

The Kingdom of God

Sermon 74 in the Matthew Series

Romans 14:17

Today, we finish this section of Matthew's gospel, the Olivet Discourse, by looking at an overview of the Kingdom of God.

I. Defining the Kingdom of God

A. The Kingdom of Heaven = The Kingdom of God

Matthew is the most "Jewish" of the gospels – and the Jewish people historically use the name "God" very sparingly and refuse to even pronounce the holy name in Hebrew.

B. The Kingship of God

- In the OT – much is made of various nations? Egypt, Moab, the Philistines, Assyria, Babylon, etc. etc.
- In the NT, nations, as such, are not the focus of God's dealings with men.
- One theme is always prevalent – God is Sovereign over all kings and all nations at all times.

1. In the NT – the title of King usually applies to Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rev. 17:14 - These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful."

2. The title is also attributed to God the Father.

1 Timothy 1:17 - Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

C. The Nature of God's Kingdom – John 18:33-37

v. 33 – A profound question – how should the Lord answer it?

1 Timothy 6:13 -- I charge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

v. 34 – Part of that "good confession" is this clarifying question from Jesus to Pilate.

If Pilate asked the question of *himself*, he would have meant, "*Are you a political king competing against Caesar?*" The answer to that question would be NO.

If Pilate was asking on behalf of *Caiaphas and the Jews*, he was asking, "*Are you the Messiah, the coming King of Israel?*" To that, and throughout the trials of Christ, the answer is YES!

v. 35 – Pilate understood that Jesus was not setting himself up to be a rival to Caesar.

v. 36–37 -- This is key for us to understand, concerning the kingdom of God.
My subjects are those who are of the truth and hear my voice.

II. The King and His Kingdom

In theology we call this “*the tension between the already and the not yet*”.

- We already have all things – but we do not possess all things.
- All things are ours as surely as there is a God – but we are still pilgrims **II** wandering in this present world.

III. The Kingdom in this Present World

A. The Kingdom is growing – Luke 13:18-19.

B. The Kingdom permeates everything – Luke 13:20-21

C. Daniel’s vision of the Kingdom -- Daniel 2:31-35 (esp. 34 &35)

What is the interpretation of that stone that grew into a mountain that filled the whole earth?
v. 44-45 – The Kingdom of God.

IV. Applications -- Blessings that flow from being in the Kingdom of God

1. We are part of God’s Kingdom and God’s Family – Eph. 2:19
2. We have Forgiveness of Sin – Romans 8:1
3. We have an Eternal inheritance – Romans 8:16-17

Romans 8:16-17 -- “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together”

Galatians 4:7 -- Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

4. We have Christ, now and for all Eternity

The church (God’s Kingdom) is built on the foundation of Peter’s confession in Matthew 16:16
“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”