

## The Gospel and the Kingdom of God

As we survey the **story line** of **Scripture** from the **Old Testament** to the **New Testament**, we find the very prominent theme of the **Kingdom of God**. It is the **central theme** of **Biblical Theology** as one understands the Bible in all its parts as one unified whole. God is a **great King**, the **Heavenly Monarch** in all His regal beauty, the highest authority, far above all rule and dominion and power. The earth is His dominion, His realm of power, his place of government and there is no other **motif** in Scripture that portrays the Sovereignty and Reign of God over His creation like the idea of the **Kingdom of God**. As the Psalmist writes...

**Psalm 47:1-2** - 7 O Clap your hands, all peoples; Shout to God with the voice of joy. 2 **For the Lord Most High is to be feared, A great King over all the earth.** NASB

In the **Davidic Covenant**, God promised to raise up a son from **David's line** that would rule forever.

**2 Samuel 7:12-13** - 12 When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, **I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.** 13 **He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.** NASB

David's **Royal Psalms**, a collection of Psalms about the **Messianic Reign** of **David's son** (2, 18, 20,21, 45, 72, 101, 110, 132, 144), spoke of the **Kingdom** and **Rule** of his son. He would **rule all the nations** and receive worship and homage from them. This **King** would be **God's King** and even **God's own** beloved **Son**.

**Psalm 2:6-9** - 6 "But as for Me, **I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.**" 7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, **'Thou art My Son,** Today I have begotten Thee. 8 **'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Thy possession.** 9 **'Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, Thou shalt shatter them like earthenware.'**" NASB

**Psalm 72:8-11** - May he also **rule from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.** 9 Let the nomads of the desert bow before him; And his enemies lick the dust. 10 Let the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring presents; The kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. 11 **And let all kings bow down before him, All nations serve him.** NASB

You remember well the **promise** of **Isaiah**...

**Isaiah 9:6-7** - 6 **For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders;** And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 **There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom,** To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness **From then on and forevermore.** The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. NASB

Or how His **Everlasting Kingdom** featured prominently in the **prophecy** of **Daniel**..

**Daniel 7:13-14** - 13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven **One like a Son of Man was coming**, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 "**And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.** NASB

When we arrive at the **New Testament**, the **Kingdom of God** has broken into time and space in the **Person of the King**, the **Lord Jesus Christ**. The New Testament opens with Jesus preaching the Gospel and making the proclamation that the **Kingdom of God is at hand** in His **First Coming**, and it ends with John telling us at Jesus' **Second Coming** as He comes on the clouds of Heaven with all His Holy ones,

**Revelation 19:15-16** - 15 And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and **He will rule them with a rod of iron**; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**" NASB

The **Kingdom of God** arrived with the **Person of the King**, and it will come in its **fullness** and a **great climax** at His **Second Coming**. The **already** of the **spiritual reign** of Christ has arrived, and it will continue until the **not yet** of His **earthly reign** over the nations arrives in all its regal power and glory.

When Jesus talked about the Gospel, He would call it, "**the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.**"

**Luke 16:16** - 16 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since then **the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached** ..... NASB

*George Ladd comments, "The kingdom of God as a present reality (Matthew 12:28), and yet it is a future blessing (1 Corinthians 15:50). It is an inner spiritual redemptive blessing (Romans 14:17), which can be experienced only by way of the new birth (John 3:3), and yet it will have to do with the government of the nations of the world (Revelation 11:15). The kingdom is a realm into which men enter now (Matthew 21:31), and yet it is a realm into which they will enter tomorrow (Matthew 8:11). It is at the same time a gift of God which will be bestowed by God in the future (Luke 12:32) and yet which must be received in the present (Mark 10:15). Obviously no simple explanation can do justice to such a rich but diverse variety of teaching."*

So to ask the question, what is the **Kingdom of God?**, one might answer that

1. The Kingdom of God is the **rule or reign** of God's King who is Jesus
2. The Kingdom of God is the **realm into which we may now enter** through faith in Christ and experience the blessings of His salvation in this life
3. The Kingdom of God is a **future realm** that we will we will inherit after death and/or will come at the **return** of our Lord Jesus Christ