

## The Kingdom of God is Christianity Pastor Ted Groves

**Intro.** ... **First**, ... here are some general references to the KOG in Scripture ...

Psa. 103:19 – “The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.”

Psa. 45:6 – “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever ...”

Psa. 47:8 – “God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.”

Isaiah 40:22, – “He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,  
and its people are like grasshoppers. ... Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;  
they are regarded as dust on the scales”

Isa. 6:1 – In Isa. 6, the prophet Isaiah was given a vision of God. He said: “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.”

Isa, 66:1 – Speaking through the psalmist, God says: “Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool.”

Heb. 12:2 – After His death on the cross, His burial and resurrection, Jesus, at His ascension into heaven, “... sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”

### Perspectives on the Kingdom of God...

**The Biblical, Christian, world view consists of three realms ...**

**Heaven above ...**

**The earth ...**

**Hell [Hades]...**

... The Bible teaches that the Kingdom of God [His authority and rule which is the ultimate authority and rule in all three realms] is eternal : ...

(1) it existed **from all eternity past**:

[Psalm 90:2 – “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, **from everlasting to everlasting** you are God.”]

(2) **it exists now**, during the history of this world, with its headquarters in heaven [Psa. 103:19]; and,

(2) **it will exist forever** in the future eternity, after the present earth is destroyed and when there are New Heavens and a New earth [Dan. 7:27 – “His **kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom**”]

**Presently**, all genuine, born again, believers are those “Christians” whom God has “... rescued ... from the domain of darkness, and transferred ... to the kingdom of His beloved Son” [Col. 1:13].

Therefore, ... They are presently living in this world having already received their citizenship in the Kingdom of God and are awaiting the final form of the kingdom to be brought into existence. [cf. **Phil 3:20** – “*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*”]

- [Remember, **Jesus taught his disciples to pray**: “... **Thy kingdom come**, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” – Matt. 6:9-10 – obviously referring to the future, final, form of the KOG].

We begin our study of the kingdom of God with a key passage from the Gospel of Mark ...

**Mark 1:1** – “*The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God”...*

The dictionary definition of the word “**Messiah**” – ...

“... the promised **deliverer** of the Jewish nation prophesied in the Hebrew Bible.

• **Jesus regarded by Christians as the Messiah of the Hebrew prophecies and the savior of humankind.**

The idea of a ‘**deliverer**,’ who comes to be “**the Savior of humankind” goes all the way back to Gen. 3:15 ... >>>**

**NOTE: This is the NASB version ...** God is speaking to the serpent [the devil] who tempted Adam and Eve, which led to the fall of the human race in Adam and the entrance of sin and corruption into the world. ...

*“And I will make enemies  
Of you and the woman,  
And of your offspring and her Descendant;  
He shall bruise you on the head,  
And you shall bruise Him on the heel.”*

**This is a concise summary of the Gospel of Jesus Christ:** the spiritual warfare between the two kingdoms [The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of darkness – Satan’s kingdom – “... *the god of this world*” II Cor. 4:4]; ... and it is a prophesy of the Messiah’s ultimate defeat of the devil and the power of sin and death.

Next, let me call your attention to ...

**Mk. 1:14-15** – A summary of Christianity ...

***“After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’”***

**NOTE the Key words and phrases in Mk. 1:14-15:**

1. “**proclaiming**,” “**preaching**,” ... “**heralding**,” ... “**announcing**.” = **Authoritative!**  
kérussó: to be a herald, proclaim  
Original Word: κηρύσσω

It is very important to note that the word ‘proclaiming’ or ‘preaching’ in verse 14 is an important and descriptive word. Lloyd-Jones says: “It was a very common word in the Roman Empire at the time when these things were first written and when they happened. It was a word that was particularly used in connection with the cult of emperor worship that had arisen. ... The word ‘preaching’ came in this way.> ... When a son and heir was born to the emperor. A proclamation was made, and the word that was used for that very process was the same word used in this passage [κηρύσσω], translated ‘preaching’ ... [or ‘proclaiming’... in some translations]. ... It was an ‘announcement’; ... it happened when the heir was born, ... when he came of age, ... and at his accession to the throne or to the imperial power. ...

So what we are told here is that when John was put into prison, Jesus came into Galilee **announcing, proclaiming, heralding**. ... It was the particular work of *the herald* to do this very thing. The word ‘preaching’ [or ‘proclaiming’] therefore **conveys this notion or idea ...” of authority**. : So, [says Lloyd-Jones] >... “... **we start with a note of certainty” [authority] issued from the imperial palace**”! ... “The very word carries with it the whole notion of **authority**, an absolute unequivocal statement.”

“It is the term used About what the apostles did afterwards, and it is the word that has been used about preaching and the Christian Church ever since” ... **Lloyd-Jones says of himself** [and it is true of all true and faithful preachers of the Gospel]: “**I am a herald**. ... **I have been given a message from the imperial palace** and here it is. And I am here to tell you with authority, with the authority of God ...”

2. “The time is fulfilled” ... an appointed time in accordance with God’s plan and purpose!

