

UNDERSTANDING THE ONE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Week 11–JROC - The Kingdom of God

July 19, 2026

Following Jesus' resurrection...before He ascended into heaven, we read in Acts 1:3 that Jesus *also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them (the Apostles) during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*

While our Pastors are focusing on the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:1-12, we need to know that the kingdom of heaven/the kingdom of God is the core message. BACKDROP: do we know that Genesis chapters 1 through 3 lay the foundation for the completion of God's plan – Plan A – that will be fulfilled in the kingdom of God/the Millennial Kingdom – the “front porch” of the Eternal State? Talk about ONE STORY!!!! The ONE STORY that begins in Eternity past continues into Eternity future!! God's Plan A can never be thwarted!

Genesis 1-3: God created a perfect physical/material universe, a perfect physical/material world, innocent physical mankind to whom He gave dominion to rule on His/God's behalf...to serve and nurture the earth. And man chose to rebel against God! BUT GOD!! And, so we look forward to “God's kingdom” on earth! Why am I saying, “God's kingdom?” Is God king?

I Samuel 8:1-9... following the times of the Judges, when everyone did was right in their own eyes, the sons of Samuel did NOT walk in Samuel's ways. The Elders of Israel came to Samuel and said in v. 3, *Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways.* The Elders then demanded, *Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.* Like the pagan nations?

Samuel was displeased. Samuel prayed to the LORD, and the LORD said to Samuel, *Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods.... Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them.*

From many Scriptures we read of God as King: I Sam. 8:1-9; Psalms 10:16; Psalm 29:10; Psalm 93:1-2; Isaiah 33:2; cross reference!

From the outset of Scripture we understand that God is King, He has a physical/material kingdom with land, and subjects, the children of Israel – and their land (Gen. 15:18-20), the promise of descendants, and the charge to bless the world! And, on their way to the LAND of promise/promised from God – God instructed them how to live...He gave them the law!

AND, in Ex. 25:8 – we read God's words to Moses, *...let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them.*

We need to know that the disciple Matthew, in the gospel God inspired him to write...Matthew wrote the “kingdom of heaven” in lieu of the “kingdom of God.” This is unique to Matthew's gospel. Matthew's readership is Jewish. To the Jewish people “God” is too sacred to say; therefore, Matthew instead wrote, “the kingdom of heaven.” When you compare the “kingdom of heaven” in Matthew to parallel verses in Mark and Luke, while the content is the same, Mark & Luke label the kingdom “the kingdom of God.” Mark primarily wrote to Roman believers.

Mark explained Jewish customs in his gospel (7:3-4; 14:12; 15:42) and reckoned time in his gospel according to the Roman system (6:48; 13:35). Luke was the only Gentile author in the Bible. Luke wrote to “Theophilus, which means “lover of God”. Luke called Theophilus “most

2

excellent” possibly signifying that Theophilus was a well-known Roman and “Theophilus” was a pseudonym (a fictitious name assumed by a person attempting to conceal their identity).

The Beatitudes are part of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount covered in Matthew 5 through 7. The Beatitudes are eight blessings. Jesus described these blessings, to His people, the Jewish people, as God-given – for their souls’ well-being. The Beatitudes proclaim the way to heavenly blessedness – the way which is antithetical to the worldly path normally followed in pursuit of happiness. The Beatitudes, considered by the SBC Pastors as “upside-down,” outline a counter-cultural roadmap to true joy, emphasizing humility, compassion, and spiritual growth – not emphasizing worldly success.

We need to know that the kingdom of God is throughout the Hebrew Scriptures! The Hebrew Scriptures contain foundational verses about the kingdom, portraying it as God’s eternal, sovereign rule over the earth. These few verses highlight His dominion, the earthly kingdom of Israel, and the promise of an everlasting Messiah-King who will reign forever. Be sure to cross reference.

God's Universal and Eternal Kingdom

- 1 Chronicles 29:11: Extols God’s absolute sovereignty and ownership of all things, declaring "Yours is the kingdom, O Lord".
- Psalms 103:19: Affirms that God's throne is established in the heavens and His rule extends over everything.
- Psalms 145:13: Describes God’s kingdom as everlasting, enduring throughout all generations.

The Prophesied Messianic Kingdom – The Millennial Kingdom

- 2 Samuel 7:16: Confirms God's covenant with David, establishing his house and kingdom forever.
- 1 Chronicles 28:5: Notes that God chose Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom over Israel.
- Daniel 2:44: Prophesies that God will establish a final, everlasting kingdom that will destroy all others.
- Daniel 7:14: Speaks of a, "...dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him".
- Isaiah 9:7: Promises a future King from David's line who will reign with eternal justice.

It was mentioned in one sermon that Jesus’ audience misunderstood what the kingdom of God is all about – they misunderstood the kingdom of God!!!! I’m assuming he was speaking of the Jewish people. Jewish people misunderstood what the kingdom of God is all about!!!! The kingdom of God is a major theme in the Bible esp. in the Hebrew Scriptures.

When do we first read about a “kingdom” in Scripture as it relates to God’s kingdom? Exodus 19:6 - *And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.*

Ex. 4:22 - The nation of Israel was chosen as God’s firstborn among nations (Ex. 4:22). “Firstborn” signifies a status of supreme privilege, responsibility, and inheritance rather than chronological birth. For Israel, this inheritance was the land of promise and the role of functioning as a kingdom of priests to mediate God's blessing to the rest of the world (Ex. 19:6).

3

Is it important that Israel is the only nation with whom God has made a covenant to bless the other nations of the world (Gen. 12:3; Gen. 18:18; Isa. 43:10; Isa. 2 [the nations shall come to God’s kingdom in Jerusalem to be taught by the Messiah]; Isa. 60 [the Gentiles shall come to Zion’s light]; Isa. 62 [God will make Jerusalem a praise in the earth!])

This past week, more nations are coming against Israel – voting against Israel. Zech. 12:3 - *And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. Any nation that attempts to meddle with or destroy Jerusalem will ultimately bring destruction upon themselves*

II Sam. 7:23-24 – King David, in speaking with God, asked, ²³ *And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods?* ²⁴ *For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God.* “Forever” means – forever!

How many of you know that there are those who don’t so much teach that the kingdom of God has been promised to Israel. And those who don’t believe that the kingdom of God has been promised to Israel – don’t so much teach that the kingdom of God is in the future – as in end times – as in Jesus’, at His Second Coming, will establish the kingdom of God!!!

