

## 5pm Encounter Service - 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025



### *'Thy Kingdom Come'*

Deeper Theology - Bible Focus:  
*What does it actually mean to pray  
'Thy Kingdom Come?'*  
How different views of the Kingdom of  
God shape mission, politics & priorities

AllSaints 

THY KINGDOM COME



# Light Up The World In Prayer

29<sup>TH</sup> MAY - 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025

[thykingdomcome.global](http://thykingdomcome.global)





'The DNA of the Bible' – Mike Breen

Covenant  
*Relationship*

Kingdom  
*Responsibility*

## Jesus preached the Kingdom of God

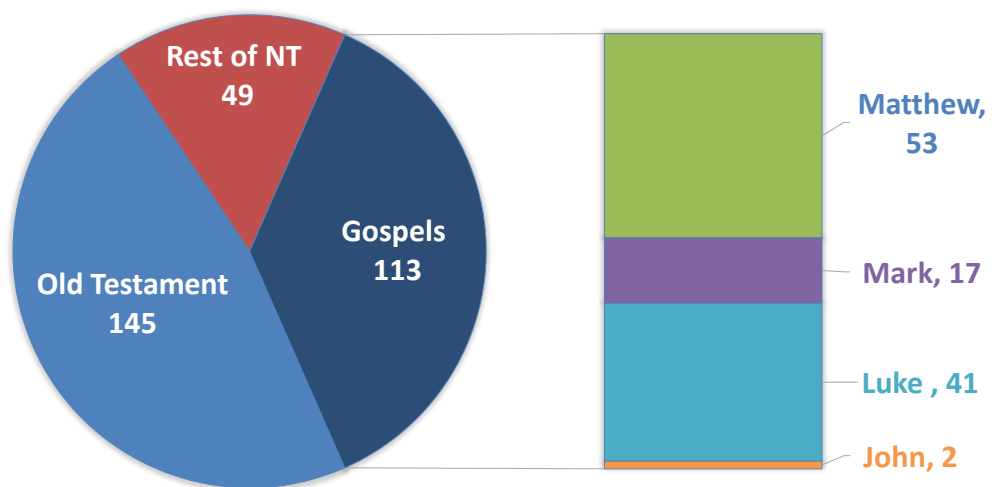
**Matthew 4v17 "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near"**

**Mark 1v15 "The time has come. The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"**

**Luke 4v43 "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."**

**John 3:3 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."**

### BIBLE USAGE OF THE WORD KINGDOM



## Kingdom = King's dominion

Hebrew מְלֻכּוּת *malkuth*:

1. Royal authority to reign as king
2. Power to reign
3. The realm over which the king reigns

Greek βασιλεία *basileia*

1. Kingship
2. Sovereignty
3. Authority
4. Rule

⇒ more to do with the Person rather than the place eg. 'The United Kingdom of King Charles III'

**Note:** *Kingdom of heaven* (Matthew used Semitic form for primarily Jewish audience) = *Kingdom of God* (Mark, Luke used Greek form for Gentile audience)

*"...your Father knows what you need before you ask him.  
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.'* Matthew 6v8-10

Jesus never preached the cross – he only preached the Kingdom and taught us to pray 'your Kingdom come'.

What did he mean?

## Old Testament understanding of the Kingdom of God

- Old Testament Hebrews looked for an **earthly kingdom** under Yahweh's protection, fulfilling the covenant made with David in 2 Sam 7: *"I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom."*
- The rulers of the earth would submit to Yahweh's Kingdom and **eternal dominion**: eg Darius in Daniel 6:26 *'I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures for ever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end"'*.
- **The Messiah** would govern as Yahweh's anointed ruler in the **Age to come**: Isaiah 9: *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.*

## Intertestamental period (425BC-33AD)

6 eras of rule over Jerusalem:

1. The Persian Era (397-336 BC); Darius III
2. The Greek Era (336-323 BC) Alexander the Great
3. The Egyptian Era (323-198 BC); Ptolemy Soter
4. The Syrian Era (198-165 BC); Antiochus III
5. The Maccabean Era (165-63 BC); Judas Maccabees

The Roman Era (63-4 BC) Pompey, Ceasar, Herod. During this time several key Jewish groups emerged:

**Pharisees** (promoted Law of Moses)

**Saducees** (promoted Priestly authority)

**The Herodians** (Loyal to Rome)

**The Zealots** (Zionist Nationalist)

**Essenes** (Monastic ascetics) Influenced John the Baptist?

Each group had their own preferred understanding of 'The Kingdom of God'

## Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God

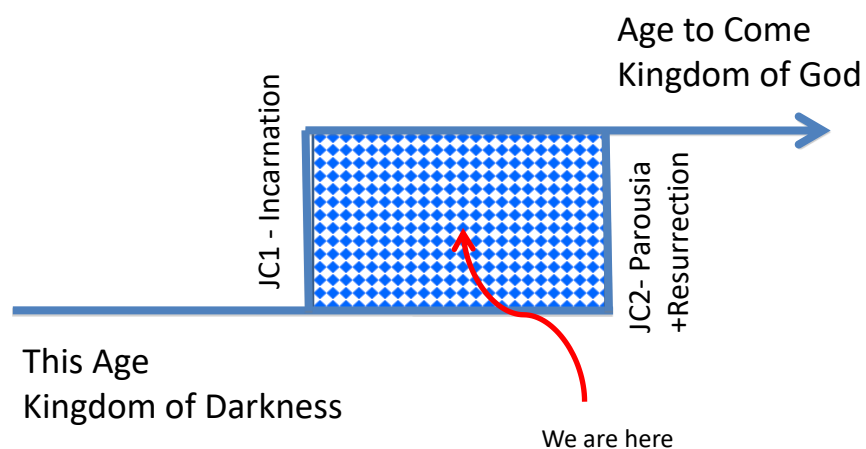
- Jesus announced that the Kingdom of God has come

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The **kingdom of God has come near**. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1v14

- Jesus also taught that the Kingdom of God is a future inheritance reserved for the righteous

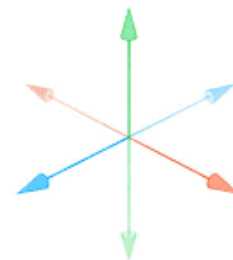
<sup>34</sup> "Then the King **will say** to those on his right, '**Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom** prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Matthew 25v34-35

### The Kingdom Inaugurated (George Ladd 1959)



## Questions / tension points

1. Is the Kingdom present or future?
2. Is the Kingdom spiritual or physical?
3. Is the Kingdom individual or societal?
4. Is the Kingdom supernatural or natural?
5. Is the Kingdom particular (for believers) or illimitable (for the whole creation)?
6. Is the Kingdom autonomous or collaborative?



- R. T. France points out that while the concept of "Kingdom of God" has an intuitive meaning to Christians, there is little agreement among scholars about its meaning in the New Testament

## Kingdom Scriptures - Matthew

- 'Repent, for the **kingdom** of heaven **has** come near.' Matt 4:17
- 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs **is** the **kingdom** of heaven.' Matt 5v3
- 'I say to you that many **will** come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the **kingdom** of heaven.' Matt 8v11
- 'if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the **kingdom** of God **has** come upon you.' Matt 12v28
- the knowledge of the **secrets** of the **kingdom** of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.' Matt 13v11
- *The parable of the weeds, mustard seed and yeast – Matt 13 **Growing***
- 'Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes **are entering** the **kingdom** of God ahead of you.' Matt 21v31
- 'Therefore I tell you that the **kingdom** of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.' Matt 21v43
- And this gospel of the **kingdom** will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.' Matt 24v14

## Kingdom Scriptures - Mark

- 'The time has come,' he said. 'The **kingdom** of God **has** come near. Repent and believe the good news!' Mark 1v15
- 'This is what the **kingdom** of God is like...**all by itself** the soil produces grain. ...it is like a mustard seed...when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants' Mark 4v26-32
- 'Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the **kingdom** of God **has** come with power.' Mark 9v1
- Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for the rich to enter the **kingdom** of God!' Mark 10v23
- 'Blessed is the **coming kingdom** of our father David!' 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!' Mark 11v10
- 'Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the **kingdom** of God.' Mark 14v25



## Kingdom Scriptures - Luke

- ‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the **kingdom**.’ Luke 12:32
- ‘The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the **kingdom** of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it.’ Luke 16:16 [or *people are inflicting violence upon it* cf Matt 11v12]
- ‘The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed,<sup>21</sup> nor will people say, “Here it is,” or “There it is,” because the **kingdom of God is within you**.’ [or *in the midst of you?*] Luke 17v21
- ‘<sup>11</sup> While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and **the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once**.<sup>12</sup> He said: ‘A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return...’ Luke 19:10
- ‘Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the **kingdom** of God is near.’ Luke 21v31
- ‘I confer on you a **kingdom**, just as my Father conferred one on me’ Luke 22v29

