through one town and village after another, teaching and making His way to Jerusalem.

²³ “Lord,” someone asked Him, “are there few being saved?” He said to them,

²⁴ “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because I tell you, many will try to enter and won’t be able

²⁵ once the homeowner gets up and shuts the door. Then you will stand outside and knock

on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up for us!' He will answer you, 'I don't know you or where you're from.'

²⁶ Then you will say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets!'

²⁷ But He will say, 'I don't know you or where you're from. Get away from Me, all you workers of unrighteousness!'

²⁸ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth in that place, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but yourselves thrown out.

²⁹ They will come from east and west, from north and south, and recline at the table in the kingdom of God.

³⁰ Note this: some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."