

# THE COMING KINGDOM



What Is the Kingdom and  
How Is Kingdom Now Theology  
Changing the Focus of the Church?

**Andrew M. Woods**

Foreword by Thomas Ice

# The Coming Kingdom

## Chapter 8



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# Kingdom Study Outline



1. What does the Bible Say About the Kingdom?
2. The Main Problem with Kingdom Now NT interpretations
3. Why do some believe that we are in the kingdom now?
4. Why does it matter?



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# 1. Kingdom Throughout the Bible

1. Eden

2. Abrahamic Covenant

3. Mosaic Covenant

4. Divided Kingdom

5. Times of the Gentiles

6. Old Testament Prophets

7. Post exile

8. Offer of the King / Kingdom

9. Rejection of the Offer

10. Interim Age



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- b. Israel pursued righteousness by self righteousness rather than by transferred righteousness available though faith alone





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## John 6:15, 26 (NASB)

“So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone...Jesus answered them and said, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.’”



## Ezekiel 37:23-24 (NASB)

“They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God. “My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them.”



## Matthew 3:1-2 (NASB)

“Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



# Messengers of the Kingdom In Matthew



- John the Baptist – 3:2
- Jesus Christ – 4:17
- 12 Apostles – 10:5-7
- Seventy – Luke 10:1, 9

## Matthew 4:17 (NASB)

“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



## Matthew 10:5-7 (NASB)

“These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of *the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; <sup>6</sup> but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And as you go, preach, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”



# Divisions of Five in Matthew



1. Sermon on the Mount (5-7)

2. Missions Discourse (10)

3. Kingdom Parables (13)

***“...and when Jesus had finished saying these things” (7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1)***

4. Humility Discourse (18)

5. Olivet Discourse (24-25)



# Sermon on the Mount (5–7)

- Setting (5:1-2)
- Beatitudes (5:3-12)
- Influence of the kingdom's citizens upon fallen culture (5:13-16)
- Relationship of the kingdom to the Mosaic Law (5:17-48)
- Public vs. private righteousness (6:1-18)
- Wealth (6:19-34)
- Judging (7:1-6)
- Righteousness (7:7-12)
- Christ's teaching vs. the Pharisees (7:13-27)
- Conclusion (7:28-29)

# Sermon on the Mount: Inclusions & Omissions

## I. Inclusions

- A. Animal sacrifice & the temple (Matt. 5:23-24)
- B. Unlimited giving (Matt. 5:40-42)

## II. Omissions

- A. Christ's sacrifice for sins (John 3)
- B. Salvation by faith alone
- C. Prayer in Christ's name (John 14:13-14)
- D. Holy Spirit (John 14:26)
- E. The Church (Matt. 16:18)



# 1. Why did Israel reject the offer of the kingdom?

- a. Christ's kingdom was not just political but also moral and ethical in tone
- b. Israel pursued righteousness by self righteousness rather than by transferred righteousness available though faith alone



## Mark 7:13 (NASB)

“thus invalidating the word of God  
by your tradition which you have  
handed down; and you do many  
things such as that.”



## Matthew 5:20 (NASB)

“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”



## John 6:28-29 (NASB)

“Therefore they said to Him, ‘What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?’  
29 Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.’”



## Romans 9:30-32 (NASB)

“What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; <sup>31</sup> but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at *that* law. <sup>32</sup> Why? Because *they did not pursue it* by faith, but as though *it were* by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone.”



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## Matthew 12:24 (NASB)

“But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, “This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.”



## Matthew 24:14 (NASB)

“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”



# Transition from Public to Private Ministry

	<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	Matt. 1–12	Matt. 13–28
<b>Focus</b>	Nation	Remnant
<b>Miracles</b>	Proof to nation	Training for remnant
<b>Offer</b>	Prominent	Disappears
<b>Teaching</b>	Discourse	Parabolic
<b>Interim program</b>	Not mentioned	Prominent
<b>Crucifixion; Resurrection</b>	Not mentioned (4:17)	Prominent (16:21)

# Matthew Outline

Pedigree of the king (1–2)

- ◆ Preparation of the king (3–4)

- ◆ Pedagogy of the king (5–7)

- Power of the king (8–9)

- Program of the king (10)

- Progressive rejection of the king (11–12)

- Preparation of the king's disciples (13–20)

- Presentation & rejection of the king (21–23)

- ◆ Prophecies of the king (24–25)

- ◆ Passion of the king (26–27)

Proof of the king (28)

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Proof of the king (28)

## John 19:15 (NASB)

“So they cried out, ‘Away with *Him*, away with *Him*, crucify Him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘Shall I crucify your King?’ The chief priests answered, ‘We have no king but Caesar.’”