## Kingdom Scriptures - John

- ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the **kingdom** of God unless they are **born again**.’ John 3v3
- Jesus said, ‘My **kingdom** is **not of this world**. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my **kingdom** is from another place.’ John 18v36

John emphasised the Spiritual nature of the Kingdom with Jesus’ miracles being signs of his divinity and the power of the Kingdom



## Paul and the Kingdom of God

- Paul speaks about the Kingdom of God less than the Gospel writers but he emphasised the inaugurated (now and the not yet) Kingdom in more spiritual terms:
- He writes about the **future Kingdom**: *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly **kingdom**.* 2 Tim 4v18
- He also writes about the **present reality** of the Kingdom '*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the **kingdom** of the Son he loves*' Col 1:13

But why doesn't he write about the Kingdom of God as much as Luke, for example?

A: Until Christ returns bringing the full inheritance of the Kingdom of God in the Age to come, Paul speaks in terms of 'Life in the Spirit':

*'**Life in the Spirit** in Paul is conceptually close to life in the Kingdom of God in the Synoptics. In this way, for Paul, life in the Spirit becomes his way of speaking about life in the Kingdom. The Spirit for him embodies the essence of the Kingdom of God'*

Youngmo Cho: 'Spirit and Kingdom in the Writings of Luke and Paul'

See *Jesus Paul & The Kingdom* - Article by Luke Geraty Feb 2025

## Kingdom Scriptures - Paul

- For the **kingdom** of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.' Romans 14v17
- For the **kingdom** of God is not a matter of talk but of power. 1 Cor 4v20
- I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the **kingdom** of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 1 Cor 15v20
- ...giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the **kingdom** of light. Col 1:12
- Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the **kingdom** of God? 1 Cor 6v9
- Then the end will come, when he hands over the **kingdom** to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 1 Cor 15v24
- All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the **kingdom** of God, for which you are suffering. 2 Thess 1v5



The works of the Holy Spirit are signs of the Kingdom breaking through the darkness

## Kingdom Scriptures - Acts

- Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the **kingdom** to Israel?' <sup>7</sup> He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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.'" Acts 1v6-8
- 'We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,' they said.' Acts 14v22 (Paul and Barnabas)
- 'Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the **kingdom** will ever see me again.' Acts 20v25
- He proclaimed the **kingdom** of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ – with all boldness and without hindrance. Acts 28v31

## Kingdom Scriptures – Rest of the NT

- Therefore, since we are receiving a **kingdom** that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. Heb 12v28
- has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the **kingdom** he promised those who love him? James 2v5
- 'you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal **kingdom** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.' 2 Peter 1v11
- 'Jesus...has made us to be a **kingdom** and priests to serve his God and Father' Rev 1v6
- 'The **kingdom** of the world has become the **kingdom** of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.' Rev 11v15
- 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the **kingdom** of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.' Rev 12v10

### **The Kingdom of God – A rich diversity**

The very complexity of the Biblical teaching about the Kingdom of God is one of the reasons why such diverse interpretations have arisen in the history of theology. Isolated verses can be quoted for most of the interpretations which can be found in our theological literature. The Kingdom is a present reality (Matt 12:28) and yet it is a future blessing (1 Cor 15:50). It is an inner spiritual redemptive blessing (Rom 14:17) which can be experienced only by the way of new birth (John 3v3) and yet it will have to do with the government of the nations of the world (Rev 11:15). The Kingdom is a realm into which men enter now (Matt 21:31) and yet it is a realm into which they will enter tomorrow (Matt 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.** **George Ladd - The Gospel of the Kingdom**

## “Your Kingdom Come”

- 4 Classical Understandings:
  - *Eschatological*: God’s reign in the end times
  - *Mystical/Spiritual*: within the hearts of believers
  - *Socio-Political*: through applied moral-ethical values leading to social transformation
  - *Institutional*: through the Church

The Evangelical Protestant tradition has tended to focus on the first two understandings.

