

The Kingdom of God  
*The Present, Mystery Form of the Kingdom*  
Selected Scripture

Sunday, June 8, 2014

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The kingdom of h e a v e n and the Kingdom of G o d refer to the s a m e thing (cf Matt 4:17 with Mark 1:14-15; Matt 5:3 with Luke 6:20; Matt 13:31 with Mark 4:30-31; Matt 19:23-24)

The g o a l of the kingdom of God/heaven is to f u l f i l l the redemptive p u r p o s e s of God (Gen 12:3; Gal 3:6-9,16)

The kingdom message was the f o c u s of:

- J o h n the B a p t i s t (Matt 3:1-3 - “at hand”)
- J e s u s (Matt 4:17; 11:1-6; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 11:20)
- the a p o s t l e s and early c h u r c h  
(Matt 10:1-8; Luke 9:1-2; 10:1-9; ; Acts 8:12; 14:22; 19:8; 28:23)

The a r r i v a l of the kingdom was n o t in the form e x p e c t e d by Israel (John 6:14-15; 18:33-37; 19:13-15; 20:24-29)

- This kingdom message turned worldly/human wisdom u p s i d e d o w n

The kingdom of God/heaven is presently, in essence, the r e d e m p t i v e r u l e and r e i g n of God in the hearts of those who have s u r r e n d e r e d in f a i t h to Him through Jesus Christ. (Luke 11:17-22; Eph 1:20-22; 1 Peter 3:22; Rev 1:5; Phil 2:5-11)

**Bringing it home....**

How does my awareness of the kingdom of God affect the way I live my life? Should it affect my lifestyle? Why or why not?

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Is there a lack of awareness or understanding of this message among followers of Christ? If “yes”, why do you think so....if “no”, how do you see it being lived out by Christians?

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How do the parables in Matthew 13 relate to the reality of the kingdom as “already and not yet”? Do the parables help to understand that concept? Give examples.

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