
RELATED SCRIPTURES

Matthew 3:2 | Matthew 28:18–19 | Revelation 21:1–5

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 4.14.24

SUMMARY

How are we to understand the kingdom of God? In some respects, we readily acknowledge that the Lord is sovereign, yet we can have our doubts when we see the pervasive nature of sin. So perhaps we're left to understand that one day, God's kingdom will arrive, but it's not here yet. At the onset of Christ's ministry, it was John the Baptist who preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). In no uncertain terms, John was saying, "The kingdom of heaven is about to arrive in the person of Jesus." Moreover, before Jesus ascended to heaven, he said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples . . ." (Matthew 28:18–19). The apostle Paul affirms this idea when he says, "all things were created through him and for him" (Colossians 1:16). Without doubt, Christ is King; he inaugurated God's kingdom when he came, but he did not consummate it. When he ascended into heaven and sat enthroned at God's right hand, he did so as the King of kings. His kingship is not something delayed for the future. Christ's kingdom is here *already* in *his* people. However, we await a time that is *not yet* when every knee will bow, and Christ's rule will be recognized by all creation and his enemies placed under his feet (1 Corinthians 15:27–28). Jesus instructs us to long and pray for this time when he says, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." When he returns, he will "reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven" (Colossians 1:20). God's word assures us that Christ is King now, yet we wait with hopeful anticipation when he comes back, leaving no distinction between heaven and earth (Revelation 21:1–5).

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Matthew 6:10 and Colossians 1:15–20.

In what ways do you find yourself believing, knowing, and understanding that the Kingdom of God is here on earth right now? In what ways do you find yourself waiting for his kingdom to be here on earth as it is in heaven?

How does the promise of his return and the completion of all things affect the way you live your life today? How does this knowledge practically impact your life?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.