

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

The image features a solid blue background with a gradient from light blue at the top to a darker blue at the bottom. In the lower right quadrant, there are several thin, white, parallel lines that originate from the bottom edge and extend diagonally towards the top right corner, creating a sense of movement and modern design.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:1-2 John the Baptist came preaching... “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”

JESUS

Mark 1:15 The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

THE 12 APOSTLES (FIRST TRIP)

Luke 9:2,6 [Jesus] sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal...

And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

THE 72 DISCIPLES (SECOND TRIP)

Luke 10:9 Heal the sick and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’



KINGDOM

OF GOD / OF HEAVEN

AT HAND / NEAR

REPENT

GOODNEWS

BELIEVE & HEALINGS



BELIEVE & HEALINGS

Believe, faith, trust, depend (**πιστεύω**) pisteuo, but not blind faith. It comes with practical tangible evidence in the form of healings.

Heal (**ιάομαι**) Eaoimai & (**θεραπεύω**) Therapeo – to heal, cure or make whole

Not (**σώζω**) Sodzo – to save or rescue from destruction or save from disease ie to heal

The healing was a dramatic indication of the message itself that: God is healing the world

GOODNEWS

Good News (εὐαγγέλιον) *euangelion*

Euangelion – usage:

A death of a political enemy

A Royal Wedding

The Birth of a successor to the throne

An ascension to the throne

rare occasions: saved by the gods

All of these apply to the
message of Jesus

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted upwards from left to right, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

REPENT

Repent (μετανοέω) *metanoēō*

(Μετα) *meta* : change

(Νοέω) *noēō* : thinking

A call to change your identity and allegiance



AT HAND / NEAR

Near(ἐγγίζω) *Engidzo* – imminent, Within reach, draw near, join together

Matt 21:1 when they **drew near** to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives...

Matt 21:34 When the season for fruit **drew near**, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit.

Matt 26:45-46 Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is **at hand**, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is **at hand**.”

GOD IS AT HAND

The will of God is being manifest in practical tangible ways.

The realm of heaven is breaking into earth.

“To bring God’s future into our present and make it stick.” NT Wright

HEAVEN IS NEAR

If you are talking about what happens after someone dies, then you have a different message than Jesus’ message.



THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND

“To speak of God’s Kingdom arriving in the present was to summon up the entire narrative [of God’s History] and to declare that it was reaching its climax. God’s future was breaking in to the present. Heaven was arriving on earth.” - NT Wright

REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, located in the lower right quadrant of the slide.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Post resurrection the message of the Kingdom continues:

Acts 1:3-6, 8:12, 14:22, 19:8, 20:25, 28:23-31.

By Paul 1 Cor 4:20, 6:9-10, 15:24, 15:50 Rom 14:17, Gal 5:21, 1 Thes 5:12,
Rev 12:10, 11:15

Why is the message of a Kingdom so absent from western Christianity?



THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Expectations of the coming Kingdom

- 1) Fulfill God's Promises and Purposes
- 2) Israel would be rescued from pagan oppression
(see Ephesians 3:6 to really blow your mind)
- 3) Evil would be **judged**
- 4) God would usher in a new reign of **justice** and peace

If YHWH is the King that means others are due for a demotion.



THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Elements of a Kingdom

- 1) King
- 2) Constitution (Covenant)
- 3) Culture
- 4) Citizens

Why is the message of a Kingdom so absent from western Christianity?

It is not absent!

It just takes different forms.



THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Elements of a Kingdom

- 1) King
- 2) Constitution (Covenant)
- 3) Culture
- 4) Citizens

Elements of a Family

- 1) Leader
- 2) Covenant
- 3) Culture
- 4) Citizens

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It is not absent!

It just takes different forms.



THE COVENANT OF ABRAHAM

	Abraham	
Presence of God	God inhabits the Temple God made his dwelling among the community	
Governance	External control using laws and punishment	
Righteousness	Through observance of the rules Practiced in obligation But was never actually obtained	
Symbolism	post-battle defeat treaty, dead animals, threats and fear	

THE COVENANT

Why would a good God make a bad covenant?

Hebrews 8:7 If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it.

It is not a bad covenant!

