

## Doctrine of the Kingdom of God

### According to the Gospel

1. The word "*kingdom*" may be defined as the rule or reign of God that is recognized in the hearts and operative in the lives of God's people, affecting their complete salvation, their constitution as a church, and finally a redeemed earth.
2. The kingdom belongs to those who are poor in spirit, and who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness.
  - *Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
  - *Luke 6:20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.*
  - *Matthew 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
3. John announced that the kingdom of heaven, which speaks of its ultimate source and origin, was at hand in the days prior to the revealing of Christ.
  - *Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
  - *Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
  - *Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*
4. Those who are least on earth are the greatest in the kingdom.
  - *Matthew 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*
  - *Matthew 11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*
  - *Matthew 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? 2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

- *Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.*
5. Christians are to pray for the rule of God to be more evident on earth.
- *Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*
  - *Luke 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.*
6. The highest priority in life is to seek the rule and reign of God in every detail.
- *Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
  - *Luke 12:31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
7. As Jesus first presented the kingdom concept, He made it clear that only those who desire the will of God shall enter into His kingdom.
- *Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*
8. Old Testament saints are part of the kingdom of heaven.
- *Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.*
9. Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom wherever He went.
- *Matthew 19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.*
  - *Mark 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into 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 ye, and believe the gospel.*
  - *Luke 4:43 And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.*

- *Mark 9:1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.*
  - *Mark 10:14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.*
10. The disciples were told to declare the kingdom of heaven was at hand to the Jews first.
- *Matthew 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
  - *Luke 9:2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.*
11. The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, which means that the kingdom of Christ will be vigorous and forceful. The kingdom of God cannot be stopped from spreading.
- *Matthew 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*
12. The kingdom of God comes in power to cast out evil.
- *Matthew 12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*
13. The kingdom of heaven is compared to a man, a grain of seed, leaven, a treasure, a merchant, and a net.
- *A Man. Matthew 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:*
  - *A Grain. Matthew 13:31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:*
  - *Leaven. Matthew 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*
  - *A Treasure. Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.*
  - *A Merchant. Matthew 13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:*

14. To speak of the kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven, and the kingdom of Christ, is to speak of one and the same thing.
15. To the disciples were given the keys, or authority, to the kingdom of heaven.
- *Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*
16. Some, in the days of Christ, saw the Lord coming in His kingdom glory.
- *Matthew 16:28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.*
  - *Mark 9:1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.*
  - *Luke 9:27 But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.*
17. The kingdom of heaven is characterized by forgiveness, grace, mercy, and justice.
- *Matthew 18:23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*

18. Supreme sacrifices can be made, and sometimes must be made, for the sake of the kingdom.

- *Matthew 19:12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.*

19. Little children are a welcomed part of the kingdom of heaven.

- *Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*
- *Mark 10:14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. 15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.*

20. The proud and the rich have a hard time entering into the kingdom of heaven.

- *Matthew 19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.*
- *Mark 10:23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! 24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.*

21. Many are called to the kingdom of heaven but few are chosen.

- *Matthew 20:1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. 2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. 5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? 7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. 8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. 9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. 11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house,*

*12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. 13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? 14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? 16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.*

22. Even the most wicked of people are welcomed to the kingdom based upon repentance.

- *Matthew 21:31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.*

23. The kingdom of God was taken from the Jews and given to the Gentiles.

- *Matthew 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.*

24. The religious leaders of Israel shut people out of the kingdom of heaven with false teaching.

- *Matthew 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.*

25. The gospel of the kingdom of heaven is to be preached in all the nations before Jesus returns the second time in glory.

- *Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

26. The kingdom of heaven demands that its citizens be always in service, and watchful for the return of the King.

- *Matthew 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.*

27. When Jesus returns the second time, faithful citizens shall continue to be part of His kingdom.

- *Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*
- *Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

28. Some day Jesus plans to return His kingdom to His Father.

- *Matthew 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.*
- *1 Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*

29. The kingdom has come. The invitation is "*Come to the kingdom.*" How? By receiving entrance as a grace gift. Eat the Bread of Life. Drink from the wells of Living Water. Live with the Rule of God in your life. Come, for all things are now ready. The Bride and the Spirit say come. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

- *Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*