

22T09a Kingdom of God

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table. I have a question for you. What is the Bible about? Think about it for a moment. What is the Bible about? I bet you have had lots of things cross your mind. God, Jesus, people of God, salvation. And yes, the Bible is about these things but what is the “the thing”, the big Picture concept. Well, it has to be a story about God right? And it is, no doubt. But did you know what the main topic is in the New Testament? If you said salvation, well salvation is mentioned more than forty-five times in the New Testament. Eternal life about sixty times. Would you be surprised if I told you the phrase Kingdom of God appear nearly 289 times in the KJV, and the phrase Kingdom of Heaven appears more than 110 in Matthew in the KJV. That is more than four hundred (400) occurrences of Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven in the New Testament alone.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Lord use me to share your message. If I say something in error, please let them remember what you wanted them to hear, not my errand words. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Guide our discussion. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Okay, Kingdom of God. Yes, this is the most prominent topic in the New Testament. Does that surprise you. In fact, Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God/Heaven more than any other topic, more than all other topics combined. I bet this is not what you expected. I was surprised as well.

The obvious next question is What is the Kingdom of God. Heaven, right? Well, yes, no or maybe and. Actually, Jesus starts much of His teaching with the phrase, “the Kingdom of God is like....”

Before we go any further, I want to make sure we all understand. Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven are the same thing. Kingdom of Heaven appears mostly in the gospel of Matthew and there is a reason. Matthew intended his gospel for other Hebrews, Jews. Jewish people do not like to say the word God. In fact, most Jewish people don't say or write the word God or the names of God out of respect for God. So, Matthew used the phrase Kingdom of Heaven instead of Kingdom of God. We know this because we can find parallel verses in the other gospels which use Kingdom of God instead of Kingdom of Heaven. So, yes Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven mean the same thing.

But what, where, when is the Kingdom of God. Now that is the right question. And I know the Bible has the answer

Okay, let's talk about the noise that is out there. Most evangelical Christians believe the Kingdom of God is some future thing after the 2nd coming of Christ. Some Christians believe the Kingdom of God is only in Heaven. And yet other Christians believe the Kingdom of God is here, just not yet. I was surprised to read in the Bible that none of these are what Jesus meant when He spoke about the Kingdom of God.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Thank you are every story, every message in the Bible. Help us understand your purpose for giving them. Help us to understand how you intend us to view them. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Help me Lord to let your word lead the way so we can see your message. Thank you, Jesus, for what you did for me or all of us. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

So over the next few sessions, we are going to dig into the Bible to if we can determine what, where, when and How Jesus was talking about the Kingdom of God. Then we will look at the other new testament authors and even a few old testament references. This should be fun.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope you will join me as we study and learn about the Kingdom of God.

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until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.

David/Saul analogy

When and Why eliminate other kingdom at end times

Physical versus spiritual (now versus millennium)