It was a good covenant for it's time and a stepping stone towards something better.

It served it's purpose: a framework for knowing God more intimately than before.

a way to recognize the Righteous One when He came and walked among them.

Laws from God were a blessing

Even the king couldn't overrule God's laws

THE COVENANT

Jer 31:31-34 “The day is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,”

says the LORD. “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the LORD.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the LORD. “And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

2 Cor 3:6-7 He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life. The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death,

THE COVENANT OF JESUS

	Abraham	Jesus
Presence of God	God inhabits the Temple God made his dwelling among the community	God inhabits the believer God makes his dwelling within each community member
Governance	External control using laws and punishment	Internal empowerment using freedom and trust
Righteousness	Through observance of the rules Practiced in obligation But was never actually obtained	Imparted as a free gift through association and trust in Jesus Practiced in joy and trust
Symbolism	post-battle defeat treaty, dead animals, threats and fear	A wedding, new life, promises, hope

THE KINGDOM

Jesus's Kingdom is upside down, inside out, and backwards.

The first become last, the last become first.

The government moves from outside to inside.

God doesn't externally control us anymore.

Instead the Holy spirit gives us self control.

Power moves from the top to the bottom:

The most powerful become the lowest servant.

Jesus "God in Flesh" became food. (John 6)



THE KINGDOM

Mat 23:25-28

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the **outside** of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of **greed and self-indulgence**. You blind Pharisee! First *clean the inside* of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which **outwardly** appear beautiful, but within are full of **dead** people’s bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of **hypocrisy and lawlessness**.

THE KINGDOM

Gal 4:29

But you are now being **persecuted** by those who want you to keep the **law**, just as Ishmael, the child born by human effort, persecuted Isaac, the child born by the power of the Spirit.


Gal 5:1

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in **slavery** to the **law**.



THE KINGDOM

2 Co 3:17-18 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **freedom**. And we all, with **unveiled face**, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this **comes from the Lord** who is the Spirit.



THE KINGDOM

People were expecting a kingdom that controlled people from a grandiose palace applying external control and strong military might.

Why were they disappointed with Jesus?



THE KINGDOM

People were expecting a kingdom that controlled people from a grandiose palace applying external control and strong military might.

Why were they disappointed with Jesus?

-They wanted to be at the top and control others.



THE CULTURE

External

Internal

Control

Freedom

Fear

Love

Obligation

Joy

From the world's perspective:

Inside out, Upside down and Backwards



THE CULTURE

In the World, **Failure** is **punished** when it's exposed and **hidden** when possible.

In Jesus, *failure is part of the learning process.*

Failure is met with mercy and grace, forgiveness is given quickly. Failure can be celebrated because it is part of risks, learning, growth those are essential to life

Fearless kids are powerful kids!



THE KING

Phil 2:6-8 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

John 6:15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and **take him by force** to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Mark 8:29-30 And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he strictly charged them to **tell no one** about him.

Jesus was hesitant to use the title **King** because we understood king is such flawed human terms. He is not a king like any king we've ever had before.

THE KING

“I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.”

“Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say,
‘You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.’”

Jesus didn't short cut the cross.

God's purposes achieved through God's methods.

It makes all the difference in the culture of the kingdom.



THE CITIZENS

“As the king so go the people”

controlled people need to be afraid, weak, poor

They are **concerned about the rules**

God’ people are empowered, strong, free

They are **concerned about God’s love for humanity**



THE CITIZENS

The community (ἐκκλησία) Ekklesia church

in ancient Greek it was primarily understood as a political word for a city or town that was allied to a greater political structure (kingdom or empire)



THE CITIZENS

Growing communities are mixed

Like plants, the roots are intertwined with the soil.

That is root and what is soil is a matter of time.

Growing communities are changing communities.

Every new child breaks the family norms and patterns, but the family finds out what it truly is on a deeper level.



THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Geography? – no

Matthew 11:11-14

I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is! And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, **the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing,* and violent people are attacking it.** For before John came, all the prophets and the law of Moses looked forward to this present time. And if you are willing to accept what I say, he is Elijah, the one the prophets said would come (Mal 4:5)

* suffered from violence

Luke 17:20-21 One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God come?” Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is **already among you.**