

A Historical Study On The Book Of Luke
Teaching #10: Gabriel Announces The King and Kingdom - PART TWO
Luke 1:26-33

Our study comes out of Luke 1:26-33, which reads

*In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27**to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." **29**Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30**But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31**You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33**and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."*

Gabriel announced to Mary She would give birth to the king who would establish God's kingdom on earth.

Gabriel quoted from Isaiah 9:6-7 in his words to Mary about the king and kingdom.

The king and kingdom is a major theme throughout the Bible.

By understanding the king and kingdom, we will then be able to understand Gabriel's announcement to Mary, the one who gave birth to the king of the kingdom.

In our previous study, we began looking at the what the Jewish prophets said about the king and kingdom.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Daniel 2:44

Daniel 7:13-14

Daniel 7:27

Jeremiah 23:5-6 (see also Jeremiah 33:15-16; Isaiah 4:2; 11)

Zechariah 9:9-10

Micah 5:2-4

Based on the Jewish prophets said about the king and kingdom we can define God's kingdom in the following way:

The kingdom of God is when the king rules and established God's kingdom on earth. The kingdom of God is when God's will is done throughout the earth and his ways cover all over all the earth, filling the earth with justice, righteousness, and peace. This is the dominion of God.
(see Isaiah 11:9; 40:5; Habakkuk 2:14; Psalm 96)

There is much discussion concerning the kingdom of God that Jesus, as king, will establish.

Below are 5 different views of the kingdom.

- **View #1:** The kingdom is a spiritual kingdom that Jesus has already established and now rules from heaven. The return and rule of Jesus began in AD 70 with the destruction of Jerusalem when he returned spiritually but not physically.
- **View #2:** The kingdom is a spiritual kingdom where Jesus rules and reigns as king over the hearts of believers.
- **View #3:** The church, the family of believers on earth, is the kingdom of God. The goal of the church is to advance the kingdom of God on earth politically, relationally, socially, and spiritually until there is peace on earth.
- **View #4:** The kingdom is a physical kingdom Jesus will establish in the future on the earth when he returns and reigns as king.
- **View #5:** The kingdom of God is a real physical kingdom Jesus will establish in the future on earth that will possess the spiritual qualities of love, kindness, joy, justice, righteousness, and peace on earth. Jesus' return will be physical and literal, and every eye will see him when he returns. When this kingdom is established by Jesus, the dominion of God will begin to cover the earth, resulting in the will of God being done on earth and the ways of God covering the earth. **This is my view.**

In our previous study, we examined what Jesus said about the kingdom.

- Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God
- Jesus sent his disciples out to proclaim the kingdom of God
- Jesus explained who will enter the kingdom of God
- Jesus explained what the kingdom would be like in Matthew 13 and Luke 13:18-20
- Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come.

Let's continue to look at the word kingdom.

Jesus Taught His Disciples To Pray For The Kingdom

Matthew 6:9-10

*"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, **your kingdom come**, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'"*

Some teachers in the grace movement view Jesus' instructions for praying that he gave to his twelve disciples as old testament instructions for prayer because the new testament of grace was not in effect yet. I agree the forgiveness part of this prayer is old testament. Under the new testament of grace, we are forgiven by God; and, therefore, we do not forgive others to be forgiven by God. Rather, we forgive others because we are forgiven by God (Colossians 3:13).

However, **the your kingdom come** part of this prayer is about the prophecies contained in Jewish Scriptures and do not concern the old testament of law. Jesus is directly referencing Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, Zechariah, and Micah concerning the future kingdom of God. It is the same kingdom Paul wrote about in his letters and

Jesus taught about for 40 days after his resurrection and before his ascension (Acts 1). It is my belief this part of the prayer has not been fulfilled, but it will be fulfilled when Jesus returns to earth as king.

Currently, the will of God is **not** done on the earth. His dominion has not been established on earth. There is not justice, righteousness, and peace on earth. His kingdom will be marked by those three qualities. On this earth now is pain, hurt, heartache, addiction, violence, terrorism, crime, murder, rape, deception, corruption, wars, chaos, diseases, death, etc... None of these are God's will. We are **not** living in God's kingdom now.

I do **not** view the church as being called to spread God's kingdom throughout the earth. Our role on earth is to spread the saving message of God's grace to people throughout the earth, which is all that God has done for us through Jesus to forgive our sins and reconcile us to himself (see 2 Corinthians 5:18-21). Our role is to share the good news of God's grace against the backdrop of the judgment and wrath to come as Paul did in Romans, telling people about God's love for sinners seen in the death of Jesus for our sins. Our role is to share with people the gift of righteousness that God is freely offering to all people and is received by faith. If the church (believers in Jesus) focuses on trying to establish God's kingdom on earth rather than communicating the gospel of grace, we are missing our assignment from God. Ultimately, God will establish his kingdom on earth. In the meantime, our role is to tell people about the message of God's grace.

