

Title: God's building... His Kingdom
Pastor: Hercules Opperman
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Luke 13:18 NIV) "Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?"

John 18:36 NIV "Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

Conditions:

Repent and believe - Mark 1:15; Matt 4:17

Childlike faith - Matt 18:3; Mark 10:14

Undivided heart - Mark 12:29-30

Demands of the Kingdom:

- 1) Act on the will of God (Matt 7:21-23), not lip service opens the door to the kingdom
- 2) Nothing may stand in the way No looking back - Luke 9:62 May demand sacrifice of marriage and family - Matt 19:12
- 3) Sacrifice possessions - Mark 10:21-27
- 4) Cut off what hinders - Mark 9:47
- 5) Enter through the narrow gate - Matt 7:13-14
- 6) 6) Actively storm the kingdom - Matt 11:12

The age to come

That urgency of already living in the time of the end was the "eschatological framework that determined everything about them - how they lived, how they thought, and how they understood to be on its way out"

Travis (1988:229) explains: "But while there is real evidence of the kingdom's power at work in individuals' lives and in creation of a community embodying such goals and values, the kingdom's coming remains incomplete. We await a final day when God's intentions revealed in Jesus will be triumphantly fulfilled."

Romans 5:9 through salvation we have our reward in the present but since our final salvation has not fully realized ("we are *being* saved..." 1 Cor. 1:18) it still needs to be completed ("we shall be saved..."

This has powerful implications for the church as an eschatological community. Living a life of future characteristics, that resembles God himself, in the present age.

Christian hope is not mere wish-fulfilment, because it looks for "fulfilment of a plan already in operation" (Travis 1988:231). With this hope of the glorious condition to come, we understand the tension of the temporal state of our sinful "lowly condition" (Phil. 3:21) transformed by the Holy Spirit as down payment in us.

The Holy Spirit as down payment

Joel 2:28-32 “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Romans 8:23 (ESV) “that: And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

This “first fruits of the Spirit” is God's own Spirit dwelling in us, guaranteeing our final redemption. It shows the tension of the “already – not yet” and the eagerly awaited hope to experience the final redemption of our bodies. We are adopted by God and our final adoption will be when His Son returns. The whole earth and creation, together with us, groan eagerly for the awaited return of His Son (Fee 1994:572-573).

The future is thus an experienced reality for every believer because of the Holy Spirit's enablement of God's empowering presence in us (Fee 1996:56).

1) Not a kingdom of this world

John 17:15 ESV I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

John 17:18 ESV “As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

2) God's sovereignty rules His kingdom

Matt 12:28 ESV But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 11:20 ESV But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Matt 4:23 ESV and he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Matt 12:28 ESV But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 11:20 ESV But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Psalms 145:13 your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

2 Pet 1:11 for in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ⁽¹⁶⁾ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever ⁽¹⁷⁾ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and

will be in you ⁽¹⁸⁾ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you ⁽¹⁹⁾ yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live ⁽²⁰⁾ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you ⁽²¹⁾ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.

Hebrews 12:14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

1 John 2:3-4 ⁽³⁾ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁽⁴⁾ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁽⁸⁾ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Pet 1:2-3 ⁽²⁾ May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ⁽³⁾ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

Colossians 1:28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Romans 14:17 NIV (“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,”

Luke 11:2 ESV (And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed is your name. Your kingdom come.