

Episode #420 The Kingdom of God 3 – More Passages on the Kingdom

I. Introduction: As expressed in my program on “The Theme of the Bible,” I believe that the Kingdom of God is the theme of the Word of God. Christ is the Main Character, and salvation is the most crucial first thing for us to know, true. Yet the Kingdom of God is the ultimate theme of all God has written.

II. If the Kingdom of God really is the theme of the Bible, it is most important for us to discover what the Bible has to say about it. We have been considering passages that say what life on earth will be like during that coming, future kingdom.

III. More Passages on the Kingdom.

- A. Matthew 13:52. Through these studies, we are trying to learn things about the kingdom of God, both new and old.
- B. Mark 1:14-15. The subject that the Lord Jesus proclaimed in His ministry was the kingdom of God.
 1. The kingdom was at hand. Yet what is close can move far off again. The government of God is not now upon the earth. It will be again someday.
 2. In view of this statement, they were to submit (*metanoeo*) and to believe the gospel (the right message).
- C. Matthew 19:28. Peter had asked the Lord what the disciples’ reward would be.
 1. They are to sit on twelve thrones. This does not mean that they will have twelve fancy chairs, but that they have rule and authority. They judge. This means to order, to set in order, to arrange. They will make, enforce, and interpret the laws. When will this be? In the kingdom of God!
 2. They will be over the twelve tribes of Israel. There is no sign of Christians as “spiritual Israel.” This is the same family of Israel that grew into a nation that they were in the Old Testament, for it is still made up of twelve tribes.
- D. Acts 1:3. The topic that the Lord taught His disciples for forty days after His resurrection was the kingdom of God. He did not want them to be ignorant regarding it. This was going to make up a large part of their coming ministry. Verses 4-7. They wanted to know if He would restore the government to Israel at that point, but He refused to tell them.
- E. Acts 20:25. What Paul had taught the Ephesians was the Kingdom of God.
 1. Compare this with verse 24. The gospel of the grace of God and the kingdom of God were his topics.
 2. Acts 19:10. They all had heard his message.
 3. Acts 20:16-24. This was his speech closing his ministry to them.
 4. Because he had proclaimed the kingdom of God, he could say he was free of the blood of all men. Verses 26-27.
- F. Galatians 5:21. Wicked behaviors (verses 16-20) mean no inheritance in the kingdom of God. To have an inheritance in a government means to have a place or enjoy a portion in that government. It does not mean the same thing as being a subject of that government. One could still live under the government and yet have no place in the government. Having a place in God’s government is a great reward indeed.
- G. Ephesians 5:5. Again, wicked people like these have no inheritance in the government of Christ and God.
- H. II Timothy 4:1. God will judge.

1. That does not just mean He will punish. God will determine what is right and set things right. He does this regarding all who are alive when His government begins. He does this for all who are dead as well. Some will be allowed to live in His government, and others will not be allowed. Some alive may have to die. Some dead will be raised from the dead. All then will be judged.
2. This will be at His appearing. This is the Greek word *epiphaneia*. *Phaneia* means to shine forth. *Epi* is like our “super,” making this a “super shining forth,” or a “blazing forth.” This word could be used of the sun breaking through the clouds to save doomed sailors from a deadly storm. The Lord Jesus blazes forth to save the world from doom when His government comes.

IV. Conclusion: II Timothy 4:8. Paul looked forward to a crown that would be given to all those who loved His blazing forth. When we consider the darkness that lies upon this world, we can surely admit that this world needs nothing more than it needs God to turn on the light of truth and enlighten the world regarding His Savior, Jesus Christ. That is what Paul was looking forward to. Do we look forward to and love that time as well?