

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

By: Fountain Hendricks

(Hebrews 11:13-16)

Before I explain what the Kingdom of God is, I must expound on what it isn't so you can clearly understand its concepts. The Kingdom of God is **NOT** a religion. The Kingdom of God is **NOT** a church. The Kingdom of God is **NOT** the third heaven where God dwells.

The Kingdom of God is **NOT** a religious organization. The Kingdom of God is **NOT** a philosophy. **THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS A ROYAL COUNTRY.**

Hebrews 11:13-16 says, *"All these great people died in faith. They did not get the things that God promised his people, but they saw them coming far in the future and were glad. They said they were like visitors and strangers on earth."*

When people say such things, they show they are looking for a country that will be their own.

*If they had been thinking about the country they had left, they could have gone back. But they were waiting for a **BETTER COUNTRY - A HEAVENLY COUNTRY**. So God is not ashamed to be called their God, because he has prepared a city for them."*

The people who were known for having great faith in the Bible never believed that they were citizens on the earth. These people were **LOOKING** for a heavenly country and a governmental system where their faith would be honored, rewarded and appreciated.

During their time the Kingdom of God was not accessible. The Lord's presence was felt in the Old Testament. However, it was not seen until the New Testament. The Kingdom of God had to be announced by King Jesus before it could be received by men.

In Matthew 4:17 Jesus said, "*Change your hearts and lives, because the Kingdom of heaven is NEAR.*" When Jesus said the Kingdom of heaven is near, He was telling us that His **COUNTRY** became **AVAILABLE** for us to enter. However, **BEFORE** we can enter, we must change our mind and behavior.

The word "*heart*" in this context of scripture is defined as the mind. When Jesus announced that the Kingdom of heaven was near it was a declaration of King Jesus announcing His Kingdom to His people.

Every book in the Old Testament talks about Kingdom concepts. While the concepts and principles of the Kingdom of God were discussed the people of the Old Testament did not have the opportunity to enter the Kingdom of God because King Jesus **NEVER** announced its arrival.

The **FIRST** time the Kingdom of God became **AVAILABLE** was in the book of Matthew. **ONLY** a King

can open the door to His Kingdom. Why? Because what a King says becomes law and no one tells Him what to do according to Ecclesiastes 8:4.

This is why the men of great faith like Moses, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, Issac and the prophets were **LOOKING** for a heavenly country but could not find it.

These great men of faith experienced the remnants of the Kingdom of God. Unfortunately, they could not partake in its glory because King Jesus never announced its arrival during their tenure on the earth.

The Kingdom of God is a **ROYAL COUNTRY**.

This country empowers it's citizens to prosper. It also protects its citizens from being ruled by the prince of the air who controls the systems of this world.

WHY IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD A COUNTRY?

In the Greek context the word "*Kingdom*" that is stated in Matthew 4:17 is defined as **RULE, REALM** and **REIGN**. The synonym for the word realm is **COUNTRY**. The word rule and reign are terms of royalty. In the Greek language the word "*Kingdom*" in Matthew 4:17 is translated as a **ROYAL COUNTRY!!!**

Before you can reap the benefits and promises of the Kingdom of God you must be willing to accept this truth. It is **IMPORTANT** to accept this truth. If you do not accept this truth you will not understand the teachings of King Jesus.

The **ONLY** message that King Jesus taught while He was on the earth was the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is **NOT** Christianity. Jesus did not teach about

Christianity. He did not teach about denominations. He only taught about His royal country.

Everything that King Jesus teaches in the four Gospels are centered around His country, the Kingdom of God. In order to experience the pleasure, glory, goodness and prosperity of King Jesus teachings you must accept the foundational truth that the Kingdom of God is **HIS ROYAL COUNTRY!**

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