One day, God's will, his dominion, will be established on earth when Jesus reigns as king for 1000 years (Revelation 20). As he reigns, his dominion will spread throughout the world. Eventually, at the end of the kingdom age, all sin and sinners will be removed from the kingdom (Matthew 13:24-52) and the eternal state of the dominion (kingdom) of God will be established. Then there will be no more mourning, crying, tears, pain, hurt, heartache, etc...

The reason some grace teachers say *the kingdom to come* is something we are no longer to pray for is because they associate the will of God in Matthew 6:10 with the death of Jesus to establish the new testament of grace. I agree it was the will of God to establish the new testament of grace on earth. Yet, the will of God in Matthew 6:10 is not referring to the establishment of the new testament of grace. Rather, it is referring to the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth when his will and ways cover the earth.

The grace teachers who teach it was God's will to establish the new testament of grace teach that we do not pray for his will to be done or your kingdom to come. Those who hold to this view believe the kingdom of God has come through the new testament of grace and God's kingdom is in our hearts now and is not a future reality to come.

I do not interpret this part of the prayer as they do. I do not see the kingdom of God as being within our hearts but as a future kingdom, dominion, to come to earth where God's will and ways spread across the earth as Jesus reigns as king on the earth, just as the Jewish prophets said would happen.

Let's continue to look into the Scriptures at the phrase *the kingdom of God*.

Eventually, the Jewish people rejected Jesus as the king prophesied about by the Jewish Scriptures, concluding he was a false Christ (John 19; Luke chapter 22:68 through chapter 23:1-25)

After the crucifixion, Luke writes about Joseph of Arimathea as one who was awaiting the kingdom of God.

Luke 23:50-53

*Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, **51**who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and **he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God.** **52**Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. **53**Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.*

After the resurrection, Jesus teaches for forty days about the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:1-11

*In my [Luke the writer] former book [Luke the book], Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach **2**until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. **3**After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. **He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.** **4**On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **5**For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." **6**Then they gathered around him and asked him, "**Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?**" **7**He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **9**After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. **10**They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. **11**"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*

Jesus spent 40 days after his resurrection speaking to his disciples about the kingdom of God. In their response to Jesus, they wanted to know if he at this time was going to *restore the kingdom to Israel*. This leads us to believe that Jesus talked with his disciples about the kingdom of God that he would establish as he ruled and reigned from David's throne as king, most likely telling them this rule and reign would begin in Israel and then extend to the ends of the earth. This is what prompted them to ask when the kingdom would be restored to Israel. Yet, Jesus did not tell them the dates or times he would establish the kingdom. Jesus told them that only the Father knew the time and dates set to send Jesus back to earth to establish the kingdom.

Jesus told them that until the time the Father set to send him back to establish the kingdom, they were to be his witnesses all over the world. The empowerment to be his witnesses would come from the Holy Spirit, who enabled them to speak the languages of the nations (tongues). Jesus then ascended into heaven. Two men dressed in white, probably angels, told them that Jesus would return to earth just as he left.

Peter teaches in Acts 3:17-21 on the return of Jesus.

*"Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. **18**But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. **19**Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, **20**and that he*

*may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. **21Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.***

Peter was expecting the Father to send Jesus to restore everything, just as the Jewish prophets said the Messiah would do. The restoration would be when the kingdom of God was established and justice, righteousness, and peace would flow all over the world.

Paul was expecting the visible return of Jesus.

*But our citizenship is in **heaven**. **And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21**who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Philippians 3:20-21)*

*This will happen when **the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven** in blazing fire with his powerful angels...**the day he comes** to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. (2 Thessalonians 1:7, 10)*

The phrase the kingdom of God is used Acts 8:12; 14:22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23; 28:31.

It seems in Acts that the men dressed in white, Peter, and Paul understood the return of Jesus was a literal, physical return to establish the kingdom of God on earth.

They were awaiting the return of Jesus from heaven to earth to establish God's kingdom on earth, where justice, righteousness, and peace would flow from Israel all over the world.

