



HEAVEN IN SPAIN

Church and the Kingdom

Session six - The nature of the kingdom



The meaning of "kingdom"

- NT – "basileia" - kingdom, sovereignty, royal power
- kingship, sovereignty, authority, rule
- OT – "malkuòth"
- a *rule*; concretely a *dominion*:—empire, kingdom, realm, reign, royal.



Some definitions of the kingdom of God

- “God’s total order, expressed as realm and reign, in the individual and in society; and which is to replace the present unworkable world order with God’s order in the individual and in society...” - E. Stanley Jones
- The governing influence of a king over his territory, impacting it with his personal will, purpose, and intent, producing a culture, values, morals, and lifestyle that reflect the king’s desires and nature for his citizens. – Myles Monroe
- The whole of SOT is about the kingdom – prophecy, identity, supernatural..... But we will focus on some broad aspects

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There are many inferior “kingdoms”

- Kingdom of capitalism
- Kingdom of socialism
- Kingdom of the church
 - Catholics overtly by saying the church is infallible
 - Protestants covertly by making the church the end goal instead of the kingdom
- Kingdom of communism
- Kingdom of a nation
- Kingdom of self – money, possessions, pride, hate, lack of love...
- These are attempts at creating a replica of the kingdom of heaven, reducing the kingdom to fit an inferior mould
- All these can and do fail, but the kingdom of heaven is a Kingdom “which cannot be shaken” (Hebrews 12:28)
- The economic, social and political aspects of the kingdom have been largely ignored

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There are many "church" kingdoms

- Me/ My experience
- My church
- Our church
- Our denomination
- The church
- The seven mountains

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The kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God

- Matthew alone describes it as the kingdom of Heaven (32 times)
- "Kingdom of Heaven" and "Kingdom of God" are synonymous
 - **Matthew 4:17** "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
 - **Mark 1:14-15** "Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."
- Why does Matthew use "kingdom of Heaven?"
 - Audience?, Reverence?, Emphasis?

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Church creeds and the kingdom

- The apostle's creed does not mention it
- The Athanasian creed does not mention it
- The Nicene creed mentions it once

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The kingdom and the King are an inseparable message

- **Acts 8:12** - "But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.
- **Acts 28:23** - So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets
- **Acts 28:31** - preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

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Jesus is the fulfilment of the kingdom promise to all Luke 4:21, 25-28

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- **Read Luke 4:18-27**
- ²¹And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."
- ²⁵But I tell you truly, many **widows** were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; ²⁶but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, *in the region* of Sidon, to a woman *who was* a widow.
- ²⁷And many **lepers** were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."²⁸So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,



Jesus has authority and rule in the kingdom

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- **Matthew 28:18** - He has been given all authority in heaven and on earth
- **Acts 2:36** - He has been made both Lord and Christ
- **Ephesians 1:20-22** - All things have been placed under His feet
- **1 Peter 3:22** - All authorities and powers have been made subject to Him
- **Revelations 1:5** - He is now "the ruler over the kings of the earth"
- **Revelations 2:26-27** - He has received power to rule the nations with a rod of iron
- **1 Timothy 6:14-15** - He is "King of kings, and Lord of lords"
- **1 Corinthians 15:25-26** "He must reign until all enemies are placed under His feet"



The kingdom was Jesus' central message

- **Matt 16:19** - And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
- **Mark 1:14-15** - Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."
- **Matt 4:23** - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people
- **Matt 6:9-10** - ⁹In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.
- **Matt 24:14** - And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

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The kingdom was Jesus' final 7 week teaching series

- **Acts 1:1-3**
- The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being **seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**

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The kingdom was the central message in Acts

- **Acts 19:8 (Paul)** - And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God
- **Acts 8:12 (Phillip)** - But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.
- **Acts 20:25, 7 (Paul)** - "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.... For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

- **Paul called the kingdom of God the whole counsel of God**

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The nature of the kingdom of heaven

- **There are three "perfect" manifestations of the kingdom of Heaven coming to Earth in Scripture**
- **The beginning – Garden of Eden (Genesis 1,2)**
 - A perfect environment for two people
- **Jesus – Gospels**
 - A perfect man
- **The end – The new Jerusalem (Revelation 22)**
 - The new city
 - A perfect environment for billions of people

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1. The nature of the kingdom reflected by the new heaven and earth

• Revelation 21:1-4

- ¹Now I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.
- ³And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and **He will dwell with them**, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.
- ⁴And God **will wipe away every tear** from their eyes; there shall be **no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain**, for the former things have passed away."

