

22T09y Kingdom of God-What

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. I've been surprised at the confusion surrounding this topic. It appears Christians have a lot of different definitions of what the kingdom of God is. So, what does Jesus mean when He spoke about the kingdom of God in the Bible gospels.

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 pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

So, there are three predominant perceptions about the kingdom of God. Some say the kingdom of God is heaven. Well, that is kind of obvious. But the third heaven is the dwelling place of God the Father. God's kingdom is much bigger than just that. Another thing people say, is the kingdom of God is the millennium kingdom that Jesus will set up on earth after He returns. And it is true that will be the kingdom of God, but oddly enough that phrase is not used in Revelation to describe the millennium kingdom. And this future kingdom does not fit the descriptions of Jesus uses in the gospels. Another thing people say, is the kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is. He's king right, then the kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is. And that is true, but it's not only true because He is in a certain place. Jesus is king everywhere; He is the creator. He is sovereign over His creation; He is king everywhere. So, the kingdom of God is more than just the physical location of Jesus.

Now I'm guessing most of you share one of these perspectives. First let's address the obvious. All three of these perspectives are right. All of these are the kingdom of God. But please realize the kingdom of God is bigger than just heaven, it's more than just the millennium kingdom, it's more than just the physical location of Jesus. Then the obvious question is then what?

Reality is everyone and everything, everywhere are currently and for all time have been in the kingdom of God. Now that is a big statement. But if God is in control, then He's king, then it's His kingdom. Let that sink in for a moment. You pray to God to give you things; heal grandma, help you with a test, and other stuff. You believe He has the power to do those things, right here and right now. Then, you are asking the King to do things for you in His kingdom. A king can't do much in someone else's kingdom. So, if God can do stuff for you here, then you are in the kingdom of God. How about this. When tragedy happens, you hear people blaming God. Why did God let this or that happen. Why? Well, you are admitting you think God has complete control. That is why you blame God for bad things. If you think God is in control, then you believe you are in the kingdom of God. You might not say it like that, but that is what you think. You just don't like the term. I get it but I'm not defining the term. Jesus is in the Bible.

Jesus is king. Right here, right now. But believe it or not that does not really answer our question. What was Jesus talking about when He said kingdom of God?

After talking with several people of many months, it has become apparent that when Christians say kingdom of God, they are not all thinking of the same thing. Like most words and phrase used in our languages, sometimes there are many meanings and definitions. This is just like that. These different perceptions are not wrong, only incomplete. I think we are trying to limit God to our understanding of the kingdom of God, not His. Let me say that again. Christians are trying to mold God to their opinion. In case you did not already know this, God defines these terms for us, we do not get to defined them for ourselves. To understand the teachings of Jesus, we need to understand what Jesus is saying when He uses the phrase Kingdom of God.

I'll give you a hint, think bigger. The God that created the universe by speaking it into existence is a lot bigger than the boundaries we try to place around Him. Just stop it. We need to empty our minds of what we think we know about the kingdom of God and let Jesus tell us what it is. What does Jesus mean by the kingdom of God.

First things first. Have you ever heard of the Omni's. There are many versions of this but let's concentrate on just three of these characteristics of God, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient.

So, what are these. Omnipotent. Simply put, God is all powerful. There is nothing God can't do. He is the ultimate authority, period. Well philosophers out there may challenge me on this a little bit. There are things God can't do, but this is about God cannot violate His other characteristics. The creation story clearly shows God's Omnipotence.

What about Omnipresent? Simply put God is everywhere at all times. God is not part of our time constricted universe. God has always been and will always be.

And what about Omniscient? Simply put God knows everything.

So, in summary, God can do anything, knows everything and is everywhere at all times. I know that is a lot to take in. Let's just say God is Bigger, Stronger, wiser, etc. than anything or anyone. Period.

So, where is the kingdom of this God. Everywhere. It has to be everywhere, He is omnipresent. Anywhere God is He is King and by the very definition it is His kingdom. He is the most powerful, it's His kingdom.

So, when is the kingdom of God. Always. Yes. Alpha to Omega. Beginning to End. Always. The when of the kingdom of God is always. There is no beginning and no end to the kingdom of God.

So, what is the kingdom of God. I'd normally give you a sarcastic definition here. Like, Everything or yes. Whatever you can think of, then yes. There are no limits to the kingdom of God. Everything, Everywhere, at all times from the beginning until forever.

But I know what you are probably saying, I did not really answer the question. What was Jesus talking about when He said kingdom of God. Well in this series we've been trying to answer this question. But for today, let me summarize what Jesus said.

The kingdom of God is the world with good and bad people in it. The parables of Wheat & Tares, Sheep & Goats, the Dragnet and others.

The kingdom of God is growing, is worth everything you have. The parables of the seed, the mustard seed, the pearl, the treasure and others.

The Kingdom of God is here and now. This was true before Jesus started his ministry according to John the Baptist, it was true during Jesus' earthly ministry, and it's still true today and forever.

There are expectations for those who enter the kingdom of God. For service, for stewardship, etc.

One thing was very obvious in all of Jesus' teaching, we have to do things here and now to be part of the kingdom of God. In fact, nearly every teaching of Jesus is about how we should live as a follower, right here and right now. There is very very little about what happens after we die or after Jesus' 2nd advent. Why do you think this is? Jesus was more concerned about how we lived right here and right now.

If you really want to understand What Jesus meant by the kingdom of God, then you need to read the more than 80 times he said it in the gospels. Every place Jesus said, the kingdom is like, or in the kingdom, or is the kingdom. All of these phrases describe what Jesus meant. These point to the here and now.

So, what is the kingdom of God according to Jesus. We are. The kingdom of God is where God's will is done. God is more powerful, is everywhere at all times. If God wants something to happen it simply does. He is king over all of His creation. The kingdom of God.

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 has always had all authority in heaven and earth. Everywhere. God can do whatever He wants everywhere, in any time. He is and has always been God over His creation. His creation is the kingdom of God. Not just His throne room in heaven, not just the physical presence of Jesus. God is everywhere, every when, and every what. Jesus is King. Hallelujah.

So, I want to challenge you to read the words of Jesus in the gospels with this in mind. If you understand that the kingdom of God is everything, then you have a much better chance of understanding what Jesus is teaching us. But I know you are probably saying how can this be. There is still evil in this world, and yes there is. We have free will, the Devil is still causing trouble, but that does not mean God is not in control. God is only allowing other smaller kingdoms. Including my little personal kingdom, others little kingdoms, nations, even the kingdom of the evil one. If you think God is not in control, not sovereign over everything, then you don't know the God of the Bible. The kingdom of God is everything, everywhere, all the time. God's kingdom is over all other kingdoms. It has to be, or God would not be God.

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.