

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN:
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Sermon Plan

1. Introduction: The Coming Kingdom
2. The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 1: Creation
3. The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 2: The Fall
4. The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 3: Israel
5. The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 4: Jesus I
- 6. The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 4: Jesus II**
7. The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 5: Church
8. Entering the Kingdom of Heaven
9. Life in the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 1: The Benefits of the Kingdom
10. Life in the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 2: The Core Values of the Kingdom
11. Life in the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 3: The People of the Kingdom
12. Life in the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 4: The Work of the Kingdom
13. Life in the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 5: The Warfare of the Kingdom
14. Conclusion: The Story of the Kingdom of Heaven, Part 6: New Creation

THE STORY OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IV:
JESUS, LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH
(MATTHEW 28:16-20)

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- I. Death and Resurrection
- II. Matthew 28:16-20: Jesus' Last Words
 - A. Going to See Jesus (28:16-17)
 - B. Jesus Speaks (28:18-20)
 1. The universal lordship of Jesus (28:18)
 - a. Nature and scope:
 - i. Comprehensive: "all"
 - ii. Unrestricted: "in heaven and on earth"
 - b. Jesus has authority over the earth.
 - i. He has authority over all the rulers of the nations of the world.
 - ii. He has authority over the forces of nature.

- a. Matthew 14:26: walking on water
 - b. Mark 4:39: calming the storm
 - c. John 6: feeding of the five thousand
 - d. Matthew 15:30-31 and Mark 6:55-56: healings
 - e. Jesus' resurrection
- c. Jesus has authority in heaven.
 - i. He has authority over the cherubim.
 - ii. He has authority over the seraphim.
 - iii. He has authority over the archangel Michael and his army.
- 2. An appropriate response to the universal lordship of Jesus (28:19-20)
 - a. "Make disciples"
 - b. How are disciples made?
 - i. By *baptizing* them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. By *teaching* them all that Jesus commanded.
 - 3. The promise of Jesus—his eternal presence (28:20)
 - a. Disciple-making is not easy—opposition will come.
 - b. But Jesus promises to be with us forever.

Questions for Further Discussion

1. What gives Jesus the right to tell his disciples what to do?
2. What does Jesus tell us to do in response to his lordship? Better yet: what does Jesus' universal lordship *enable* and *obligate* us to do?
3. Does Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations allow for the use of armed force? Why not?
4. How do we make disciples for Jesus?
5. What is baptism? What is its meaning?
6. What does teaching all that Jesus commanded involve?
7. Why is making disciples difficult? Why should we expect difficulty/opposition when we make disciples? (See Eph 2:2; 6:12)
8. Based on Matthew 28:16-20, what will strengthen and encourage us when we face opposition?