

The Kingdom of God and of His Christ

I. God's Eternal Plan

1. God's Creative Purpose – Genesis 1:26-31
God created earth & heavens as a dwelling for man
God gave man authority to rule over this creation
Over fish in sea, birds in air, all plant & animal life
God came down to earth to fellowship with man –
Genesis 3:8
2. With sin, a curse & loss of dominion –
Genesis 3:17-19
Curse made it difficult for man to be in dominion
Creation is in rebellion against man's control
Has God changed His eternal plan? – Psalm 8:3-9
3. Rebellion continues in the present - Heb. 2:1-8
Man doesn't have dominion over natural creation
4. Will God's plan be thwarted? – Heb 2:9-18; Rev 5
Jesus Christ is the One man worthy to reign
5. God's rule in the Theocracy
Rejected by man in favor of human rule
6. God will have His man to reign – Psalm 2
All rebellion against His reign must be put down
7. O.T. prophets reassured of God's kingdom
Reign of Messiah is the theme of the prophets
Hope of Israel - coming of Messiah, the King

II. The Theocracy

1. God established His rule with Moses – Mt. Sinai
Laws given by God - Ex. 20-24
2. God dwelt with His people in Tabernacle
Priesthood established & worship regulated
3. As a gracious king God provided for His people
Food, water; Land of "milk & honey"; Victory over enemies
4. Israel rejected God's rule, wanted a king –
1 Samuel 8:5
God allowed but listed the consequences –
1 Samuel 8:11-22
5. God gave the Holy Spirit to guide the King
God sent prophets to speak for Him
Their message focused on promised Messiah
6. Kingdom corrupted with idolatry – God judged
Nation was sent into exile – Assyria and Babylon

III. Jesus, is the Promised King

1. N.T. begins with royal genealogy – Matt. 1:1-17
2. Magi seek the one born as King – Matt. 2:1-12
3. John says "Kingdom of heaven is at hand" - 3:2
4. Jesus began ministry with same words – 4:17
5. Sermon on Mount spoke of heart issues – 5-7
God's commands go beyond external acts
To be in God's Kingdom requires internal change
6. Taught us to pray "Thy kingdom come" – 6:10
7. New birth essential for kingdom – John 3:3
Except a man be born again he cannot enter

God's kingdom

Regeneration of man's spirit is essential – Inner transformation

8. Many of His parables spoke of God's Kingdom
Each made a point His hearers needed to know
9. Olivet Discourse assures kingdom – Matt. 24-25
It will come but in the future after Christ's return
10. Jesus spoke of kingdom to Pilate – Jn. 18:33-38
He is a king but His kingdom is not of this world
11. Post resurrection kingdom teaching – Acts 1:3
For 40 days He spoke about God's kingdom

IV. Prospectus for Investment

1. How should we respond to God's Word? – 22:6-21
Lord calls for us to make a by-faith investment
Challenged to set our hearts on His Kingdom
2. Jesus set forth the challenge in Matthew 13
Parable of Sower – calls for response to God's Word
Four responses of those who hear God's Word
 - (1) Seed snatched away by birds (Satan) – 4, 19
 - (2) Seed received joyfully but no root – 5-6, 20-21
 - (3) Seed choked out by thorns (worldly pursuit of riches) – 7, 22
 - (4) Seed becomes fruitful in degrees – 8, 23Let what you hear be fruitful in your response
Remaining 6 parables speak of Kingdom of God
3 couplets, each calling for a by-faith response
1st & last parables - presence of evil with good
Wheat & tares; illustration for farmers – 24-30, 36-43
Fishing net - understood by fishermen – 47-50
Lord will separate evil from good at His return
2nd & 3rd Don't be deterred by small beginnings
Mustard seed becomes tree-like – 31-32
Little yeast causes dough to grow large – 33
God will bring something great from a small beginning
4th & 5th value that calls for an all-out investment
Treasure found in a field is worth everything to finder – 44
Pearl found by merchant is worth everything – 45
God's kingdom is worth whatever it may cost