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1. The nature of the kingdom - the new heaven Revelation 21:11 27

- Having the glory of God
- Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.
- Twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates
- Twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. its wall: one hundred *and* forty-four cubits
- The construction of its wall *was of* jasper; and the city *was* pure gold, like clear glass.
- The foundations of the wall of the city *were* adorned with all kinds of precious stones:
- The twelve gates *were* twelve pearls: each individual gate *was* of one pearl.
- The street of the city *was* pure gold, like transparent glass.
- No temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
- The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light.
- Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).
- And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.
- But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

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2. The nature of the kingdom - a place of life

- It has the lamb's book of life (Rev 21:27)
- It has the fountain of the water of life (Rev 21:6)
- It has the river of the water of life (Rev 22:1)
- It has the tree of life (Rev 22:2)
- The kingdom way is the life giving way – economically, relationally, politically
- Our bodies and minds are also healthy when lived the kingdom way

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2. The nature of the kingdom - a place of life

- Dr William Sadler, famous psychiatrist, has pronounced this judgement after looking for years into the minds, souls and bodies of disrupted people: "If humanity lived in a truly Christian way, half the diseases of humanity would drop off tomorrow morning and we would stand up a new healthy humanity."
- Dr Adler, Jewish psychiatrist, states "I suppose all the ills of human personality can be traced back to one thing - not understanding the meaning of the phrase 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'

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3. The kingdom is an everlasting kingdom

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- **Psalm 145:13** - Your kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion *endures* throughout all generations.
- **2 Peter 1:11** - for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- **Daniel 7:27** - Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'
- **Luke 1:31-33 (Gabriel)** "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."
- **Matthew 25:34** – "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, *inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*'"
- *We do not create it or bring it, but we enter it and help others to enter. It has been prepared for us*



4. Heaven is a place of diverse and consistent fruit

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- **Revelation 22:1-2**
- **And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**



5. The kingdom is a kingdom of love

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- **The kingdom is built on agape love**
 - **Colossians 1:13** He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love.
- **The joy over a person who returns**
 - **Luke 15:7** "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance." (The parable of the lost sheep)
 - **Luke 15:10** "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Parable of the lost coin)
- **The speed of acceptance for one who returns**
 - **Luke 15:20** "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him



6. Other kingdom properties

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- **Peace, Joy & Righteousness - Romans 14:17**
 - for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- **Light - 1 Peter 2:9**
 - But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- **Power - 1 Corinthians 4:20**
 - For the kingdom of God *is* not in word but in power.



7. The kingdom is spiritual

- **Jesus to a scribe**
 - "You are not far from the kingdom of God" (Mark 12:34)
- **Jesus to Pharisees**
 - "The kingdom does not come with observation" (Luke 17:20)
 - "The kingdom of God is within you (in your midst)" (Luke 17:21)
- **Jesus to Pontius Pilate**
 - "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." (John 18:36)

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7. The kingdom is spiritual

- **Genesis 1:1-3** - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light
- God existed outside of our space and time. He created them for us. We cannot limit Him to what we can perceive in our three dimensions of space and one dimension of time. Our physical bodies are created to operate only in the created heavens and earth.

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**The reality of
the spiritual
kingdom**
2 Kings 6:14-20

- “Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha”

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**The reality of
the spiritual
kingdom**
Matthew 17:1-6

- “Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.”

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The whirlwind

- **2 Kings 2:11** Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire *appeared* with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.
- **Job 38:1** Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind,
- **Psalms 77:18** The voice of Your thunder was in the whirlwind;
- **Isaiah 66:15** For behold, the Lord will come with fire, And with His chariots, like a whirlwind, To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire.
- **Jeremiah 4:13** "Behold, he shall come up like clouds, And his chariots like a whirlwind.
- **Ezekiel 1:4** Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

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8. The kingdom of faith

Hebrews 11:1-3 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

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Faith versus Sight

Sight	Faith
Can't see past solid objects	Can receive information from God who sees every place at once
Can't see into the future	Can receive information from God who lives outside of time
Can't see very small things	Can receive information from God who sees everything
Can't see more than in 3 dimensions	Can receive information from God who sees all dimensions
Can't see outside the visible electromagnetic spectrum	Can receive information from God who sees all radiation
Can't understand everything it sees	Can receive information from God who understands everything

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