

THE KINGDOM OF GOD WILL NOT RETREAT

The first three gospels record how Jesus started His ministry.

Matthew 4:17

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Luke 17:20-21

20 One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God come?” Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. 21 You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.”

Could Jesus be referring to a passage in the book of Daniel, where it specifically mentions the Kingdom of God that is to come?

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Zechariah 14:9 And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—“The Lord is one,” And His name one.

Jesus was pointing to the coming of God’s authority and power, in the sense of His spiritual rulership over the hearts of people, everyone who willingly wanted to submit to it.

God was not coming to overthrow an earthly kingdom, the Roman empire. There was something bigger at stake.

People did not know that they were under the influence and bondage of a spiritual enemy, who had taken people’s souls captive, the devil.

Ephesians 2:2

in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

1 John 5:19 (NLT)

19 We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.

Like today, most people around us are not aware of this reality.

Jesus not only came to earth to deal with our sin problem, but also to remove the devil’s spiritual bondage over humanity.

Matthew 4:9

And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

This was not a dispute about territories or resources of our planet. It was all about the souls of people.

This is why Jesus said before going to the cross:

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Jesus demonstrated what the kingdom of God looked like.

Matthew 9:35

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Acts 10:38

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Jesus also said in **Luke 11:20** “But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

When Jesus cast out demons, it was a clear sign that the kingdom of God was on the scene!

Colossians 2:15

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

We know from the Word of God, that these evil entities will continue to oppose God’s kingdom until their final judgment.

1 Corinthians 15:24-25

24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

Romans 16:20

20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Until that day comes, we believers in Jesus, have to continue to push back, and resist the powers of darkness.

1 John 3:8

8 (..) For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

John wrote in Revelation 11:15 “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!”

While Jesus was on earth, He used several parables to teach about the kingdom of God.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31-32

31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

In this parable, Jesus is making the point that the Kingdom of heaven was going to expand and grow.

The Parable of the Dragnet

Matthew 13:47

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,

This means that the good news of the Kingdom of God, would capture all kinds of people, of all races and nationalities, which include both the good, and the bad.

The Parable of the Leaven

Matthew 13:33 Another parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”

In this parable the Kingdom of Heaven is compared to the dynamic character of yeast. When the yeast is kneaded into the dough, it expands by itself.

After His resurrection Jesus was going to launch the Church and nothing would be able to stop it.

Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

The very last instructions Jesus gave to His disciples were all about the Kingdom of God.

Acts 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

We need to take the kingdom of God to a world in despair. A global virus will not stop the advancement of God’s kingdom.

Every time one person enters the kingdom of God, the devil loses territory, and the Kingdom of God expands.

1. THE KINGDOM OF GOD WILL NOT RETREAT!

Hebrews 12:28

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Romans 8:35,38

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (OR VIRUS, OR FEAR, OR RECESSION)

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.