



**HEAVEN IN SPAIN**

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## Church and the Kingdom

Session 7 - Entering the kingdom



### Jesus is the door to the kingdom

- Jesus is the door to the kingdom - John 10:9 - I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.
- Jesus is the way, the truth and the life – John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
  - Jesus is the way – the road to travel on
  - Jesus is the truth – the manner in which to travel
  - Jesus is life – the result of the journey
- Remember that the early church's message was Jesus and the kingdom



## Entering the kingdom

### The offer is for all

- **Matthew 22:2,3,81** - "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come... Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests."
- **Colossians 3:11**
  - there is neither Greek nor Jew (racial distinction)
  - circumcised nor uncircumcised, (religious ritual distinction)
  - barbarian, Scythian (cultural distinction)
  - slave nor free (social or economic distinction)
  - Nor male no female - Galatians 3:28 (gender distinction)

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## Jesus and entering the kingdom

- **John 3:3-6**
  - <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
  - <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"
  - <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
  - <sup>6</sup>That which is **born of the flesh** is flesh, and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit

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## Four (Potential) Births of John 3:3-6

- **born "again" – "See" the kingdom**
  - "anoôthen" - from above, again, from the beginning (very first), the top
  - **This is the only time Jesus talked about being born again and it was in a private conversation**
- **born of "water" and the "Spirit" - Enter the kingdom**
  - "water" - "hudoô" - water (as if rainy) literally or figuratively
  - "Spirit" - pneuma - a current of air, that is, breath (blast) or a breeze, the Holy spirit
  - Purifying and Transforming
- **born of the flesh**
  - "sarx" - *flesh*, that is, (strictly) the *meat* of an animal (as food), or (by extension) the *body* (as opposed to the soul (or spirit))
- **born of the Spirit**
  - "Spirit" - pneuma - a *current* of air, that is, *breath (blast)* or a *breeze*, the Holy *spirit*

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## Seeing and Entering the kingdom John 3:3-6

- **born "again"**
  - **See the kingdom**
- **born of "water" and the "Spirit"**
  - **Enter the kingdom**

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## Seeing the kingdom

- **Removing the veil - 2 Corinthians 3:14-16** - For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.
- **Unblinding minds - 2 Corinthians 4:4** - Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.
- **Translating us – Colossians 1:13** - He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love
- **Opening our spiritual eyes - Ephesians 1:18** - the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know

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## Seeing the 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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## Seeing the 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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## Seeing the kingdom

### Mark 8:22-26

- “Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said, “I see men like trees, walking.” Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. Then He sent him away to his house, saying, “Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town.”

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## Entering the kingdom

- **John 3:5** - Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
- **Born of "water" and the "Spirit"**
- **Possible Interpretations**
  - Christian Baptism and the Holy Spirit
  - John's Baptism and the New Birth
  - The Word of God and the Spirit
  - Natural Birth and the New Birth
  - Double Metaphor for the New Birth
  - Purification and the New Birth
  - Purifying and transforming of the Spirit

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## Entering the kingdom is about Sanctification

- **Righteousness - Matthew 5:20** - "unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."
- **Obedience - Matthew 7:21** - Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
- **Commitment - Luke 9:62** - But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

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## Attitudes for entering the kingdom - your priorities

- **Matthew 6:33** - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- **Matthew 13:44** "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
- **Matthew 13:45-46** "the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

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## Attitudes for entering the kingdom -selflessness (love)

- **Matthew 16:25** - For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
- **Personally – Matthew 19:27** "Then Peter said to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you. So what will we get?"
- **Your group (church etc) – Luke 9:49** Now John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us."
- **Your culture, race etc – Luke 9:52-54** And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"

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## Attitudes for entering the kingdom -sacrifice

- **Jesus - John 12:23-25**
- But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life
- **Us - Romans 12:1**
- I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*

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## Entering and Inheriting the kingdom

- "Enter" = "eiserchomai" – "come in"
- "Inherit" = "kleronomeo" – "to be an heir to"
- "Entering" the kingdom is only referred to in the gospels (14 times) and Acts (once) but not elsewhere
- "Inheriting" the kingdom is referred to once in the gospels and 4 times in the letters
- "Inherit" refers to the full realisation of the future kingdom
- "Enter" refers to our present appropriation of the kingdom

