

The Kingdom

Theme: The kingdom is God's promise of redemption to his sovereign rule, which was fulfilled by Jesus Christ's perfect life and sacrifice on the cross, allowing us to be adopted heirs into the kingdom.

Outline:

1. Intro

- The Promise
- What is the kingdom of God, how can we enter it, and what does life inside of it look like

2. Main text- Daniel 7:13-14

"I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.
14 And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.

A. Context

- Vision of Daniel (Who is Daniel?)
- The end times
- Key insights into the kingdom of God

3a. Why is it important to understand the kingdom?

A. Main teaching topic of Jesus and the Apostles

- Jesus ministry begins with Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

B. Understanding the kingdom of God fundamentally changes the way you view life

- So important you could write a Bible about it

3b. What is the kingdom

A. The Bible from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22

- Read it

B. Starts with God's rule

- Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth
- God is in charge, aka rule
- This never changes

4. Man's rule over creation

A. Made in God's image

- Gen 1: 26

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

- Man's position in creation is special
- God made the garden, then made man to take care of it and its creatures

B. Man's nature and purpose comes from being image bearers of God

- Man's purpose is to rule like God

5. The fall and its consequences

A. Serpents scheme is silly

- Man is already like God
- Second in the universe, but man wants to be number 1
- His scheme works all to well

B. Instead of ruling with God, man is now opposed to God

- Term called sin

C. Man is still an image bearer, but is corrupt

- As a result of sin, man struggles to rule like God
- Sin affects even the deepest of relationships
- Genesis 3:16

To the woman he said "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you"

- Conflict in marriage
- The very reason God made man is used in the wrong way

D. The curse on creation (Ro 8:19)

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, (Talking about the fall) in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

- Things are not as they should be
- Sin brought pain, anguish, and death
- Ourselves and creation are groaning for when wrong will be made right

E. Amidst the curses, a promise

- God promises a seed of Eve will crush the serpents head
- Hope to a groaning people

F. The entirety of the Bible is about this seed

- OT is full of anticipation and prophesy
- Daniel 7

"I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven

there came one like a son of man, (seed)
and he came to the Ancient of Days (God)
and was presented before him.

14 And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
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- There will be a time when the son of man will rule over all, just like how Adam was supposed to
- Unlike Adam the son of man's kingdom will go on forever and be full of glory

6. Man's failure to rule like God

A. Conflict between Adam and Eve

- From the beginning man is not able to rule how he is supposed to without God
- Humanity has tried its best, and failed spectacularly

B. God picks Abraham to fulfill his promise

- The start of God using corrupt people to bring his kingdom
- Abraham will be blessed to bless all the nations
- Only a glimpse into the kingdom
- The seed or son of man will come from Abraham (Dan 7)

14 And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
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- God is telling Abraham my kingdom will come from you
- Abraham is not a perfect man (read about him)
- He cannot rule how he is supposed to

C. Israel

- God's chosen people
- Meant to lead the other nations by being set apart
- God gave them the law through Moses, this is what the people of God are to be like
- How long does it take the Israelites to go astray? As Moses is walking down the mountain
- Israel is constantly worshiping idols and acting like the nations they are supposed to be set apart from
- Times of faithfulness but many times of unfaithfulness
- God raises up judges

D. Judges

- Supposed to lead Israel in battle and back to God
- Sometimes the judges are good, some are really bad, not bedtime stories
- Judges 2:19

But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.

- Again we see man failing to rule like God and his people rebelling against him
- Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

- What Israel needs is a king but not the one they think they need

E. Kings

- Eventually Israel gets fed up with the judges and how God is running things (as if it's his fault) and desire a king to rule them like the other nations
- Starts off good with Saul
- Glimpse into the kingdom of God
- Man is corrupted by sin, almost like the son of man in Dan 7 is going to have to be God himself to rule properly
- Even the best of the best kings, David, is involved with murder and adultery

F. By the end of the OT we are still groaning for redemption

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- Eagerly awaiting for a king who will bring God's kingdom and establish it until the end of time
- One who will right the wrongs of all the previous fallen rulers
- All of the OT is pointing to this son of man

7. Jesus

A. Jesus claims to be the son of man (Mk 14:61-62)

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" 62 And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

- See the parallels
- Killed for saying that
- The OT points forward to Jesus
- He fulfills all of the prophecies

B. Something unique, Jesus is God

- Jesus is recognized as someone with spiritual authority (Lk 11:20)

But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

- That kingdom in Dan 7, it's here
- Even before Daniel, before Abraham was I Am
- God himself come to earth to establish his kingdom

C. God came to earth as a man

- A baby
- Fully God fully man
- Man is always corrupted by sin, unfit to rule
- Fully God fully man, sinless, someone who can rule all nations for all eternity

D. The upside down kingdom

- As if God man isn't surprising enough, how does Jesus rule the kingdom of the almighty God?
- As a servant
- The upside down kingdom
- First will be last
- The king is a servant

E. The cross

- Such a servant that despite the suffering, went to the cross
- He came with a mission, to restore man and make him a new creation that would no longer be bound by sin
- Sin has to be dealt with
- God himself, the perfect man, took our sin, put it on himself, and died.
The ultimate sacrifice

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- Jesus Christ rules over death and was raised from the dead and continues to live this very second
- He is given dominion and glory and a kingdom
- Because he has authority over death his kingdom will not pass away
- Dan 7:22

until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

- Christ paid the ransom to buy you and me
- We have been delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God
- Adopted as children and heirs
- This is the good news, the son of man came, established the kingdom of God, and redeemed humanity so that we may enter into the kingdom

F. The second coming

- We have hope
- Though we will pass from this life, we will be raised again by the same power that rose Jesus Christ from the dead
- Not only that, but we have hope for the day Jesus returns
- All creation will be restored and there will be a new heaven and a new earth that will be free from sin and free from groaning
- When the serpent will have no more dominion
- When we get to spend forever with our redeemer and king

8. How we enter the kingdom

A. What can I do to enter the kingdom?

- You can not do it on your own
- Called by God, the rest is our response

B. Jn 3:3 Be born again

- Allow the Holy Spirit to transform you

C. Mk 1:15 Repent and believe

- I believe Jesus rose from the dead, yet I live my life as if he didn't
- Until we die or Jesus returns we continue to live in a fallen world
- We will continue to fall
- God sent his son so we can have forgiveness
- Allow yourself to be forgiven

D. Ac 8:12 Be baptised

- Not saved by baptism
- But is the appropriate response to receiving the gift of grace

9. Life in the kingdom

A. Ac 14:22 Tribulation

- Faith to persevere through tribulation

B. Mt 7:21 Doing the will of God, faith and good works

- Deeper than a head knowledge
- Seeking and doing the will of God
- The kingdom fundamentally changes how you view life
- Faith produces good works

C. Proclaiming the good news

- Does not have to be preaching
- Patriotic citizen
- This little light of mine

- Acts 28:31 Paul

31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

D. Pray for the kingdom to come

- Lord's prayer
- Longing for Jesus to return

E. Fruits of the Spirit-

- Fundamentally changes how you live life
- Love- God and humans as image bearers
- Joy- Hope in the heavenly kingdom
- Peace- Do not worry

G. Power over sin, obedience

- No longer have to live like the old man
- Work of God in your life

H. Live like an heir to the kingdom, an image bearer of God