

# The Kingdom Now

## Introduction

Last week we looked at the Kingdom Future perspective. The Kingdom is a future hope. It is our greatest hope for sure. The return of Jesus to finish what He began will truly be a “great and terrible day”. It will be a truly great day for those that belong to Christ. It will be a truly terrible day for God’s enemies of Satan, sin, and death as well as all those that have chosen to be their allies.

**The Kingdom was inaugurated when Jesus came the first time (the incarnation) and will be consummated when He returns. We are now living in the in-between space, in the tension between the already and the not yet.**

**This morning we are looking at the aspects of the Kingdom that are “already”.**

## A King Steps Down

The Kingdom Future perspective paints a portrait of God that emphasizes His holiness and sovereign justice. Likewise, Jesus is portrayed as a conquering hero riding on a white war horse with the blood of His enemies staining his robes. It’s a shocking image.

**Kingdom Now - portrait of Jesus is humble servant, but no less king.**

Our king rules by virtue of his covenant. (1 Sam. 4:4, Isa. 6)

**READ Isaiah 6:1-7** - King, throne, holy.

*Isaiah is seeing the ark of the covenant. This was the epicenter of God’s manifested presence on the earth. In the holy of holies, in the temple.*

*Inside the box were the ten commandments. God’s first covenant with His people through Moses. The lid on top of the box was called the Mercy Seat. This was where the priest would enter once a year and sprinkle the blood of a sacrificed animal to atone for the sin of the people. The animal received the punishment for the people’s transgressions against the covenant God had made.*

**This is what Isaiah sees, but he is not seeing the symbols he is seeing it as it really was.**

**But in Jesus, this king comes off the throne, trades crown of gold and jewels for crown of thorns. Trades his rulership for a towel and a basin to wash our feet. He steps down and wades out into the sea of broken humanity as one of them. Could there be any greater King then this?**

**READ Philippians 2:5-11** - *though He came as a humble servant, He is no less King*

In Christ, God is able to demonstrate both his great *holiness and sovereignty* as well as his *grace and mercy* towards us. *They both come together in person and work Jesus.*

### **The Gospel is Primary:**

***So, the primary feature of the kingdom now is that the King came down and became not only our brother, but also our once-and-for-all atoning sacrifice for sin. Then He rose again and freely gave us His eternal relationship with the Father as His sons and daughters. This Is The Gospel.***

### **Colossians 1:13-14**

*13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

### **Galatians 4:4-7**

*4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

***Every other benefit of the kingdom come now flows from this one truth.***

Keeping this the main thing is what keeps you out of some of the crazy that gets associated with Kingdom Now doctrine. When your sonship or daughtership in God's family through the resurrection of Jesus is your greatest prize, then you will not get sucked into heretical false doctrines of the prosperity gospel and the word of faith movement.

**These groups take too much from the Kingdom Future and load it into the Kingdom Now and end up with horrendous errors where ultimately the prize is no longer Jesus, it's healthy, wealth, and positive "spiritual" experiences.**

***Your greatest treasure is Christ, and your greatest hope is in His Second Coming.***

This needs to be said because ALL of the benefits of the Kingdom Now that I'm about to mention have in one way or another been coopted by modern day heretics that call themselves preachers and teacher and pastors. **LISTEN. Anyone that preaches or leads in a way that does not explicitly put Jesus up as the ultimate prize, and your FUTURE with Him as the ultimate hope, no matter how good they make you feel, should be rejected outright.**

## The Benefits of the Kingdom Now

Let's look at the major benefits of the fact that the Kingdom of God has already come in Christ. In other words, **what can we expect to receive of the Kingdom now instead of later?**

### 1 - Satan Has Been Defeated

**READ Hebrews 2:14** - Jesus' death destroyed Satan

**The English word "destroy" can be misleading here.** The Greek word here is "*katargeo*" which doesn't mean totally annihilated. It literally means, "to put out of action" or to "render inoperative".

