

"THY KINGDOM COME"

Matthew 13:11

September 21, 2008 Sunday pm

INTRODUCTION

Matthew 13:11 *He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them."*

- A. In our introductory lesson, we observed that the general "theme" of Jesus' parables was "the kingdom of heaven"--Mt 13:24,31,33,44,45,47. In explaining why He spoke in parables, Jesus made reference to it- Mt 13:11.
- B. Because "the kingdom of heaven" is such a prominent subject in the parables of Jesus I thought it might serve a good purpose to preface our study of the parables with a careful look at what "the kingdom of heaven" is.

I. THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN vs. THE KINGDOM OF GOD

A. IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

A comparison of the gospels indicate that the terms refer to the same thing-- Mt 4:17 with Mk 1:14-15.

Matthew 4:17 *From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."*

Mark 1:15 *"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

B. WHY THE DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS?

1. We find that Matthew used the expression "kingdom of heaven" almost exclusively, while the other gospel writers used the phrase "kingdom of God"
2. It may be that since Matthew wrote his gospel to the Jews, he chose to use the phrase "kingdom of heaven" because of the Jews' reluctance to use the name of God out of reverence.

II. IT INVOLVES FOUR INTER-RELATED CONCEPTS

A. THE REIGN OF GOD--Matt. 6:10.

Matthew 6:10 *your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

B. SPIRITUAL RATHER THAN PHYSICAL.

1. The kingdom (or reign of God) would not be found in the form of a physical kingdom - Jn 18:36.

John 18:36 *Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."*

2. It would manifest itself in spiritual ways - Ro 14:17.

Romans 14:17 *(For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,*

C. VISIBLY MANIFESTED TODAY IN THE CHURCH. - Re 1:4-6.

Revelation 1:4-6 *⁴ John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.*

D. BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE—MATT. 6:10.

Matthew 6:10 *your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

III. A SUMMARY DEFINITION OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

- A. IN THE "PRESENT" SENSE--It is found wherever the SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD is accepted in the hearts of men.
- B. IN THE "FUTURE" SENSE.-- 1Co 15:24.
1 Corinthians 15:24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

CONCLUSION

- A. The Kingdom starts in our hearts when we receive Christ.
- B. The Kingdom continues to manifest itself through the Church as we share its truth with others.
- C. May our prayer be the same as Jesus'—"Thy Kingdom Come".