Paul writes about the kingdom in his letters, stating in Romans 14:17,

*For **the kingdom of God** is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

Many people extract from Paul's words in Romans 14:17 that the kingdom of God is not an earthly kingdom but spiritual in nature only. However, I tend to believe that Paul is describing the spiritual nature of the kingdom that will mark the kingdom when Jesus returns. These spiritual qualities can be experienced now in relationships among believers as we relate to one another peacefully, joyfully, and righteously, rather than being divided over earthly matters such as what one can eat and drink, which is the context on Romans 14:17.

The law and grace people in Rome were divided relationally because of disagreements concerning the dietary requirements of the law. Paul was telling them that arguing and dividing over one's dietary beliefs is unlike what the kingdom of God will be like. Paul is saying the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy produced by the Holy Spirit in people. By saying this, Paul is not dismissing the kingdom of God as only spiritual, but he is saying the coming kingdom of God is marked by the qualities righteousness, peace, and joy, which can be experienced now in believers.

Paul writes several time in his letters about inheriting the kingdom of God, leading us to understand the kingdom is something to be established in the future.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

*Or do you not know that wrongdoers will **not inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men **10** nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will **inherit the kingdom of God. 11** And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

Paul is distinguishing between unbelievers who will **not** inherit the kingdom of God and believers who will.

1 Corinthians 15:20-27

*But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. **22** For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. **24** Then the end will come, **when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father** after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **27** For he “has put everything under his feet.”*

1 Corinthians 15:50-52

*I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— **52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*

In 1 Corinthians 15:20-27 and 50-52, the kingdom of God seems to be a future event that occurs when Jesus returns to earth (see also 1 Thessalonians 4). Believers who are on earth at this time will meet the Lord and other believers in the air as Jesus returns to earth. Our bodies will be immediately changed and we will be with Jesus eternally in the kingdom of God.

It is highly possible that Paul did **not** know about the 1000-year reign of Jesus on earth written about in Revelation 20. He did state in 1 Corinthians 13 that he saw prophecy dimly at the time 1 Corinthians was written. This dim view of prophecy probably continued when he was writing 2 Corinthians. Prophecy (the telling of future events) was completed when John received Revelation.

The book of Revelation had not been completed when Paul wrote 2 Corinthians. At the end of the 1000-year reign of Jesus, death will be thrown into the lake of fire and destroyed as seen in Revelation 20. The new earth will be established as seen in Revelation 21-22. This will be the eternal state of the kingdom of God on earth.

In John 3, Jesus also told Nicodemus that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God (meaning to live eternally in the kingdom), but one must be born of the water (physical birth) and of the Spirit (the spiritual birth that happens the moment a person trusts in Jesus, this person is spiritually connected to God, being made spiritually alive).

Galatians 5:19-21

*The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; **20**idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **21**and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this **will not inherit the kingdom of God.***

Ephesians 5:5

*For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in **the kingdom of Christ and of God.** (Paul is describing the unbeliever).*

Paul in Galatians and Ephesians is stating unbelievers will not live eternally in the kingdom of God. This leads us to believe the kingdom of God is to come in the future.

Colossians 1:13-14

*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into **the kingdom of the Son** he loves, **14**in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Believers are citizens of the kingdom, but the literal coming of the kingdom is future. The kingdom will come when the king returns.

2 Timothy 4:1

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of **his appearing and his kingdom...***

Hebrews 12:28

*Therefore, since **we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,** let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*

In Paul's letters, the kingdom seems to be in the future and will be established when Jesus returns.

In his letters, Paul seems to indicate that the spiritual nature of the kingdom can be experienced here and now but the literal kingdom of God is still to come.

In Revelation 11:15, we see Jesus returning as king to establish the kingdom.

Revelation 11:15

*The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The **kingdom** of the world has become the **kingdom** of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."*

In conclusion, Jesus taught his disciples to pray for the kingdom to come to earth and the will of God to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Currently, the will of God is not done on earth. There is corruption, crime, violence, immorality, unrighteousness, murder, rape, hatred, drugs, and the list goes on. After Jesus establishes his kingdom, he will remove from his kingdom all evil and evil doers (Matthew 13). Only the righteous will remain in the kingdom of God and ultimately live on the new earth.

The evil and evil doers, the sinners and the unrighteous will be thrown into the lake of fire, along with death and hades. This will result in the new earth. The new testament city of grace, the new Jerusalem, will descend to the earth and joy, peace, and righteousness will flow all over the earth.

The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the king of this coming kingdom – the dominion of God on earth when his will and ways fill the entire earth just as the waters cover the seas!

To learn more on the return of Jesus: [CLICK HERE](#) and see Colossians #23

To learn more about life on the new earth: [CLICK HERE](#)

Thanks for being a part of this Bible study!

All verses are NIV unless otherwise noted.

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