



5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The Old & New Testament Concept of the Kingdom

In the Old Testament, Israel was distinct from all other nations because it was a theocracy. In other words, it was ruled directly by God (Isaiah 43:15). Later in Israel's history they wanted to be like the other nations of the world, to be ruled by an earthly king (1 Samuel 8:5-19). So God granted their request and chose for them a king named Saul (1 Samuel 10:24-25). Later because of Saul's disobedience, God raised up David to be king, a man after His own heart (Acts 13:21-22; 1 Kings 15:3).

When God chose a king He would send a prophet to anoint that one with oil. This typified the Holy Spirit coming upon this one to empower and anoint him to rule. At this time the Spirit of God would come upon him and change his heart to rule in righteousness, for God was with him (1 Samuel 10:1, 6, 7, 9).

The anointing to rule (or to be king), is where the idea of the Messiah comes from. The word "anointed" in Hebrew is Mashiach (Messiah) and translated Christos (Christ) in Greek. The Old Testament prophets prophesied that in the future the Messiah (or Anointed One) would come, and the God of Heaven would set up a kingdom which would never be destroyed (Daniel 2:44, 7:14, 27). In the Scriptures, if you notice, Jesus never explained to the Jews what He meant when speaking about the kingdom. It was an Old Testament concept that they were already looking for (Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:1-6; Daniel 2:44; 7:13-14, 18 and 27).

It is impossible to understand the messages of Jesus without a basic understanding of the Kingdom. The Kingdom was the message that Jesus spoke and the only one he instructed his disciples to preach (Mark 1:14-15, Luke 9:1-2; Acts 28:23-31; Luke 16:16; Matthew 24:14). This message was also referred to as "salvation," or the offer of "eternal life" (See Hebrews 2:3; Matthew 19:16 cp. Matthew 19:23; Acts 28:23-24, 28, 30-31). Within the phrase "the Kingdom of God" is the idea of a group of people that would be ruled by God. In order to enter God's Kingdom conditions had to be met. A change of heart was required. This change of heart is what the Bible calls repentance. It was a change of heart towards God, that is, it was a turning away from Satan, sin and its ways, unto God, Christ and His ways. As one turns, God offers (as a gift, through Jesus' shed blood), the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life (Romans 6:23). This "good news" is referred to as the "gospel of grace" or the preaching of the "Kingdom of God" (See Acts 20:24-25).

The Kingdom of God is characterized by grace (Matthew 20:1-16) and has come quietly and secretly in the ministry of Jesus (Matthew 13:33). It will one day in the future come to a glorious and visible consummation (Matthew 13:36-43). Until then, those who belong to His invisible Kingdom are those in whose lives the Kingdom takes visible form (Acts 26:20). They are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14), the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13), and those who live by their King's commands (John 14:15; 1 John 3:10). They are those who have turned aside from sin to Him (1 Corinthians 6:9; Galatians 5:21; Ephesians 5:5).

Have you turned from darkness to light, from the authority (or rule) of Satan unto God to receive the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 26:18)? Have you been given a new heart and a new spirit that causes you to walk in God's ways (Ezekiel 36:26-27; Acts 11:15-18)? Have you accepted the yoke of the Kingdom, to submit your life to His rule and reign (Matthew 3:1-2, 6; Romans 6:13, 21-22)? Have you called upon God for the forgiveness of your sins (Luke 18:13-14)? If so, then God has granted you the privilege of turning to Him to receive eternal life. Acts 11:18 states, "When they heard these things, they... glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

Questions

1 Read Isaiah 43:15.

"I am the Lord, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King." - Isaiah 43:15

In the Old Testament, what made Israel distinct from all other nations is that it was:

- A. a theocracy
- B. a democracy
- C. ruled directly by God

2 Read Acts 2:36 (NLT).

"So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!" - Acts 2:36 (NLT)

The anointing to rule (or to be king), is where the idea of the Messiah comes from. The word "anointed" in Hebrew is Mashiac (Messiah) and translated Christos (Christ) in Greek.

True or False

3 Read Daniel 2:44.

“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.” - Daniel 2:44

Read Daniel 7:14.

“And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” - Daniel 7:14

Read Daniel 7:27.

“And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.” - Daniel 7:27

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True or False

4 Read Hebrews 2:3.

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.” - Hebrews 2:3

Read Matthew 19:16 compare Matthew 19:23.

“And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” - Matthew 19:16

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 19:23

Read Acts 28:23-24.

“²³And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening. ²⁴And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.” - Acts 28:23-24

Read Acts 28:28.

“Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.” - Acts 28:28

Read Acts 28:30-31.

“³⁰And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, ³¹Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.” - Acts 28:30-31

The message of the Kingdom was also referred to as “salvation,” or the offer of “eternal life.”

True or False

5 Read Luke 18:13-14 (LB).

“13’But the corrupt tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed, but beat upon his chest in sorrow, exclaiming, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’ 14I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home forgiven!” - Luke 18:13-14 (LB)

Read Acts 22:16.

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” - Acts 22:16

Have you called upon God for the forgiveness of your sins?

Yes or No

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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DKM
10065 Sun Ridge Circle
Rogers, AR 72756 U.S.A.
delessons.org

Answer Key

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