## Luke 19:14 (NASB)

“But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’”



## John 1:11 (NASB)

“He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.””





## Daniel 9:26 (NASB)

“So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until **Messiah the Prince** *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. <sup>26</sup> Then after the sixty-two weeks **the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing**, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.”



# Six Parts of a Suzerain-Vassal Treaty in Deuteronomy

- Preamble (1:1-5)
- Prologue (1:6–4:40)
- Covenant obligations (5–26)
- Storage and reading instructions (27:2-3; 31:9, 24, 26)
- Witnesses (32:1)
- Blessings and curses (28)



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## Deuteronomy 28:49-50 (NASB)

“The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand, <sup>50</sup> a nation of fierce countenance who will have no respect for the old, nor show favor to the young.”



# Israel's Judgments

- Division of the kingdom in 931 B.C. (1 Kgs. 12)
- Assyrian judgment in 722 B.C. (2 Kgs. 17)
- Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. (2 Kgs. 25)
- Roman judgment in A.D. 70 (Luke 19:41-44)



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## Acts 1:6-7 (NASB)

“So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’<sup>7</sup> He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.’”



### 3. Was the kingdom re-offered in Acts? No!

- a. The king was absent (Acts 1:9-11)
- b. Irreversible language found in the Gospels (Matt. 12:31-32; 21:42; 22:7)
- c. A new age in the kingdom's absence has already been disclosed (Luke 19:11-27; Matt. 13; 24–25)
- d. "Kingdom" is mentioned 45x in Luke's Gospel but only 8x in Acts
- e. Expression "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" is absent from Acts



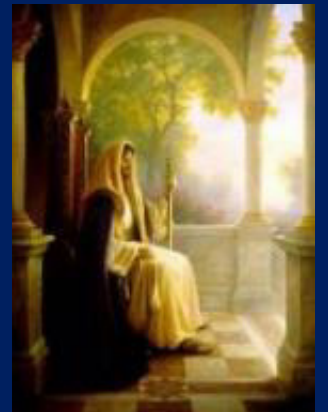
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## Isaiah 9:6-7 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.<sup>7</sup> There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.



## Luke 1:32-33 (NASB)

Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.





## Deuteronomy 17:15

“you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.”



## Acts 3:19-21 (NASB)

“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; <sup>20</sup> and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until *the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”



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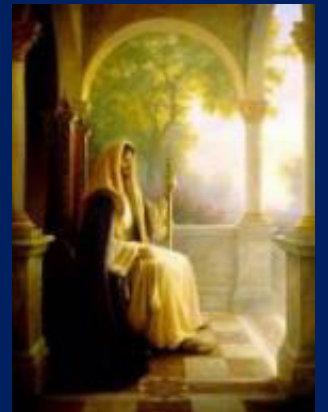
## Matthew 21:43 (NASB)

“Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.”



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# Matt 24 / Rev 6 Parallels

<b>Prediction</b>	<b>Birth pangs (Matt 24)</b>	<b>Seal judgments (Rev 6)</b>
False Christ	24:5	6:2
War	24:6	6:3-4
Famine	24:7	6:5-6
Death	24:6-7	6:7-8
Martyrs	24:9-13	6:9-11
Earthquakes	24:7	6:12-17
Evangelism	24:14	7:1-9

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## Acts 28:30-31 (NASB)

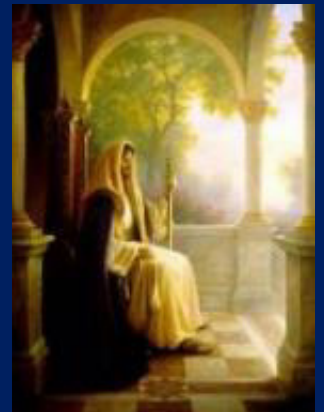
“And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, <sup>31</sup> preaching the kingdom of **God** and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.”





