

The Kingdom of Heaven

Two questions?

Who is the King of the Kingdom of heaven? Easy one : Jesus

And what is the kingdom of heaven like? Not so easy

When is the kingdom of heaven? The answer is now. Jesus is King right now. Is Jesus not our Lord and King right now? He sure is.

Jesus speaks a number of parables describing the very kingdom of heaven. Here are a few:

Mt 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:

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. Key word: sowed

Drop down to verse 30

Mt 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Key word: harvest

Mt 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: key word again: sowed

32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. key word: grown

Drop to verse 44

Mt 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.

Mt 13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The kingdom of heaven is the church of Christ on earth coexisting with the wicked.

THE CHURCH IS NOT A BUILDING, THE CHURCH IS NOT THE ASSEMBLY (there are those who assemble in the church that are not of the church), THE CHURCH IS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

When Jesus Speaks of the kingdom of Heaven, He is referring to the church. Those who have been converted, those who are born again. Those who have obeyed the gospel and become Christian.

Mt 18:3 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. Relate this with:

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. *the Kingdom of Heaven and the kingdom of God are used interchangeably throughout the New Testament.*

The Kingdom of God & the Church of Christ

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Jesus had said:

Matthew 16:13-18 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some [say that thou art] John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed [it] unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

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 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1: 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The Apostles are baptized with the Holy Spirit and power in Acts 2 and Peter preaches the first Gospel sermon resulting in:

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [unto them] about three thousand souls.

Verse 47 tells us what they were added to ...

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

After this the Kingdom of God is always spoken of as being already in existence.

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son.

Revelation 1: 9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 2:1-4 speaks of the proclamation of the Kingdom of God from Mount Zion by God himself in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

Isaiah 2:1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

Judah cf:

Genesis 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

II Samuel 7:12-16 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom

forever. 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. 16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever.

Isaiah 2:2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

Last Days cf:

Acts 2:16-17 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Mountain cf:

Daniel 2:44-45 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream [is] certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Lords House cf:

I Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

All Nations cf:

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things

whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Luke 24:45-48 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 24:48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

Isaiah 2:2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. Isaiah 2:3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will teach us of His ways, we will have a Divine Teacher

cf: John 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Out of Zion shall go forth the law, we have a new and perfect Royal law

cf: James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

Where did Jesus our King teach this law? On Mount Zion in Jerusalem

cf: Matthew 22:34-40 But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. 35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the

law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38

This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Word of the Lord from Jerusalem cf:

Luke 24:45-49 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things. 49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Isaiah 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Thus we see in Isaiah 2:1-4 The Kingdom of God which is also known as the Church of Christ will conquer the world peacefully and not by the sword. The peace we experience is Peace with God cf:

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Peace means that the rebellion against God is no longer within our heart; the war is over, and we have submitted to our Maker; and the new status we have in Christ changes everything ... God is angry with the wicked every day, and Paul described the Gentiles in their state of rebellion as "children of wrath." That wrath pertains to every person who has not come into Christ and made peace with God.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Most of these wonderful virtues are subjective, lying within the hearts of Christians. Peace is the calm, quiet, and order, which take place in the blood washed soul, instead of the doubts, fears, alarms, and

dreadful forebodings, which every lost sheep feels in their heart and soul. Peace is the first feeling of the fruit of pardon and forgiveness of my sins. Now that we are Christians, God will not be the cause of our troubles ... slew foot

Isaiah 54:13-17 And all thy children [shall be] taught of the LORD; and great [shall be] the peace of thy children. 14 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. 15 Behold, they shall surely gather together, [but] not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. 16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. 17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue [that] shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This [is] the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness [is] of me, saith the LORD

In Isaiah 10 the prophet has described the destruction of the Assyrian Army under the imagery of a mighty forest of trees cut down & laid level with the ground by the axe wielded by the coming Messiah.

Isaiah 10:32-34 As yet shall he remain at Nob that day: he shall shake his hand [against] the mount of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem. 33 Behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, shall lop the bough with terror: and the high ones of stature [shall be] hewn down, and the haughty shall be humbled. 34 And he shall cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon shall fall by a mighty one.

