

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

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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?

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?

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.