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## Inheriting the kingdom

- **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'"
- **Ephesians 5:5** - "For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."
- **1 Cor 6:9-10** - "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God"
- **Galatians 5:19-21** - "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

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## The full inheritance of the kingdom is still to come

- **Matthew 25: 31,34** - "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory... <sup>34</sup>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
- **Hebrews 6:5** - and have tasted .....the powers of the age to come

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## The inheritance of the kingdom has a judgement before it

- To separate out what He has not planted, those that offend and are lawless - **Matthew 13:24-30,36-43** (The Wheat And The Tares)
- To separate the wicked from the just - **Matthew 13:47-50** (The Dragnet)
- To take an accounting of His servants - **Matthew 25:14-30** (The Talents) and **Luke 19:11-27** (The Minas)
- Grace and judgement are both redemptive

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## Religion and the kingdom

- **Matthew 23:13** - "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in."
  - People who are entering might not enter everywhere
  - Religion can prevent us entering
- **Matthew 23:38** - "See! Your house is left to you desolate"
  - If a person, group or church tries to save itself, it will lose itself as it will violate a law of the kingdom
- **Matthew 23:14** - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.
  - They prayed long prayers yet still took advantage of widows

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## Religion and the kingdom

- **Matthew 23:15** - "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.
- They won the lost and made their lives worse
- **Matthew 23:16** - "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.' They won the lost
- They made up stupid rules

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## Religion and the kingdom

- **Matthew 23:23 - 24**
- "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!
- They majored on the minors (to suit themselves)

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## Religion and the kingdom

- **Matthew 23:25-28**
- “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men’s* bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness
- They majored on the externals not the internals
- **Matthew 23:5**
- “But all their works they do to be seen by men.”

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## Three types of response that every person is faced with

- **Demonic – Returns evil for good**
- **Human – Returns good for good and evil for evil**
- **Kingdom – Returns good for evil**
- Only the third improves the world
- Sceptic philosopher and opponent of Christianity, Bertrand Russell speaking before Harvard University states, “I am coming to a startling, simple conclusion which sounds absurd, that love, Christian love, is the only way out of the world's problems.” (*E. Stanley Jones, The Unshakable Kingdom, 1972. Page 182.*)
- If the kingdom of heaven is to invade earth then kingdom people should return good for evil
- We don’t lose out because we have an inexhaustable supply of love, hope and peace

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## Kingdom responses

- We don't always have to give people what they ask – we can give them something better
- **John 4:13 – 14** "Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

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## Restoring the kingdom to people Luke 4:16-19

- So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me  
*To preach the gospel to the poor;  
 He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
 To proclaim liberty to the captives  
 And recovery of sight to the blind,  
 To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."*

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**Restoring the  
kingdom to  
people  
Luke 4:16-19**

## To preach the gospel to the poor

- Economically and Spiritually
- The good news to poor people would be that there would be no more poor people

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**Restoring the  
kingdom to  
people  
Luke 4:16-19**

## To heal the brokenhearted

- Emotional health
- Strong minds
- Comfort
- Encouragement

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## Restoring the kingdom to people

Luke 4:16-19

### To proclaim liberty to the captives

- Socially and politically
- People are exploited because of social standing, gender, race, class, gender, education
- Some people are a means to other's ends
- If businesses were run on a kingdom basis, they would at least profit share (love your neighbour as yourself)

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## Restoring the kingdom to people

Luke 4:16-19

### Recovery of sight to the blind

- Healing of the physical body
- Sickness is not the will of God and He never sends disease

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## Restoring the kingdom to people Luke 4:16-19

### Set at liberty those who are oppressed

- “oppressed” is “thrauō” = “crushed”, “bruised”- to break, break in pieces, shatter, smite through
- The only time used in the New Testament
- Not “Katadunasteuo” used in Acts 10:38 in “oppressed by the devil” which means “to exercise dominion against”
- Aramaic Version – “To strengthen with forgiveness them that are bruised”
- We get bruised when we go against the laws of the kingdom (guilt, inferiority, condemnation...)

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## Restoring the kingdom to people Luke 4:16-19

### To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord

- He stopped mid-sentence and didn’t include “And the day of vengeance of our God” (Isaiah 61:2)
- The year of Jubilee? – debts cancelled, slaves freed, land redistributed

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## Entering through tribulation

- **Acts 14:22** "strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.
- **Romans 5:3-5** "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."