Session 6: The Gospel of the Kingdom

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (NIV Matthew 24:14)

I. Introduction: Greek Immaterial Kingdom

The identification of the Kingdom with the Church has led historically to ecclesiastical policies and programs which, even when not positively evil, have been far removed from the original simplicity of the New Testament ekklesiā. It is easy to claim that in the “present kingdom of grace” the rule of the saints is wholly “spiritual,” exerted only through moral principles and influence. But practically, once the Church becomes the Kingdom in any realistic theological sense, it is impossible to draw any clear line between principles and their implementation through political and social devises. For the logical implications of a present ecclesiastical kingdom are unmistakable, and historically have always led in only one direction, i.e., political control of the state by the Church. The distances down this road traveled by various religious movements, and the forms of control which were developed, have been widely different. The difference is very great between the Roman Catholic system and modern Protestant efforts to control the state; also between the ecclesiastical rule of Calvin in Geneva and the fanaticism of Münster and the English “fifth-monarchy.” But the basic assumption is always the same: The Church in some sense is the Kingdom, and therefore has a divine right to rule; or it is the business of the Church to “establish” fully the Kingdom of God among men. Thus the Church loses its “pilgrim” character and the sharp edge of its divinely commissioned “witness” is blunted.¹

II. Old Testament Survey of the Kingdom Hope

A. The Glory of the Whole Earth

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness... He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth... May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed. Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. (NIV Psalm 72:1-19)

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious... He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth. (NIV Isaiah 11:9-12)

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the...
war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. (NIV Zechariah 9:9-10)

- Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (NKJV Revelation 11:15)

- Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. 8 For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers, 9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, "Therefore I will give praise to you among the Gentiles, and I will sing to your name." (cf. Ps. 18:49) 10 Again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." (cf. Deut. 32:43) 11 And again, "Praise the Lord all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him." (cf. Ps. 117:1) 12 Again Isaiah says, "There shall come the Root of Jesse, and he who arises to rule over the Gentiles, in Him shall the Gentiles hope." (cf. Is. 11:10) 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (NASB Romans 15:7-13)

B. The Glory of Israel

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. 2 The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. 3 He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. 4 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music... 8 Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; 9 let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity. (NIV Psalm 98:1-9)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. (NIV Isaiah 9:6-7)

The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. (NIV Jeremiah 23:5)
• He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God 
will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the 
house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. (NIV Luke 
1:32-33)

• He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom 
of God… So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this 
time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (NIV Acts 1:3-6)

• They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! 
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of 
Israel!" 14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written… (NIV 
John 12:13-14)

• I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his 
glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, 
judging the twelve tribes of Israel… and will inherit eternal life. (NIV Matthew 
19:28-29)

C. The Glory of Jerusalem

Since the day I brought my people out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city in any 
tribe of Israel to have a temple built for my Name to be there… 6 But now I have 
chosen Jerusalem for my Name to be there, and I have chosen David to rule my 
people Israel." (NIV 2 Chronicles 6:5-6)

My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass. 12 But you, O 
LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations. 13 
You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; 
the appointed time has come. 14 For her stones are dear to your servants; her 
very dust moves them to pity. 15 The nations will fear the name of the LORD, all 
the kings of the earth will revere your glory. 16 For the LORD will rebuild Zion and 
appear in his glory… 21 So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his 
praise in Jerusalem 22 when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship 
the LORD. (NIV Psalm 102:11-22)

In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings 
on the earth below. 22 They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a 
dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days. 23 The 
moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed; for the LORD Almighty will reign on 
Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders, gloriously. (NIV Isaiah 
24:21-23)

Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, 
you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate
woman than of her who has a husband, says the LORD... 5 For your Maker is your husband— the LORD Almighty is his name— the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth... 11 O afflicted city, lashed by storms and not comforted, I will build you with stones of turquoise, your foundations with sapphires. 12 I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of sparkling jewels, and all your walls of precious stones. (NIV Isaiah 54:1-12)

From the west, men will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along. 20 The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins... 60:1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you... 3 Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn... 11 Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that men may bring you the wealth of the nations-- their kings led in triumphal procession... 19 The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory... 21 Then will all your people be righteous and they will possess the land forever... 22 The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly. (NIV Isaiah 59:16-60:22)

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. (NIV Isaiah 65:17-19)

Return, faithless people, declares the LORD, for I am your husband. I will choose you-- one from a town and two from a clan-- and bring you to Zion... 16 In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land, declares the LORD, men will no longer say, "The ark of the covenant of the LORD." It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made. 17 At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD. (NIV Jeremiah 3:14-17)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea (cf.). 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband... 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel... 22 I did not see a temple (Gk. naos, “inner sanctuary”) in the city, because the
Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life. (NIV Revelation 21:10-27)

