

# THEY KINGDOM COME

Mt 6:10; Acts 1:3; Mt 3:2, 4:17, 23, Mt 7:21, 10:7, 13:24-46, 21:31-32

## I. VARIOUS KINGDOMS—"now and not yet"

- A. Creation—Rom 8:18-25; ecological aspirations
- B. Providence—Eph 1:10, Gal 4:4—"in the fulness of time," especially regarding Incarnation & Early Church expansion, enjoying "just right" conditions
- C. Israel (Saul, David, Solomon), with Christological overtones
- D. Grace—Salvation through Christ

## II. THE KINGDOM IS BOTH WITHIN AND AMONG YOU (Lk 17:20-21)

- A. Firstly, "within you," in our hearts (personal salvation)
  - 1. Greek preposition (*entos*) points to what is "within," rather than what is "without," denoting spiritual nature of man, wherein we are born again; Jerome: *intra vos*; Luther: *inwendig*
  - 2. New life in Christ; born again; eternal Realm including eternal life
  - 3. Overemphasis can lead to purely personal pietism, indifferent to others
- B. And also "among, in the midst of you"
  - 1. Invisible, spiritual Church—all the redeemed, including Church Triumphant
  - 2. Visible, institutional Church—Church Militant, Body of Christ
    - a. Roman Catholic & Eastern Orthodox with ancient roots & claims
    - b. Protestant denominations: Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican; Presbyterian, Methodist
    - c. Congregational: Baptists, Bible churches
    - d. Pentecostal
- C. Jesus' parables (Mt 13:18-52): Seed received in good soil; (vv. 19-23); Tares alongside wheat (vv. 24-30); Mustard seed (v. 33); Treasure in field (v. 44); Merchant seeking pearls (vv. 45-46); Net gathering fish (vv. 47-50); Householder bringing forth goods (v. 52)
  - 1. Importance of small things, invisibly working out God's design
  - 2. Importance of patiently awaiting God's effectual work
  - 3. Ultimate importance, value of Kingdom—end, finale
- D. "Not of this world" (Jn 18:36; Ro 12:2), not "meat and drink" (Ro 14:17), BUT:
  - 1. Righteousness/Justice (*dikaioσύνη*): acting in accord with divine/moral law; moral propriety, rightness
    - a. *Right*-ness: directions, answers; conduct
    - b. *Just*-ness: conforming to fact or reason; "just so;" verdicts, decisions, rewards
    - c. Abraham Lincoln: "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to that end do our duty as we understand it" (27Feb 1860 speech)
    - d. Goethe: "What is the freedom of the most free? To do what is right!"
  - 2. Peace (*eirene*): a state of tranquility, quiet, security
    - a. Firstly: with God
    - b. Then: with others, between peoples, nations, groups
    - c. Exhortations, descriptions:
      - 1. Cicero: "Peace is liberty in tranquility."
      - 2. Augustine: "Thou hast touched me, and I have been translated into thy peace."  
"Peace is our final good."
      - 3. Dante: "In His will is our peace."
      - 4. Fenelon: "Speak, move, act in peace, as if you were in prayer. In truth, this is prayer."
      - 5. Ruskin: "You may either win your peace or buy it: win it by resistance to evil; buy it, by compromise with evil."
  - 3. Joy (*chara*): a feeling of well-being, good fortune; delight; happiness
    - a. Proverbs 17:22: "A merry heart doth good like medicine."
    - b. Joseph Wood Krutch: "Happiness is itself a kind of gratitude"
    - c. Joseph Marmion: "Joy is the echo of God's life within us."
    - d. Isaac Watts: "Joy to the world! the Lord is come: / Let earth receive her King."

## III. THE KINGDOM TO COME: MESSIANIC, ESCHATOLOGICAL

- A. Second Coming & Christ the King
- B. Eternal/everlasting/final Heaven