

Welcome to Grace Christian Fellowship

Jesus is Lord!
(Romans 10:9)

Topic:
The Gospel of the Kingdom

- all verses are from the ESV unless otherwise stated

1

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Last time ...

Details of the Gospel (except about the Kingdom)

Anything, everything that is Good News related to what Jesus did at his first or second coming

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

What was the gospel that Jesus' preached?

Did Jesus preach that if you put faith in his death your sins would be forgiven?

That was not it until after Jesus death and resurrection (Luke 24)

Jesus preached the Gospel of the Kingdom

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Matthew 4:23; 9:35; Luke 8:1

And he [Jesus] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and **proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom** and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Mark 1:15

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, **proclaiming the gospel of God**, ¹⁵ and **saying**, "The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God** is at hand; repent and **believe in the gospel**."

Luke 4:43

but he said to them, "I must **preach the good news of the kingdom of God** to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this **purpose**."

Matthew 24:14

And this **gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed** throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Acts 8:12

But when they believed Philip as he preached **good news about the kingdom of God** and ...

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

Jesus preached the gospel of the Kingdom, then he died and rose again

Hebrews 9:28

so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **will appear a second time**, not to deal with sin but **to save those who are eagerly waiting for him**.

Our sins are forgiven now but salvation is fulfilled in the Kingdom that was yet to come

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

Understanding what the Kingdom will do is really Good News, it is important, it is WHEN salvation comes

There are several views regarding the details of the Kingdom

Issues such as

- the sequence of events
- the timing of the events (past, present, future)

Too many views to explain, and varieties of each

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

5 main views such as:

1. Amillennial
 2. **Pre**-tribulational Pre-millennialism
 3. **Post**-tribulational Pre-millennialism
 4. **Post**-millennialism
 5. Preterism (partial or full)
- and you can mix & match them

So every view is a minority view so don't be concerned if what you hear is different from what you have heard or even what you believe

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

We will discuss the Good News of the Kingdom

- NOT the bad news of the Tribulation
- NOT the bad news of Armageddon

Will not reference what Revelation says because

- Much is figurative / allegory
- Hard to interpret
- Hard to be certain of **sequencing**

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

The biggest difficulty is the sequence and the timing

Like putting together a puzzle with no edges and pieces that fit in more than one place

We **will** discuss one way to find the 'edges' and where to start

We will discuss the full Kingdom which is associated with the Second Coming

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

We will look at

- What the Jews of Jesus day already knew
 - What Jesus, Paul, Peter taught
- about the Second Coming

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

First, how do we find the edges of the puzzle?

Where do we start?

How to find the relevant verses and put them together and be certain about the sequencing?

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

Start with THE well-known verse regarding the Second Coming:

Matthew 24:3

'As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming <==) and of the end of the age?" '

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

Start with THE well-known verse regarding the Second Coming:

Matthew 24:3

'As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming (*parousia*) and of the end of the age?"'

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

That word *parousia* is very special and our starting word:

From the *Dictionary of New Testament Theology* Volume 2 under *parousia*:

"Technically the noun is used for the arrival of a ruler a king, emperor, ruler or even troops ... By *parousia* Josephus means the presence of God in the Shekinah ... The noun *parousia* denotes generally **presence and arrival**."

So wherever you see 'parousia' think of the word as meaning "coming for fellowship" or "visitation".

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

This word (*parousia*) is often translated 'coming' in our Bibles but is also translated 'presence'. It is a bit different from the more common Greek word for 'coming' (*erkhomai*).

So we are going to start by hunting down those NT passages that use *parousia*.

PLAN:

- Collect **Second Coming** passages that reference the Second Coming with *parousia* (4 passages)
- Next, see what OT verses they reference and add them to our collection
- Next, see what NT verses quote those OT passages ... and continue ...

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

This process leads to 5 primary OT passages:

Psalms 2

Psalms 110 <<== the most quoted verse in the NT

Daniel 2

Daniel 7 — especially verse **Daniel 7:13** <<==

Daniel 12

Based on this, the Jews understood

- No mention of the first coming to be anointed as King
- There would be a great Tribulation like never before seen
- The Christ, the Son of Man, comes with the clouds to earth to set up his earthly kingdom
- All governments will be permanently defeated
- All mankind will be resurrected and judged
- The saints will be given thrones and share in ruling over all earthly peoples
- Life will be physical with eating and drinking

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

There are 12 primary NT passages (either linked from Daniel 7:13 or connected to "parousia")

Matthew 24:1-50

1 Corinthians 15:20-28, 47-54

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 – 5:1-4

2 Peter 3:1-13

Mark 13

Luke 21:5-33

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Matthew 16:27-28

Matthew 25:31-46

Matthew 19:27-29

Luke 12:35-48

Luke 19:11-27

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

According to these NT verses we learn this about the Second Coming:

- The trampling of Jerusalem ends before
- There will be a great Tribulation like never seen before
- The Christ, the Son of Man, comes suddenly to earth to set up His earthly kingdom - this is the start of the *parousia*
- It will be very visible, all will see it
- Jesus will gather all the faithful, living and dead, and they are given immortality
- All mankind will be resurrected and judged on their deeds done in this life

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

...

- All governments will be permanently defeated
- The saints will be appointed as judges, kings, priests, prophets and disciplers over all earthly peoples
- Life will be physical with eating and drinking
- When the last enemy, death, is defeated and all are reconciled, the kingdom is turned over to the Father
- The Father comes to His people

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

What happens just before the parousia?
What is the **times of the Gentiles**?

Luke 21:20,24-27

²⁰ "But when you see **Jerusalem** surrounded by armies, then know that its **desolation** has come near. ... ²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword and be **led captive among all nations**, and **Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.** ²⁵ And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth **distress of nations** in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with **foreboding of what is coming on the world.** For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And **then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.** [Referring to Daniel 7:13]

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

A misunderstanding about

the kingdom of the **heavens**

vs.

the kingdom of **God**

For example:

Matthew 11:8-11

vs.

Luke 7:24-28

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The Gospel of the Kingdom

Matthew 11:8-11

Luke 7:24-28

⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, "*Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.*" ¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the **kingdom of heaven** is greater than he.

²⁴ When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, "*Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.*" ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the **kingdom of God** is greater than he."

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Encouraging to love & good deeds

This is the gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus preached, that we also are to preach
- It is truly good news!

A 'salvation only' Gospel misses the main point
- It is a trip with no destination

The purpose of salvation is so that
We **WILL** be reconciled to God and
We **WILL** be in the Kingdom as God originally intended

God expelled Adam & Eve so that they could not eat of the Tree of Life and live forever on earth in God's world
- Jesus is that eternal life

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Encouraging to love & good deeds

There are more details to be seen in these passages

So ... there will be an optional mini-course for small groups on the Kingdom

About 6-8 sessions

Approximately 1-3 families per group

Cover all the verses + more
- Rapture / resurrection
- Who rules, who is ruled over

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Next time ...

The book of Romans