D. The Glory of the Temple

When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. 11 And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple. 12 Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; 13 I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever." (NIV 1 Kings 8:10-13)

In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. 3 Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. (NIV Isaiah 2:2-4)

And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory... 4 As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, 5 the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple. 6 While the man was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple, 7 and he said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever. (ESV Ezekiel 43:2-7)

Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. 13 It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two. (NIV Zechariah 6:12-13)

• Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father’s house (cf. Lk. 2:49; Jn. 2:16) are many rooms (cf. Ez. 41-42); if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you (cf. Lk. 22:29; Acts 26:18). 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come
back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (NIV John 14:1-3)

• While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. (NIV Luke 24:51-53)

• Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. (NIV Acts 2:46-47)

E. The Glory of the Messiah

Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. 2 It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth. Like the utmost heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King. 3 God is in her citadels; he has shown himself to be her fortress. 4 When the kings joined forces, when they advanced together, saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror. (NIV Psalm 48:1-5)

The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne..." 13 For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place: 14 "This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell (Hb. yashab, “sit enthroned” NIV), for I have desired it... 17 There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed. 18 His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine." (ESV Psalm 132:1-18)

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (NIV Daniel 7:13)

• But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord..." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (NIV Luke 2:10-14)

• Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (NIV Matthew 19:28)
• When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (NIV Matthew 25:31-32)

III. New Testament Survey of the Kingdom Hope

A. Reward of the Righteous

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (NIV Matthew 7:21)

I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. (ESV Matthew 8:11-12)

The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil... Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (NIV Matthew 13:41-43)

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV Matthew 18:1-3)

I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven... I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel... and will inherit eternal life. (NIV Matthew 19:23-29)

Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him... "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." (NIV Matthew 20:20-21)

Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you... Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it." (NASB Matthew 21:31, 43)

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (ESV Matthew 25:34)
And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell... (NIV Mark 9:47)

But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted... (NIV Luke 12:31-33)

But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." 15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God." (NIV Luke 14:13-15)

Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 17 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." 18 And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (cf. Mt. 19:14-16; Mk. 10:14-17) (ESV Luke 18:16-18)

You are those who have stood by me in my trials. 29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (NIV Luke 22:28-30)

Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. (NIV Acts 14:21-22)

And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again... 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (ESV Acts 20:25-32)

Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? ... 9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? (ESV 1 Corinthians 6:2-10)

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality...21 I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV Galatians 5:19-21)
For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. (NIV Ephesians 5:5-6)

Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? (ESV James 2:5)

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (NIV 2 Peter 1:10-11)

B. Anchor of Faith

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (NIV Matthew 24:14)

I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” (ESV Matthew 26:29)

And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!” (ESV Mark 11:9-10)

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. (NIV Mark 15:43)

While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. 12 He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. (NIV Luke 19:11-12)

At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near… 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. (NIV Luke 21:27-31)

He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God… 6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” (NIV Acts 1:3-6)
From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. (NIV Acts 28:23)

Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death… 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. 50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (ESV 1 Corinthians 15:24-50)

For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory… 19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? (ESV 1 Thessalonians 2:11-19)

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the Word… 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing… 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (NIV 2 Timothy 4:1-18)

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect… 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire." (NIV Hebrews 12:22-29)

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth. (NIV Revelation 5:9-10)

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. (NIV Revelation 12:10)
IV. Common Views of the Kingdom

A. Amillennialism

Amillennialism
("Pessimillennialism")

Dispensational
Premillennialism

Historic
Premillennialism

"Unfaithful"

"Restored
Creation
Destiny"

"Immaterial
Heavenly
Destiny"

Postmillennialism
("Optimillennialism")

Covenantal
Premillennialism

A. Amillennialism

Amillennialism
("Pessimillennialism")

Creation
Adam
Abraham
Moses
David
Church

Escapism

Day of the Lord

Death

Heaven

Church

(Immaterial
Kingdom of God)
B. Postmillennialism

C. Dispensational Premillennialism
V. Controversial Kingdom Passages

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**D. Covenantal Premillennialism**

John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Gk. eggizo, “near” NRSV/NIV/NLT)." (cf. Lk. 3:1-18) (ESV Matthew 3:1-2)

- Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. (NIV Luke 10:9-12)

- Wail, for the day of the LORD is near (“at hand” KJV/NKJV); as destruction from the Almighty it will come! ... 9 Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. (ESV Isaiah 13:6-9)

- Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand (“near” NASB/ESV/NIV/NRSV, cf. 2:1; 3:14); it shall come as destruction from the Almighty. (NKJV Joel 1:14-15)

- The great day of the LORD is near-- near and coming quickly... 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness... 18 In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth. (NIV Zephaniah 1:14-18)
• **Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.** 12 The night is almost gone, and the day is near ("at hand" KJV/NKJV/ESV). (NASB Romans 13:11-12)