#### Important implications:

- 1) God has a plan/purpose – Eph. 1:9 & 3:11 ... [Therefore, there is meaning and purpose to life]
- 2) It is God’s plan/purpose and therefore it is certain to be fulfilled/ carried out [Isa. 46:9-11]
- 3) God made this plan before the world ... [I Cor. 2:7; John 1:1-3]
- 4) God made this plan known [Heb. 1:1-2; Gen. 3:15 – p. 15 ff]
- 5) This plan is carried out by God acting in history [Acts 2:11; Gal. 4:4; p. 19; Jesus is the turning point in history; he is at the center of God’s purpose in history: Gen. 3:15; Col. 1:15-17 & 2:15; Eph. 1:9-11; Lk. 4:18-21; p. 22. ... God’s plan to send a Deliverer is now fulfilled!]

3. “... ***Repent and believe the good news!***”

**Jesus is the “deliverer” who came down from heaven to rescue us, and he did it by dying on the cross. And we can only ‘enter his kingdom’ by faith [... “believing” the truth about him and his kingdom: who he is and what he has done; ... by embracing that truth, ... and ordering (submitting) our lives in accordance with it.]**

- 1) As we are, we cannot enter or live in God’s kingdom. No one can enter God’s kingdom unless he/she is a worthy citizen.
  - a. The entire human race, in Adam, are sinful rebels and unworthy to enter God’s kingdom:
    - i. Rom. 3:23 – “... *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*”
    - ii. Rom. 3:10 – “... *there is none righteous, no not one.*”
    - iii. Isa. 64:6 – “*All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.*”

2. **How, then, can we enter? ... He, Jesus, is the answer!** [Mark 1:1 – “The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God” – Note: the idea of a “Messiah” can be traced back to the coming “deliverer” referred to in Gen. 3:15]

- iv. Rom. 6:23 – “The wages of sin is death....”
- v. Heb. 9:22 – “**without shedding of blood** is no remission of sin ...”
- vi. I Peter 2:24 – “he bore our sins in his body on the cross.”
- vii. Isa. 53:6 – “All we, like sheep, have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
- viii. II Cor. 5:19,21 “... he made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of god in him.”
- ix. Rom. 4:3 & 9, Gal. 3:6 – Just as righteousness was counted [imputed] to Abraham because of his faith, Christians are counted righteous in the eyes of God by faith in Jesus [the Deliverer and Sin Bearer].

Phil. 3:8, 9 – “... I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is **through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.**”

- 1) Eph. 2:8-9 – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast”.
- 2) Titus 3:5 - he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit ...” [i.e., through the new birth, or being “born again”]

\*\*\*John 3:3 - Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

**Note that the ‘result’ of embracing the truth about Jesus [who he is and what he has done] is the miracle of the new birth [regeneration] and being translated into the kingdom of God:**

**Col. 2:12** - 1599 Geneva Bible –... ye are buried with him through baptism, in whom ye are also raised up together through the faith of the operation of God, which raised him from the dead. [“the working of God”] – cf. 1:18-20

**Col. 1:13** – “... he has rescued us from the dominion [kingdom] of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.”

[Phil. 3:20 – “... our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”]

**Jer. 31:31-32** – <sup>31</sup> “The days are coming,” declares the LORD,

“when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel

and with the people of Judah.

<sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant

I made with their ancestors

when I took them by the hand

to lead them out of Egypt,

because they broke my covenant,

though I was a husband to <sup>[a]</sup> them, <sup>[b]</sup>”

declares the LORD.

<sup>33</sup> “*This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,*” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.

*I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.*

**Ezek. 36:26-27** – “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” <sup>27</sup> **And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”**

**Ezek. 11:19** – *“I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh ...”*

## **The Necessary Response [Conversion]**

... Matt. 6:33 – *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

**Summary by DML-J – “Listen to Christ; here He is, the Son of God and he says, ‘I am come to tell you that I am introducing and inaugurating it ... [the KOG] ... Get into my kingdom, flee from the wrath to come; repent, believe the Gospel.’ Why? Because you cannot evade the righteousness of God and the coming kingdom and reign of God over the world.” p.42**

## **The accurate view of life in this world, according to Jesus Christ:**

- 1) The kingdom of God, in its final form, will come ... God has sent His Son into the world to inaugurate, establish and found it; ... nothing can prevent this.
- 2) He is presently gathering men and women into it from every nation in the world.
- 3) A day is coming in which Jesus, the Son of God, will return again to judge the world and establish the final form of His kingdom in the earth [Acts 17:31].
- 4) He will destroy all His enemies, who have not submitted to him and they will go *“into everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord”* [ II Thess. 1:9]
- 5) When the kingdom has fully and finally come, all evil will be completely and utterly banished. All who belong to it will enter into eternal perdition with all their evil deeds. No one will be left except for the righteous, and *“Then,”* ... Christ says: *“... shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their father”* [Matt. 13:42].

**The solemn note of warning in this proclamation:** ... The vast majority of people in this world have not adopted this worldview. They have other priorities in their lives and have either rejected the truth about God and His kingdom or chosen to live in an on-going state of indifference and noncommitment....