## Denominational Emphases

Denomination	Personal/Societal	Present/Future	Key Emphasis
<b>Roman Catholic</b>	Both personal and societal	Both present and future	The Kingdom is revealed through the Church, sacraments, and charity, with full realization in heaven.
<b>Eastern Orthodox</b>	Both personal and societal	Both present and future	The Kingdom is a mystical reality experienced through the liturgy and sacramental life, fully revealed in the age to come.
<b>Protestant (Evangelical)</b>	Primarily personal	Both present and future	The Kingdom begins in the believer's heart through faith and grows until its future fulfillment at Christ's return.
<b>Mainline Protestant (e.g., Anglican, Methodist)</b>	Both personal and societal	Both present and future	The Kingdom involves personal salvation and social justice, seeking to transform both individuals and society.
<b>Pentecostal / Charismatic</b>	Primarily personal	Both present and future	The Kingdom is present through the Holy Spirit's power, with signs, wonders, and healings pointing to its future fulfillment.
<b>Anabaptist (e.g., Mennonite)</b>	Primarily societal	Present and future	The Kingdom is lived out through radical discipleship, nonviolence, and community living, anticipating future completion.
<b>Liberal Protestant</b>	Primarily societal	Primarily present	The Kingdom is expressed through social justice, peace, and human progress, focusing on present societal transformation.
<b>Seventh-day Adventist</b>	Both personal and societal	Primarily future	The Kingdom is partially present but will be fully realized at Christ's second coming, bringing justice and restoration.

## *Models of the Kingdom*

Howard Snyder, in his book *Models of the Kingdom* (Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 1991) delineates eight models of the kingdom of God held by various traditions:

1. The kingdom as future hope: the *future* kingdom.
2. The kingdom as inner spiritual experience: the *interior* kingdom.
3. The kingdom as mystical communion: the *heavenly* kingdom.
4. The kingdom as institutional church: the *ecclesiastical* kingdom.
5. The kingdom as counter-system: the *subversive* kingdom.
6. The kingdom as political state: the *theocratic* kingdom.
7. The kingdom as Christianized culture: the *transforming* kingdom.
8. The kingdom as earthly utopia: the *utopian* kingdom.

If we adopt one of these models to the exclusion of others we risk a distorted view, as may be observed in some denominations & streams of evangelicalism.



## Chuck Colson *God and Government*

The temptation to think we can change the world by acquiring political power is the very temptation Jesus resisted when tempted by the devil. It would have been easy for Jesus to accept Satan's offer to reign over all the governments of the world (Lk 4:5-7). If Jesus accepted Satan's offer, he "could enforce the Sermon on the Mount: love and justice could reign" (131).

While politics is based on the premise that society must be changed in order to change people, in the politics of the Kingdom it is people who must be changed in order to change society.

It is a utopian illusion to say that peace and harmony will be brought about in the world through political means. The only hope is in the coming Kingdom of God that is manifested in...ordinary, individual lives, in the breaking of cycles of violence and evil, in the paradoxical power of forgiveness, in the actions of those little platoons who live by the transcendent values of the Kingdom of God in the midst of the kingdoms of this world, loving their God and loving their neighbor" (420).

### 3 Evangelical Eschatologies (Understanding of the last things)

Realised Kingdom	Inaugurated Kingdom	Future Kingdom
Kingdom Now	Now and Not Yet	Not Yet
The Kingdom of God <b>has</b> come	the tax collectors and the prostitutes <b>are entering</b> the <b>kingdom</b> of God	many <b>will</b> ...take their places ...in the <b>kingdom</b> of heaven
Invisible Spiritual Reality	Spiritual reality + Future Hope	Future Physical
Healings and Miracles should be a manifest reality according to the authority we have been given	Healings and Miracles can be prayed for as signs of the Kingdom coming.	Healings and Miracles cannot be guaranteed until the Kingdom comes, but God may choose to act sovereignly
You can overcome now, do not dwell on the negatives	Pray your kingdom come and endure suffering	Triumph in the Age to Come, but endure for now
Bring Heaven to Earth	Look for signs of the Kingdom	Wait for the Kingdom
Kris Valloten, Bill Johnson	George Ladd, John Wimber	John Piper

## When we pray 'Your Kingdom Come'

- We are praying for God's rule and reign over my life and situation, my choices and decisions.
- We are praying Come Holy Spirit, with power
- We are praying for the Kingdom of God to extend to all nations.
- We are praying for the enemy to be driven back, for deliverance and healing, truth and justice.
- We are praying to hasten the second coming of Christ and the fullness of the age to come.

- Matt 12v29 'How can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man?'

*This is one of the most important verses in the New Testament for understanding the Kingdom of God. Satan is 'The Strong man' and 'his house' is This Age. The strong man's goods are demonised men and women...*

*God's Kingdom means the divine conquest over his enemies, a conquest which is to be accomplished in stages.*

[George Ladd. ]



- **The Kingdom as Personal Salvation → Evangelism-Focused Mission**
- **The Kingdom as Societal Transformation → Social Justice Mission**
- **The Kingdom as a Present Reality → Holistic Mission**
- **The Kingdom as Future Fulfillment → Eschatological Mission**