This 11 chapter of Isaiah follows the prophecies of the destruction of both Israel and of Assyria; but ... there were no sprouts or shoots coming up from the chopped down forest of Lebanon, since cedars do not produce sprouts after being cut down ... God's choice of the metaphor in the word "Lebanon" for Assyria, shows that Assyria would never recover from their destruction. However, Judah was represented by another type of tree, an oak, that will indeed preserve life after being cut down, and will send forth a sprout or shoot to make a new tree. Note that Assyria and Israel are both doomed to be cut down/destroyed In opposition to this image of a mighty army in chapter 10 Isaiah presents the Messiah as a great person who is the subject of this coming 11th Chapter.

Isaiah 11:1 The Messiah to be a descendant of Jesse who was King David's father

cf: Matt.1:6 & Luke 3:31-32.

Branch is a metaphor for the coming Messiah cf: Isaiah 27:6, Jeremiah 23:5-6,

Jer. 33:15-16, Zech. 3:8-9, Zech. 6:11-13 & John 19:5.

Isaiah 11:2 Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him cf:

Luke 3:21-23 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, 22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. 23 And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age ...

Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. cf:

Isaiah 61:1ff

Isaiah 11:3 the fear of the Lord cf:

Hebrews 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; He shall not Judge after the sight of His eyes cf:

Romans 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Isaiah 11:4 Righteousness cf:

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

The Poor & the Meek of the earth cf:

Matthew 5:3-10

Rod of His mouth & breath of His lips shows the power of Christ's preaching cf:

Isaiah 49:2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Revelation 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two edged sword: and his countenance [was] as the sun shineth in his strength. (also cf: Rev, 2:12)

II Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Here the Greek Thra-ci-an Sword is used symbolically for Christ's Coming in Judgment

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Isaiah 11:5-6 little child cf:

Matthew 18:3-4 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.

Isa 11:7-9 Holy Mountain, what mountain? The Mountain of the Lord's House we studied about in chapter 2 cf:

Isaiah 2:2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, [that] the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

What is the Mountain of the Lord's House? The Church of Christ.

I Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Isaiah 11:10

Paul quotes Isaiah 11:10 and thereby teaches this prophecy was already fulfilled in his day & time when he wrote the letter to the Romans cf:

Rom. 15:12 And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust. A root of Jesse is a metaphor that Christ Himself has twice applied to Himself cf:

Revelation 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold,

the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Rev. 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, [and] the bright and morning star.

The Lord, Hebrew YHWH, This gathering is not geographical into the new modern state of Israel but spiritual. In the previous chapter Isaiah tells of this returning of the remnant “to the mighty God” cf:

]Isaiah 10:21 The remnant shall return, [even] the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God.

A chapter earlier Jesus Christ is called the mighty God” cf:

Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah 11:11-12

First gathering was from Assyria and the second gathering will be from the coming Babylonian captivity.

Isaiah 11:12 Both Gentiles and Jews are to be gathered into one body
cf: Ephesians 1:9-10 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [even] in him

Ephesians 2:11-22 Wherefore remember, that ye [being] in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition [between us]; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, [even] the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, [so] making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow

citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Isaiah 11:13-14 This is a common Old Testament practice of naming ancient enemies of Israel as representative of the Gentiles of the New Testament Saints. Thus old enemies to become brethren by the gospel.

Isaiah 11:15

Here is an allusion to the Hebrew passage through the Red Sea.

The tongue is a descriptive for a bay such as The Red Sea cf:

Exodus 14:26-29 Seven streams The Nile River falls into the Mediterranean Sea by 7 streams. There is a new Exodus coming and God is making a highway for you to pass over.

Isaiah 11:16 A highway is one of Isaiah's metaphors for the Kingdom of God and the Church of Christ cf:

Isaiah 35:8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it [shall be] for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

All 4 Gospel writers quote Isaiah 40:3 and are explicit in stating the building of this highway began with the preaching of John the Baptist.

Matthew 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Sources: KJV Bible, Clarkes Commentary, B.W. Johnson Commentary, Coffman's Commentaries, the Word.com