Satan is still running around causing trouble, of course. But He does not have power over you. His power over you has been taken. Now, his greatest weapon is lying. He lies to you and tells you he has power over you. That you must be afraid of him instead of God. Every movie ever made about Satan or demons reflects this twisting of the truth.

**READ Matthew 12:22-28** -- casting out demons a sign that the kingdom *has come*

**Luke 10:17-20** -- we have authority over Satan

*17 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" 18 And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

### 2 - The Power of Sin is Broken

**READ Romans 6:1-11** -- dead to sin, alive to Christ

The you that was a slave to sin before you met Jesus is dead and gone. There is a new you that is not a slave, but is a son or a daughter. You are "alive to Christ".

YOU ARE NOT BOUND BY SIN. Breakthrough over sin that plagues you begins when you reject the lie that you are bound, that there is nothing you can, that *this* sin is too powerful. YOU ARE NOT BOUND BY SIN.

**Until you agree with what Jesus says about you over what you and Satan have agreed together about you, you will not overcome it.**

**READ Romans 6:12-14** -- BUT, work on it...

Paul then **commands** us to not sin. Paul is working with the tension between the already and the not yet here. He is saying that the power of sin is broken, it no longer rules over you. Instead, Christ rules over you.

However, you must still continually present yourself to Jesus as your King and ACT like you are dead to sin because until THAT DAY you will be tempted. You have a choice now. You can see sin coming, and you can see the way out, and you make a choice.

***Note that the key here is not so much fighting against the sin, but coming to Jesus. You worship your way out of sin.***

### **3 - Miracles, Healing, Gifts of the Spirit**

Go back and **READ Luke 10:17-20** -- they are to heal the sick and declare that the Kingdom of God was upon them.

Even if they reject you, tell them “know this, the kingdom of heaven has come near”

**Why would Jesus pronounce such a heavy curse on them if they rejected the message? Because they had no excuse. The healing of the sick had made it clear that the KOG was here.**

To reject the disciples was to reject their message. **To reject the message was to reject the Kingdom of God itself which is like jumping off a roof because you reject gravity as a reality that applies to you.**

### **Spiritual Gifts**

In Acts 2 at Pentecost, the disciples are told to wait on the Holy Spirit to empower them to preach the gospel. The Holy Spirit does come upon them, and the first thing He does through them is speak in tongues. It is a demonstration of the Kingdom.

**Then the Holy Spirit empowers Peter to preach this new gospel and thousands are saved.**

*In I Corinthians 2:1-5, Paul says that he did not speak to them with high and lofty speech, or wise and persuasive words, but with demonstrations of the Spirit's power. He relied on miracles and the spiritual gifts to demonstrate to the people that the Kingdom was at hand.*

The primary purpose of miracles, healing and the spiritual gifts is not to spice up our meetings. It's to demonstrate that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

**If we do believe that the Kingdom has come, then we should be expecting to see miracles. But, is our faith tied to our mood or is it anchored to the Kingdom of God?**

## **4 - Preaching Good News**

The final benefit of the Kingdom Now is that this good news of the kingdom, the gospel of the Kingdom, is available to the world. The world no longer has to wait for the Messiah to come. He has already come. They do not have to toil outside the Kingdom, living on only a promise of a coming King.

The King has come. Anyone who will believe in their heart, and confess with their mouth, that Jesus is Lord will be transferred from the Kingdom of Darkness, to the Kingdom of Light.

**Often we can get the idea that we are not the bearers of good news, but bad news. The world tends to look at us that way, and in many ways we have earned that reputation. But, in fact, we get the joy of being the bearers of very good news.**

## **Conclusion**

How much of these benefits of being a citizen of the Kingdom have you quietly forfeited to the Enemy simply because you agreed with his lies?

How much sin are tolerating because you have agreed with Satan that it is too strong to overcome? **Are you defeated or is Satan defeated?**

Have you stopped asking God for healing, or expecting Kingdom demonstrations through you, simply because you have believed your experience over the Truth?

**Let's pray and agree with God.**