

FOT 2022

PART 2 — GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM—NOW — AND THEN!

FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2022

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We sooke yesterday about “The Gospel”. The Good News of Jesus’ Death ... Burial ... and Resurrection. How our sins can be forgiven and we can be reconciled to God. And — not forgetting — TO LIVE FOREVER!!

But aren’t there many references to the “Gospel of The Kingdom of God”?

Clearly yes!! A potential problem is we have a tendency to see that exclusively as the 1,000 year Millennium.

There is a 1,000 year reign to come. That’s what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about. That’s the ultimate fulfilment of The Kingdom.

But The Gospel — even of the Kingdom — is relevant for all believers at all times. Not just a far-off fulfilment.

Let’s review.

The average church goer believes “going to Heaven” is the end of their journey. They have no concept of a physical Kingdom on earth.

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 For **unto us a Child is born,**

Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called

Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 **Of the increase of His government and peace**

There will be no end,

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,

To order it and establish it with judgment and justice

From that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Jesus to sit on David's throne. A King! Executing justice!

Daniel 7:13-14

13 "I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, **One like the Son of Man,**
Coming with the clouds of heaven!

He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.

14 **Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,**

That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion,

Which shall not pass away,

And His kingdom the one

Which shall not be destroyed.

An everlasting Kingdom!

Daniel 7:27

27 **Then the kingdom and dominion,**
And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,
Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

His rule will be shared with the saints — under Heaven.

Most church goers presumably don't believe these scriptures? Just think of "Heaven"?

Luke 1:30-33

30 **Then the angel said to her,** "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31 And behold, **you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.**

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and **the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.**

33 **And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.**”

The Angel’s announcement: Jesus to rule ... on David’s Throne.

So ... there is definitely a Kingdom! Jesus will rule over all peoples — supported by His saints. And it’s “under Heaven”.

This is Good News too. Ultimately ... God’s Kingdom will be here on earth — Jesus will rule in peace ... with justice ... truth ... and prosperity. Goodbye to politicians ... big corporations (Big Pharma ... big military ... big agriculture). Goodbye also to Satan.

God’s Kingdom on earth is great news! But at least in the early days — was always a long way in future.

Jesus’ return to rule is a great hope — for a great future. But if that’s “all” the Kingdom of God is — it’s of little practical relevance for believers of the past 20 centuries?

Mark 1:1, 14–15

1 **The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

14 Now after John was put in prison, **Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,**

15 and saying, **“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”**

Jesus preached The Kingdom of God!! It’s Gospel!

But — “Repent and Believe” is Here and now! The Kingdom is “at hand” — NOT “far off”. Not 2,000+ years away!

As we’ll see ... the Kingdom of God is both present and future. It’s both “already” ... but ... “not yet”.

Matthew 9:35-38

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, **teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.**

36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, **“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few.**

38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.”

Jesus is helping people there and then. **Healing ... teaching.** Sending out other helpers.

Also — preaching the Kingdom. In context ... to help the listeners then? No doubt an ultimate hope for the future too ... but also even then?

Matthew 10:1, 5–8

1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, **He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of diseases.**

5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.

6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7 And as you go, **preach**, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**’

8 **Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.** Freely you have received, freely give.

Preach the Kingdom of Heaven is “at hand” — there and then. The King ... His growing number of saints ... the teachings and values. Future Kingdom in embryo.

Luke 9:1-2

1 Then He called His twelve disciples together **and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.**

2 He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Preach the Kingdom of God!

Luke 9:10-11

10 And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

11 But **when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.**

Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God.

It is unlikely Jesus' teaching was merely "you'll all die soon ... but in thousands of years there will be a great Kingdom on earth".

An important hope perhaps — but their issues are in the here and now.

Luke 9:59-62

59 Then He said to another, "Follow Me."

But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

60 **Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."**

61 And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house."

62 But Jesus said to him, "**No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**"

Preach the Kingdom of God — prepare now for the Kingdom of God.

Luke 4:42-44

42 Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them;

43 but **He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."**

44 And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.

Jesus' Mission (in part) was to preach the Kingdom of God. But — a future Kingdom thousands of years in the future is of limited practical relevance?

Matthew 12:25-28

25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, **surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.**

The Kingdom of God has come (already) upon you.

Jesus is the King. He is wielding His power in justice. The Kingdom “already” ... but — “not yet”.

Luke 17:20-21

20 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, **He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation;**

21 nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ **For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”**

Holley debated! “Within you — in your hearts — seems unlikely for the Pharisees (remember Jesus' 7 woes in Matthew Chapter 23).

Probably “in your midst” or “among you” — see lots of translations.

Either way — **the Kingdom of God is already here! The King and His values.**

Matthew 6:9-13

9 **In this manner, therefore, pray:**

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

10 **Your kingdom come.**

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

YOUR KINGDOM COME!

Certainly in its ultimate sense — for the whole world to benefit.

But if that's all it means ... then millions have prayed a prayer that is of limited practical relevance to them. Possibly — thought the context is all here and now.

Perhaps also ... Your Kingdom values be found even today?

Matthew 6:31–33

31 “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,** and all these things shall be added to you.

Seek first the Kingdom of God! To be a meaningful instruction to those living in past centuries — it must have an “hear and now” application? As does the “righteousness”!

Preaching the Kingdom of God includes the ultimate “Big Picture” — the whole world at peace — as well as “The Way” — Jesus and His values as He reconciles us to God here and now. The “other part” of the Gospel.

Acts 8:4-8

4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere **preaching the word.**

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria **and preached Christ to them.**

6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, **hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.**

7 **For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralysed and lame were healed.**

8 And there was great joy in that city.

Preached Christ! Miracles ... healing. All present day!

Acts 8:12

12 But when they believed Philip **as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ**, both men and women were baptized.

Preached the Kingdom of God.

Acts 19:8-10

8 **And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.**

9 But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

10 **And this continued for two years**, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

At least 3 months (12 Sabbaths) ... teaching the Kingdom of God.
Possibly 2 years in total.

If that's only the Millennium ... Paul must have been "creative" in his sermons!

At the Feast ... we focus mostly on God's future Kingdom on earth. A great world for all humanity.

But the “Gospel of Jesus” and the “Gospel of the Kingdom” are totally linked.

And the Kingdom is both “already” and “not yet”!