

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: “The Kingdom of God”



Teaching Sermon: “The Need for the Kingdom of God”

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Jesus preached the gospel of God. He says, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.” Mark 1:14, 15. Jesus went about all Galilee teaching in the synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. Matthew 4:23. To understand the need for the coming of the Kingdom, we will ask the Holy Spirit to help us see, perceive, and understand Jesus’ view of the world and humanity.

The OT prophets looked forward to a Day of the Lord. That Day would be a divine visitation to purge the world of evil and sin and to establish God’s perfect reign in the earth. Some prophets, like Amos, described the Kingdom in what we might call a this-world view. Others, like Isaiah, saw the new order as new heavens and a new earth. (Amos 9:13-15; Isa: 65.17) To describe this, somewhere along the way, a new idiom emerged—this age and the Age to Come. Matthew 12:32. The NT expresses the idea of eternity by the idiom *eis ton aiona*, into the ages, or *eis tous aionas ton aionon*, unto the ages of the ages. Unending time.

²⁹ So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother ^[e]or wife or children or ^[d]lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, ³⁰ who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹ But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first.” Mark 10:29, 30 NKJV

Attaining to “that age,” i.e., the Age to Come, is a blessing reserved for God’s people. It will be inaugurated by the resurrection from the dead. Luke 20:35. It is the age when death will be no more. Those who attain to that age will be like the angels in that they will become immortal. Resurrection life is eternal life—the life of the Age to Come—the life of the KOG. Luke 20:34-36.

³⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵ But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; ³⁶ nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. Luke 20:34-36.

In this age wheat and weeds, sons of the Kingdom and sons of the evil one, live side by side in a mixed society. At the harvest, or judgment, the wicked will be separated out from the righteous. Evildoers will be excluded from the KOG and suffer divine judgment. The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire.

There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear! Matthew 13:41-43

This age is not in itself sinful; but if the cares of the world come and choke out the word of the kingdom so that people neglect the message about the KOG, then there is sin. (Mk 4:19; Mt 13:22) The wisdom of this age cannot attain to God (1 Cor. 2:6). So Romans 12:1, 2 exhorts us not to be conformed to this age/to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

The OT prophetic hope of the coming of the Kingdom involved a catastrophic inbreaking of God and both a continuity and discontinuity with the old order. This age extends from creation to the Day of the Lord, or the appearing of Christ, resurrection, and judgment. It is the age of human existence in weakness and mortality, of evil, sin, and death. The Age to come will see the reality of the reign of God. It will be the age of resurrection into eternal life in the KOG. Life on the earth, whether new in kind or new in quality or both, will be life transformed by the kingly rule of God, a time when the people of God enter into the full measure of divine blessing. Mt 19:28.

The KOG is necessary because people need to be rescued. The evils of the present age need to be purged, and will be purged by the act of God from human and earthly existence.

The KOG is opposed by the kingdom of darkness, or evil. Satan opposes the redemptive purpose of God. Satan is the “god of this age” (2 Cor. 4.4). Jesus invades the strong man’s house, this age, to spoil him. Mt. 12:29. It is not an absolute dualism, however. The demonic realm is composed of creatures created by God and thus subject to God’s power. God is the Father of spirits. Fallen angels are helpless before the power of God and Elect angels. They meet their doom in the Day of Judgment.

Satan’s activities are mainly ethical, that is, dealing with moral principles and conduct. He tries to maneuver people into a position where they curse God and die or maneuver them into a position where they are cursed by God and die. He urges against God’s holiness, God’s nature and ways. He urges toward rebellion and rebellious acts against what God calls good, holy, clean, and pure, etc. Satan’s kingdom is a kingdom of darkness. God is for life, e.g., so Satan is a murderer. God is not a man that He should lie, but Satan is a liar. Satan steals, robs; he is a thief.

For He has rescued/delivered us from the domain/power/dominion/kingdom of darkness, and transferred/translated/conveyed us to/into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13, 14.

