

ACTS 1.3

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THE KINGDOM OF GOD

“

*. . . to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*

*—Acts 1.3 NKJV*

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- ▶ Jesus began and ended his work on earth speaking about the “kingdom of God” (*Mark 1.15; Acts 1.3*)
- ▶ During his ministry, Jesus spoke constantly about the kingdom of God—
  - ▶ Luke - 33 references
  - ▶ Gospels - 59 references
  - ▶ Matthew: “kingdom of heaven” - 32 references
- ▶ The account of the ministry of the apostles ends with:  
*“[Paul] preached the kingdom of God . . . ” (Acts 28.31)*
- ▶ Between the Gospels, Acts, and the letters of Paul, there are more than 100 references to the “kingdom of God/heaven”

- ▶ Jesus said that the kingdom of God had keys and secrets and could not be understood by most people except through stories—that they wouldn't understand! (*cf. Matthew 16.19; 13.11-15; Mark 4.11*)
- ▶ Jesus said that every teacher instructed about the kingdom of heaven was like a rich homeowner with valuable possessions on display, but he also declared that it was the particular possession of children, that it belonged to the poor in spirit, that tax collectors and prostitutes were entering the kingdom ahead of everyone else, and that it was virtually inaccessible to those who are wealthy (*cf. Matthew 13.52; 19.14; 5.3; 21.31; Mark 10.23*)

*The question we need to consider: out of all that is written about the kingdom of God, what do we need to understand today?*

*“ . . . [Jesus] spoke about things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”*

# WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

- ▶ The kingdom of God is real.
  - ▶ It exists—even though it is not on any map.
  - ▶ It is real—even though it has no territory on earth.
  - ▶ It has an actual king, citizens, ambassadors, laws, and an economy. In fact, it is the oldest kingdom in existence.

*The Lord reigns, He is robed in majesty;*

*The Lord is robed in majesty and is armed with strength.*

*Your throne was established long ago; You are from all eternity.*

*—Psalm. 93.1-2*

*But about the Son, [God the Father] says,*

*“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever,  
and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.*

*—Hebrews 1.8*

*For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of  
the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

*—Colossians 1.13-14*

*But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus  
Christ, who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control . . .*

*—Philippians 3.20-21a*



► The kingdom of God is spiritual.

- It is beyond human sight and understanding, and yet it is more real and more important than anything that is part of our daily lives.

*“I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born again.*

*—John 3.3*

*I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

*—1 Corinthians 15.50*

*For the man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

*—1 Corinthians 2.14*

*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? . . . For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

*—Matthew 6.25, 32-33*

*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

*—Romans 14.17*

*“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.*

*—Matthew 13.45*



- ▶ The kingdom of God is more valuable than anything in this life.

*“Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”*

—Luke 18.29-30

- ▶ The kingdom of God is for those who prepare for it.

*“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”*

—Matthew 7.21

*“Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”*

—Luke 21.36

### ► The kingdom of God is for those who overcome.

*“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it.”*

*—Luke 16.16*

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

*—Ephesians 6.11-12*

*Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*—2 Peter 1.10-11*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF RESURRECTION

*Risen!*

THE KINGDOM OF GOD