

22T09x Kingdom of God-When

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table. We have been talking about the most prominent topic in the New Testament, the kingdom of God. I know many of you are probably surprised by that. In fact, Jesus talks about the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven more than any other topic, more than all other topics combined. The obvious next question is what is the kingdom of God. Well, Heaven, right? Well, yes, no or maybe and. Actually, Jesus starts much of His teaching with the phrase, “the Kingdom of God is like....”

But what, where, when is the Kingdom of God. Now that is the right question. And I know the Bible has the answer. So, today we are going to look at the question, when is the kingdom of God?

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, I hope we all understand that there will be a Kingdom of God, but when? Believe it or not, there is a lot of controversy and fights about this. I have heard statements like. The kingdom of God is the Millennium kingdom spoken about in the end of Revelation. And yes, that is definitely the kingdom of God. But others say the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven is heaven. Duh. Right. And if God is there, then obviously this is God’s kingdom, the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven. Some say that Jesus came to assure in the kingdom of God but was rejected by the Jews, so the kingdom of God is not yet or on hold.

Are you starting to get confused. I know I was. So what is a kingdom? Well, the definition of kingdom in English is a country, state, or territory ruled by a king or queen. Any group of people ruled by a monarch is considered to be a kingdom. In a kingdom, the king has the final say on anything, but not necessarily everything. A king can take your stuff, your money, your property without asking your permission. A king can put you to death, with or without cause. What the king says, is what happens? The king is in charge, period. Kings often, even typically, don’t do this alone. They appoint other leaders to rule small areas. These too can be called kings; their kingdom is just smaller. They are still under the authority of the bigger, stronger king. But still kings. We see this in history. King of kings. Daniel 2:36-38 (NAS) *³⁶“This was the dream; and now we will tell its interpretation before the king. ³⁷You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the honor; ³⁸and wherever the sons of mankind live, or the animals of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has handed them over to you and has made you ruler over them all. You are the head of gold.*

So, who is the king of kings here. No it is not Jesus. Daniel is interpreting a dream for the king of Babylon, king Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar is the king of kings. He is the head king over many other kings. We know this from the Bible. After the Babylonians conquered Israel, they left a Jewish king in place to rule Israel. That king was under the king of kings Nebuchadnezzar. We know the Persians and the Romans did the same thing. It’s recorded for us in the Bible. History also records that many ancient empires did this very same thing. Modern governments also do this. During colonial times, the king would appoint governors. A governor is a small king under the authority of a bigger king. I hope you get my point; we all live under the authority of many levels of rulers, we just don’t call them kings. But the ruler of a group of people is a king. The group of people is the kingdom. A given group of people can be part of

several kingdoms at the same time, each kingdom has higher authority. Take me for example. I am king of my kingdom; we call it a family. I rule over that kingdom. But my family are subject to the authority of the county government. We live in Fort Bend County Texas. We live in the kingdom Fort Bend County Texas. Fort Bend County is made up of thousands of family kingdoms, many towns and villages which are all lesser kingdoms. But everyone in the Fort Bend County Texas kingdom is subject to the bigger stronger kingdom of Texas, that is the State of Texas government. The state of Texas is made up of lots of counties, smaller kingdoms, with even more towns, cities, villages and millions of families. Kingdom stacked upon kingdom. We have yet a higher authority which would be the federal government. The Government of the United States of America. Do you see what I'm trying to show you. No matter who you are, no matter where you live, you are subject to many kingdoms. Now, as a Christian, I know that the highest authority is God. The Kingdom of God is over all other kingdoms of this world and over all kingdoms not of this world. God would not be God, if He did not have authority over all of creation.

So, first of all is God ruling in heaven? Of course, yes, so heaven must be at least part of the kingdom of God. God is ruling there. But Jesus described the location of the Kingdom of God a little different. Luke 17:20-21 (NAS) *²⁰Now He was questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, and He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs that can be observed; ²¹nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."*

So, did you hear that. This is Jesus talking to the Pharisees. The kingdom of God is in your midst. Why? Well the king of kings is there. Jesus is there. If Jesus is there and He is the King, then wherever He is so also is His kingdom. So, it is impossible to miss Jesus' point here. The Kingdom of God is not constrained to any place. If the king is there, then yes, it is the kingdom of God.

Then yes, the kingdom of God is heaven, The kingdom of God is the future Millennium. The kingdom of God was on earth when Jesus walked the earth. But what of those who say, "not yet". Not yet, the kingdom of God is not fully realized yet. Because the Jews rejected Jesus, the kingdom of God is on-hold. This to me is a head scratcher. I don't really get where this idea comes from. Let's see what Jesus said after His resurrection. Every Christian should know this scripture in Matthew 28, it's the called the Great Commission. Matthew 28:16-20 (NAS) *¹⁶But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated to them. ¹⁷And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. ¹⁸And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Did you hear what Jesus said, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.* Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. All authority. Jesus is the king of kings and lord of lords, right then. Does Jesus say, someday in the future I will be king. No. Does Jesus say, someday in the future I will setup my kingdom, NO. He already has ALL AUTHORITY. He is already king of kings. The top king for all eternity. The kingdom of God is in our midst. The kingdom of God is where God is. Does God dwell in you, in the form of the Holy Spirit? I hope you said yes. If God dwells in you, if the king is in our midst. Then the kingdom of God is here. Right here, right now. I am under the highest of authority as past of the kingdom of God right now.

I know what you are saying, then why is there so much bad in this world if Jesus is king and this is His kingdom. There are still little kings with inferior kingdoms in this world. They don't always do what the

bigger king, king Jesus wants. In fact, it seems like they never do what Jesus would want. And that may be very true. But we can learn a little bit about this from history again. These little kingdoms are often referred to as “vassal states”. Vassal states had varying degrees of independence. But what we see in history, if these vassal states rebelled and their bad behavior got bad enough, eventually the bigger king would come and wipe them out. We see this with the Babylonians. We see this with the Persians, the Greeks, the Romans. And all through history, little kingdoms can behave quite badly for very long times, but eventually the higher, bigger king loses his patience and then judgment comes.

This will be the same with Jesus. Our God is longsuffering and extremely patient. God is waiting and waiting and waiting. He is holding back His righteous anger. Why, for us. Do give as many people as much time as possible to realize He is king. Giving us time to start serving Him, the true ruler of everything. Because someday He will say enough is enough, then there will be no more choices. The King of kings will wipe away those who have rebelled against Him, and the days of little kingdoms will be gone. In those days, only Jesus will be king with no more little kings. One ruler overall.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father. Thank you for you. You only are worthy of praise. You alone are king of kings. Help us to recognize you as the king of our lives. Help us to live like we know it. As your followers, we are active parts of your kingdom. The kingdom of God. I pray that we act like it. Everyday in every moment. Thank you, Jesus, for what you did for me or all of us. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Let me leave you with this. Jesus already has all authority in heaven and earth. Another way you hear this said is dominion. That is, He is king. King above everyone and everything. That is right now, right here. Where you are. King of kings. The kingdom of God is in your midst. Don't miss it. The time is short though, God won't wait forever. But be certain, God is in control of everything. He is sovereign. That means in charge of everything. Do people do things against God's will, yes. Yes, they do. But that does not mean they won't face punishment for those things. The King is just and as such will give justice. Get yourself right with God by following Jesus. Live like you know who is king, right now. You live in the kingdom of God whether you like it or not. The king does not have to ask your opinion.

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.