As to the KOG, society is divided into two antithetical groups: those who hear and receive the word of the kingdom and those who do not know or reject the message of the kingdom of God. Satan tries to divert Jesus from His redemptive mission and urges people to mock, disbelieve, or in any way reject the message of the KOG.

The Message to the Hebrews warns believers that they not drift, doubt, disbelieve, disobey, and thus die, be it a little death because the wages of sin is death, and everything that is not of faith is sin; or find themselves displeasing their heavenly Father and thus needing strong correction, chastening (to make chaste/pure). Our God is a consuming fire who desires to bless His own and thus moves against anything contrary to His Person and ways. The Living God is holy and thus His own are called to be holy. The Living God is sovereign and He will make it happen.

The KOG is necessary to conquer the kingdom of Satan, the god of this age, and the evils of this age. Demons have the ability to take possession of the center of people’s hearts, to “fill the

heart.” In Judaism, the destruction of satanic powers was expected at the end of the age when the KOG should come. The demon recognizes a supernatural power in Jesus that is capable of crushing satanic power here and now. So the KOG is at hand. Jesus’ message of the coming of the KOG involved a fundamental struggle with and conquest of the spiritual realm of evil. As Jesus looked at people, He saw them not always as rational moral units or self-contained autonomous spirits; He saw their souls as a battle-ground, an arena or theatre of tragic conflict between opposing cosmic powers, namely, the Holy Spirit of God and Satan.

Jesus’ view of the world, however, is not that the created world is evil or that the material world is evil. The world is God’s creation, and though plagued with evil, it is in itself good. God created and also sustains the world. God cares about even insignificant details. God is good to the just and unjust. He is Lord of heaven and earth. Satan may be called the “ruler of this age,” but it is God’s world. And God has no serious competitors.

The true God is thus HOLY and SOVEREIGN.

Nevertheless, a man could gain the whole world (kosmos), the whole complex of human earthly experience, achieve everything, and still lose his own true life. That true life can only be found in relationship with God. The riches of the world crowd out the things of God and then become an instrument of sin and death (Luke 12:16-21, 30). Mark 10:27.

The KOG is necessary because God wants a family. Fatherhood is the gift of the KOG. Not all people have God as Father in the family kind of sense. God may be the origin of their life, their Creator, and so their “father” in that sense; but in the sense of Father/ child relationship, no. As God’s creature, man is completely dependent on God. If he did all he could possibly do, he has done no more than what is expected of a servant doing his duty. Destinies are in God’s providential control. Souls are in God’s control. Man owes God complete obedience, worship, and service, on the basis of the Creator/creature relationship alone. With Adam’s sin, all of Adam’s posterity are born sinners. Thus all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. All are born in iniquity. (e.g., Psalm 51) Only Jesus Christ is sinless, born without sin, born without iniquity. There is no unrighteousness in Him. Thus He is the Just One.

The KOG is necessary because all people must repent or they will perish. Luke 13:1-5. In Jesus’ view, all people are sinners. Even the people of the covenant, Israel, are lost. Jesus came to seek and to save them. If someone saw themselves as righteous rather than sinful, they are mistaken. Jesus calls all to salvation, though only those who are aware of their sinfulness might hear and heed.

We will not find satisfaction in this life with barns full of grain and physical comforts. We will only find true satisfaction in having a relationship with God, in a life of fellowship with the Living God. Human beings were created to live in that fellowship. We were created for filial relationship. When the sinner repents there is joy in heaven.

I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance. Luke 15:7 NAS

Jesus said, “**The time is fulfilled, and the KOG is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.**” (Mark 1:14, 15) To see this kingdom, you will need to be born again. To enter this kingdom, you will need to be born again. John 3. To repent, you will need God to change your heart first. To believe you must belong. You must be one who is a born-out-of-God one. This takes the Holy Spirit. If He plants in you the seed of life, He is planting in your heart the Life of Jesus.

That Life will sprout and grow and live into the ages of the ages, eternal life. It is only in Christ. Do you want it?

Bibliography:

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Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: Matthew 25:34 KJV

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