

Who do you say that I am?



Seeing Jesus

through new eyes

The Kingdom is at Hand

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The Hebraic Fabric of Life

Some Contours of Hebrew Thought

- God in pursuit of humankind
- All time & history is the story of divine redemption
- Israel: a holy people, a covenant people
- Everything is theological (religion as a way of life)
- Meditate on God's word
- Sanctity of Time

*The Hebraic
perspective*

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Jesus & The Kingdom

Kingdom priorities

Possibly...

No subject more important to Jesus

No subject more confusing in the church

- world to come
- church
- to be established in the future

Jesus' Preaching and Teaching on the Kingdom

- **Proclaims** the Kingdom is His preaching.
- **Explains** the Kingdom in his teaching.
- **Illustrates** the Kingdom in his parables.
- **Demonstrates** the Kingdom through healings and deliverances.

*Preaching &
Teaching*

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The Lord Reigns

A Declaration & A Summons

“The LORD will reign forever and ever.” (Exo. 15:18)

*“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all
your soul and with all your strength.” (Deut. 6:4-5)*

Shema (recited two times daily)

- It is a **declaration** and **summons**
- Yoke of the Kingdom of God *and* doing His will

Kingdom of God:

- Accepting God’s **authority**, and doing God’s **will**
- **Submission**: accepting the “yoke of the Kingdom of Heaven” is to acknowledge and submit to God’s authority and to obey His commandment (i.e to be committed to the Father’s will being done in your life and in the world)

*Accepting God’s
authority and
doing God’s
will*

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Kingdom World Views

Different perspectives on kingdoms

Greek / Hellenistic	Hebrew
Domain	Dominion
Place	Power (breaking into peoples' lives)
Realm	Reigning
World to come	Here and now
Creed	Conduct

*The Law,
the Prophets, &
the Writings*

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I was Sent for this Purpose

Preaching the Kingdom

“When day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them. But He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.”

(Luke 4:42-43)

- **Kingdom of Heaven / Kingdom of God**
- Heaven: an evasive **synonym**
- **Kingdom of Heaven** unique to Pharisees: rabbinic literature
- *Malkhut Shamayim*: a **“verbal noun”**

*For this
purpose*

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The Kingdom is at Hand

“Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — “The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great Light, And those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, Upon them a Light dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

(Matt. 4:12-17)

At Hand

- **Time:** “Time for the harvest”
- **Space:** “Coming near in space”: relational intimacy.
- God’s divine power and reign **breaking into our lives.**
 - Setting captives free.
 - The Kingdom is here.
- The Gospel of the Kingdom: something unprecedented has broken into space and time.

*Breaking into
our lives*

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The Kingdom: a New Covenant

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” (Jer. 31: 31, 33-34)

*An intimate
relationship*

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Seek First His Kingdom

Priorities

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matt. 6:33-34)

- God’s priorities
- World’s priorities

*The process of
seeking the
Kingship of
God*

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Who do you say that I am? Seeing Jesus through new eyes

- 1 Introduction: A Different Perspective
- 2 Jesus of Nazareth: The Jewishness of Jesus
- 3 Who do you say the Son of Man is?
- 4 In My Father's house: Who Jesus Said he was
 - No Sunday School (Easter)
- 5 Come Follow Me: The Rabbi and Disciples
- 6 I Speak In Parables
- 7 Time with God: The Climax of Living
- 8 I have come to Fulfill them
- 9 The Kingdom is at Hand
- 10 **Unveiling the Kingdom**
- 11 Humbly walk with your God: Living the Torah

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