

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS ALREADY HERE BUT NOT YET FULLY

George Ngan
2023.02.26

1. The Kingdom of God

a. **The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed.**

The Pharisees have been following the Lord Jesus not because they believed He was the Messiah but because they wanted to prove that He was not. We've seen how they scoffed at Him, tried to trap Him, or set Him up to make a mistake in what He says or does. They were waiting for an opportunity to accuse Him of violating their laws, so that they can send Him away for good.

The kingdom of God has always been at the heart of Christ's preaching as it was for this very purpose that He was sent by the Father (Luke 4:43). And because this was so, the pharisees came asking Him about the kingdom of God out of spite and mockery. Jesus, knowing what was in their hearts, responded with a rebuke in verse 20 as they were demanding for some supernatural cosmic signs and wonders happening in the heavens for confirmation, coming from their unbelief. They were expecting a grand, majestic, pompous entrance of a king and his army. But what they saw in front of them was a lowly carpenter who claims to be the Messiah, and for them that was ridiculous. But they've already seen what the Lord Jesus could do, the latest was the healing of the ten lepers, and yet they still would not believe (Mark 8:11-12).

In verse 21, Jesus further explained that no one can pinpoint when the kingdom of God is coming or where it is going to be. God created both the physical and the spiritual realms, and He rules over both (Psalm 103:19). This is where the disconnect happens. They were only looking at one part of the kingdom, which is the external physical kingdom. What they don't see is the kingdom that can't be seen by our physical eyes, but only by those eyes that were touched and unveiled by God (John 3:3). Until this day, many of the Jews are still waiting for the coming of their messiah.

b. **The kingdom of God is in your midst.**

The kingdom of God has already commenced upon the first advent of the Lord Jesus, and this will come into completion when He returns to rule and reign in His earthly kingdom, which is why this sermon is entitled "The kingdom of God is already here but not yet fully" (Romans 14:17). For His elect, we know this. Whenever we come together to worship Him in Spirit and in truth, like what we are doing today, His kingdom exists and is amongst us. And all of us knows with certainty, that one day, when the Son of Man returns, we will see the fruition of His grand, majestic, glorious, and eternal kingdom here on earth. This is exactly what the parable of the mustard seed is all about (Luke 13:18-19). The kingdom of God started with the Lord Jesus Christ and 12 of His disciples and look at how the kingdom of God grew to where it is today. The Gospel is being proclaimed and spread all over the earth.

2. The Son of Man

a. **No one knows when the Son of Man will return.**

The Lord Jesus switches His attention back to His disciples, warning them of the temptation of being caught up in determining when and where is "the day" going to be. In Matthew 24:36 it says that no one knows when He will return except God the Father. Therefore, we should not get preoccupied in determining as to when and where it will happen to the point that we forget the Great Commission. The truth about His return and the establishment of His earthly kingdom should instead encourage us to preach and reach the gospel to the lost. Knowing about the last



days should motivate us to continually seek Him and abide by His words. Knowing that our Savior is going to return, we must preach about REPENTANCE, we must preach that the kingdom of God is at hand.

b. False Christ will appear to mislead people.

The Lord Jesus knew that upon His departure from this earth, false christs would appear and deceive people. Jesus told His disciples to warn people not to be deceived by these false claims. There have been a lot of people claiming to be the Messiah even as early as the first century (Acts 5:36-37). And the sad reality is that thousands and thousands of people are still being deceived every day. Scripture never lacked in its warning against these false claimers, and it is also generous enough to reveal to us what we need to know about our future.

c. He will come like lightning.

The Lord Jesus, when He appears again, will come like lightning. You don't know when and where it will strike. And when it appears, it can be seen from one end to the other end of the earth; it will be apparent, obvious, and seen by everyone. When lightning strikes, it always come with a loud thunder, like the great sound of a trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Matthew 24:30-31). It will be like in the days of Noah, where people are so busy going about with their businesses, marrying and were being given in marriage. His coming will happen at a time when nobody expects it to happen.

d. He must first suffer and be rejected by this generation.

But first He must suffer. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, not to be crowned as king but to pay the ultimate price, so that we may be redeemed from eternal damnation. This is ultimately the culmination and fulfillment of God's redemptive plan for His people. This was what Jesus told His disciples at the very onset of His journey towards Jerusalem (Luke 9:22)

The Lord Jesus knew what was waiting for Him in Jerusalem. He knew that the only way to redeem us is to make Himself the propitiation for our sins as He is the only acceptable offering that can appease our heavenly Father. That's why He came down from heaven, but instead of being accepted by His own people, He was despised and rejected. And yet He obeyed His Father's will, to the point of death, even death on a cross. The prophet Isaiah prophesied that this is what will happen to the Messiah in Isaiah 53:3-5.

But we all know that God's redemptive plan does not end with the Lord Jesus' death. God raised Him from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of His throne. After death there is resurrection, after humiliation there is exaltation. Jesus knew His Father's plan from the very beginning and what was going to be the result of His mission, and that is to be rightfully seated on His throne and shall reign in His kingdom forever and ever (Philippians 2:9-11)

Jesus is our hope. The Name that is above every name. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. And like what He promised us, upon His return, we shall be with Him in the glorious majesty of His kingdom.