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# Messengers of the Kingdom In Matthew



- John the Baptist – 3:2
- Jesus Christ – 4:17
- 12 Apostles – 10:5-7
- Seventy – Luke 10:1, 9

## Matthew 3:1-2 (NASB)

“Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



## Matthew 4:17 (NASB)

“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



## Matthew 10:5-7 (NASB)

“These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of *the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; <sup>6</sup> but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And as you go, preach, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”



## Luke 10:1, 9 (NASB)

“Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come...and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”



### 3. Was the kingdom re-offered in Acts? No!

#### f. Co-mingling of kingdom truth with Church

#### Age truth

- g. The timing of the kingdom has already been fixed by the Father's authority (Acts 1:6-7)
- h. Acts 3:19-21 is laying out the condition by which the kingdom will ultimately come to the earth (Acts 3:19-21)
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# Origin of the Universal Church

- Matt 16:18 – future tense
- Eph 2:14-15; 3:9; Rom 16:25-26; Col 1:26-27 – mystery
- Eph 1:20-22 – Christ's headship over church after Ascension
- Eph 4:7-11 – spiritual gifts after Ascension
- 1 Cor. 12:13 – Spirit's baptizing ministry
  - ◆ Acts 1:5 – above to begin after Ascension
  - ◆ Acts 11:15-16 – above began in the past
  - ◆ Acts 2 – only place for beginning of Spirit's baptizing ministry



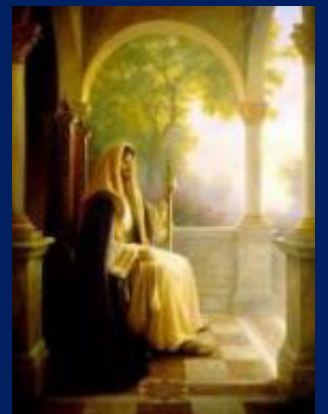
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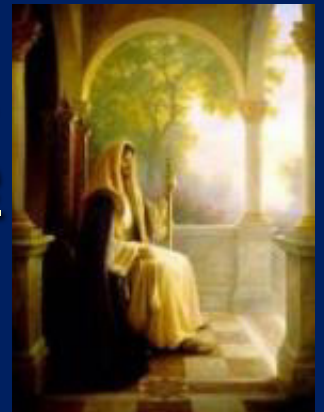
## Matthew 23:37-39 (NASB)

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. <sup>38</sup> Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! <sup>39</sup> For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”



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# Eras of Miracles in Scripture

## Cluster

## Confirmation

Moses

Law

Elijah & Elisha

Prophets

Christ

Offer of the kingdom

Apostles

Church

Antichrist

Satan's kingdom

## Hebrews 2:2-4 (NASB)

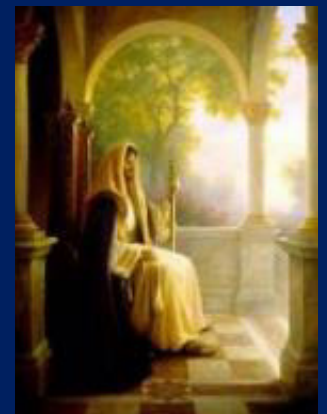
“For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, <sup>3</sup> how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard. <sup>4</sup> God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”





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- d. "Kingdom" is mentioned 45x in Luke's Gospel but only 8x in Acts
- e. Expression "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" is absent from Acts



### 3. Was the kingdom re-offered in Acts? No!

- f. Co-mingling of kingdom truth with Church Age truth
- g. The timing of the kingdom has already been fixed by the Father's authority (Acts 1:6-7)
- h. Acts 3:19-21 is laying out the condition by which the kingdom will ultimately come to the earth (Acts 3:19-21)
- i. The miracles in Acts authenticate the new age of the Church (Heb. 2:2-3) and not the ongoing offer of the kingdom



Conclusion

# REJECTION OF THE OFFER OF THE KINGDOM

1. Why did Israel reject the offer of the kingdom?
2. What was the turning point?
3. Was the kingdom re-offered in Acts?



# 1. Kingdom Throughout the Bible

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Eden                  | 6. Old Testament Prophets      |
| 2. Abrahamic Covenant    | 7. Post exile                  |
| 3. Mosaic Covenant       | 8. Offer of the King / Kingdom |
| 4. Divided Kingdom       | 9. Rejection of the Offer      |
| 5. Times of the Gentiles | <b>10. <u>Interim Age</u></b>  |

