



The Kingdom

STORY



God's Promised Kingdom

Kingdom of God

- Not a place but God's rule and reign
- Jesus talks about it a lot, but it's not just a NT idea
- All through the bible: Genesis - Revelation
- God's kingdom being established, rejected, and God bringing restoration
- God teaches us, promises us, that His kingdom is coming – He wants us to know!
- Prophet Isaiah is one of those teachers

God's Kingdom Established - Eden

- Prosperity / Provision
 - Plenty of food and water
 - No illness or death
 - Land, home, belonging
- Peace / Safety / Shalom
 - Human relationships without sin
 - No enemies
 - People had purpose and work
 - High on a mountain, where Heaven meets Earth
- God was present, relationship was whole

God's Kingdom Rejected

Consequence – Curse & Banishment

Serpent is cursed: You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel... (Ge 3:14-15)

Eve is cursed: I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing...your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you. (Ge 3:16)

God's Kingdom Rejected

Consequence – Curse & Banishment

Adam is cursed: Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. (Ge 3:17)

“The man has become like us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So the Lord banished him from the Garden of Eden ... (Ge 3:22-23)



God's Kingdom Rejected

Rule and reign shifted

- Prosperity
 - Banished from garden
 - Food through painful toil
- Peace / Shalom
 - Sickness, death
 - Relationship with each other - shame, blame
- Relationship with God - mistrust, fear, shame

Kingdom Restored - Exodus

Under the reign of human rulers (Pharoah) Israel is oppressed

- God's kingdom breaks in
 - Defeats evil
 - Rescues his people – freedom and salvation
 - God invites them to live under his reign (The Law), and restore their relationship

Kingdom of God Established & Rejected

- God invites Israel to live under His reign
- Israel accepts – “We will do everything the Lord has said.” Ex 19:8



- Want an earthly king “like the other nations”
- King David and Solomon
 - Prosperity
 - Peace
 - Presence (Temple)



Consequence of rejection is Exile



Removed from Jerusalem

- Land (prosperity)
- King (peace)
- Temple (presence)

“So the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence.” 2Ki 17:18

Isaiah – Message of Judgment and Hope

- Judgment and exile
- Proclaims hope in three phases – the Lord reigns!
 1. Return from exile to Jerusalem
 2. God's Servant, heir of David, and kingdom
 3. New Heaven and new Earth / New Jerusalem

The New Jerusalem / New Heaven and New Earth

- God's kingdom finally comes on earth as it is in heaven
- Fulfillment of all of God's covenant promises
- Completion of the work begun by the suffering servant
- Associated with Christ's second coming

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷ “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

¹⁸ But [I will] be glad and rejoice **forever** in what I will create, for I will create **Jerusalem** to be a delight and its people a joy. ¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.

²⁰ “Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³ They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

Book of Revelation

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the **new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! **God’s dwelling place is now among the people**, and he will dwell with them. **They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.** ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be **no more death** or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Rev 21:1-4)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal... On each side of the river stood the **tree of life**, bearing twelve crops of fruit, **yielding its fruit** every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. ...There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they **will reign for ever and ever**. (Rev 22:1-5)

The Promised Kingdom

- Prosperity / Peace / Presence of God
- God's kingdom WILL come – it will be fully restored
- God has always kept his promises (different from our requests)
- Not dependent on us or our performance
- Circumstances don't define it – no matter what, **the Lord reigns** (Ps 97)

Invitation

Ask God to remind you of promises He has kept.

Write them down, meditate on them, allow them to build your faith and give you hope and allow you to trust that the Lord reigns, despite your circumstances.