• **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.** 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand ("near" NASB/NIV/NRSV, “coming soon” NLT). (ESV Philippians 4:4-5)

• **Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming.** See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near ("at hand" ESV/NKJV). (NIV James 5:7-8)

• **But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead…** 7 The end of all things is near ("at hand" KJV/NKJV/ESV). Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. (NIV 1 Peter 4:5-8)

• **First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires…** 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (NIV 2 Peter 3:3-10)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** (NIV Matthew 6:9-10)

• **But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.** Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you... 9 This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." 14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (NIV Matthew 6:6-15)

**Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he (cf. Is. 60:22).** 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence (Gk. biazo vPPI 3S), and the violent (Gk. biastes nNMP) take it by force (Gk. harpazo vPAI 3P). (ESV Matthew 11:11-12)

• **When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples…** 7 As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John… 16 "To what can I compare this generation? … 18 For John came neither eating nor
drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners."' But wisdom is proved right by her actions." 20 Then Jesus began to denounced the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent... 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. (NIV Matthew 11:19-22)

- And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it. (NLT Matthew 11:12)
- From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has endured violence, and violent men are attacking it. (Author Matthew 11:12)

But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Gk. phthano epi) you. (NIV Matthew 12:28)

- They (Jews) displease God and are hostile to all men in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last. (NIV 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16)

- Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons." Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them... "if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you... Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come... You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks... But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." (NIV Matthew 12:22-37)

- Since, then, you have been raised with Christ (cf. Rom. 4:17), set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (NIV Colossians 3:1-4)

- But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the...
incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (NIV Ephesians 2:4-7)

And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" 11 Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted... 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because... 15 for the heart of this people has become dull, with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they would see with their eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them. (cf. Is. 6:9-10) (NASB Matthew 13:10-15)

• To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things... (NASB Ephesians 3:8-9)

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (NIV Matthew 16:19)

• Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." 50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." 51 He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (NIV John 1:49-51)

• To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? 14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (NIV Hebrews 1:13-14)

• Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! (NIV 1 Corinthians 6:2-3)

• He asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah..." 21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things... 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me... 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done." (NIV Matthew 16:15-27)

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to. 14 15 Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell (Gk. gehenna) as you are... 33 You snakes! You brood of
vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell (Gk. gehenna)? (NIV Matthew 23:13-33)

Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you (Gk. eimi entos humon, “is within you” KJV/NKJV/NIV, “is among you” NRSV/NLT, “is in your midst” NASB, “is in the midst of you” ESV).” (NIV Luke 17:20-21)

• Then he said to his disciples, "The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. Men will tell you, 'There he is!' or 'Here he is!' Do not go running off after them. For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man... Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.” (NIV Luke 17:22-37)

• As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many... See, I have told you ahead of time. So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.” (NIV Matthew 24:3-28)

• But we know where this man is from (Gk. eimi, “comes from” ESV/NLT); when the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from (Gk. eimi, “comes from” ESV/NLT).” Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from (Gk. eimi, “come from” ESV/NLT). I am not here on my own, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, but I know him because I am from (Gk. eimi, “come from” ESV/NLT) him and he sent me.” (NIV John 7:27-29)

• As a lion growls, a great lion over his prey... so the LORD Almighty will come down to do battle on Mount Zion and on its heights. Like birds hovering overhead, the LORD Almighty will shield Jerusalem; he will shield it and deliver it, he will ‘pass over’ it and will rescue it... Assyria will fall by a sword that is not of man; a sword, not of mortals, will devour them... Their stronghold will fall because of terror; at sight of the battle standard their commanders will panic," declares the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, whose furnace is in Jerusalem. See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. (NIV Isaiah 31:4-32:1)

• See, the LORD is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For with fire and

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his sword the LORD will execute judgment upon all men, and many will be those slain by the LORD. (NIV Isaiah 66:15-16)

- The kingdom of God does not come with your observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God comes into your midst." (Author Luke 17:20-21)

And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (ESV Luke 23:42-43)

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." (ESV John 18:36)

So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (ESV Rom. 14:16-17)

- For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (ESV Romans 13:11-14)

- For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person-- such a man is an idolater-- has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God… Therefore do not be partners with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. (NIV Ephesians 5:5-11)

- Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters… Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls… You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. It is written: "‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’" So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God… Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men… So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin. (NIV Romans 14:1-23)
Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. 19 But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. 20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power (Gk. dunamis). (NIV 1 Corinthians 4:18-20)

- But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive... 4 swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power (Gk. dunamis). Avoid such people. (ESV 2 Timothy 3:1-5)

- These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men. (NIV Isaiah 29:13)

- Listen to this, O house of Jacob, you who are called by the name of Israel and come from the line of Judah, you who take oaths in the name of the LORD and invoke the God of Israel-- but not in truth or righteousness... (NIV Isaiah 48:1)

- For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God... (NIV Isaiah 58:2)