



KINGDOM LIVING

It Has Arrived!

Sunday 5th October 2025

Matthew 4:17

1

This new series – KINGDOM LIVING – is designed for you to **see and know how to live as people of the kingdom, by the power of the kingdom, for the purposes of the kingdom.**

This week we look at how Jesus introduced the kingdom. From this we will be able to know, 1. The kingdom is right here, 2. What the gospels really tell us, and 3. The basic requirement to enter in.

2

Part 1 – The Kingdom is RIGHT HERE!

3

Matthew 4:17,

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

‘From that time’ – when was that time? Jesus was born on earth at OAD (2025 years ago). He had just been in the wilderness, tempted by the devil, started ministering in Nazareth (His home town) where He was rejected and he moved onto Capernaum. **In other words, it is now.**

4

5

He said this kingdom is at hand – it has arrived, it is here. As **Matthew** noted in **1:22-23,**

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

6

‘God with us’ means HE IS walking among us. In **Revelation 1** where John records his vision of things to come, He sees Jesus (**1:12-13**)

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.

7

This individual identifies Himself as the resurrected Jesus and the lampstands in (**v20**)

As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

8 Jesus is in the midst of us! In our opening song, you sang – **You are here, moving in our midst**. Do you believe that? And if you do what impact has that had on your life?

Something else needs to be seen so you can understand this kingdom is right here. When we read the kingdom of heaven we tend to think in terms just of heaven itself, some distant future place we hope to go when we die. But in the Greek, the phrase is written 'kingdom of the heavens (plural). What does this mean?

9 Come to Matthew 6:9-10,

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

10 Heaven is mentioned twice by Jesus – the first time as plural, the second as singular. The first time, a fuller translation would be, '**Father of us who is in the heavens**'. Not just heaven as a distant place, but also the heavens (skies and air) around us, the space you are in right now. That's what God with us tells us.

11 The second time is then singular, heaven, as in God's dwelling place before time began. Why use both? Jesus wants you to see **God is here with you right now AND He wants to do here on earth the very same things that go on in heaven**. One becomes like the other.

12 Part 2 – What do the gospels really tell us?

13 There are some 83,000 words in all four gospels in your Bible. But what are they designed to for? **Luke 1:4** says,

that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

14 And **John 20:31**,

but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

15 Back in **Matthew 4:17** where it reads Jesus began to preach, saying, a better more literal translation from the Greek is 'Jesus began to proclaim and to say'. A similar phrase is used of John the Baptist back in **3:1-2**,

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Notice John only preaches (or proclaims), he doesn't back this up with more sayings, but Jesus does. And what are those other things Jesus began to say?

16 **What the kingdom of the heavens is like!**

17 **Part 3. The basic requirement to enter in**

18 In **Matthew 11:28**, Jesus makes a jaw-dropping invitation,

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Are you struggling to find the life you want? Are you struggling to live under the expectations of others? Jesus says two things (1) Come to ME, and (2) I will give you rest. But what if they are just coming to get a quick miracle and then walk away? Back in **Matthew 4:17**, Jesus said,

19 Repent, for the kingdom of [the] heaven[s] is at hand.

That word repent, fully means to 'think differently afterwards'. Come and be changed. No sinner changes everything about the way they think and THEN comes to Jesus. That was the problem, the burden of the law He was here to undo; to give people rest from. No sinner who truly meets Jesus will ever be the same again.

20 To finish, let's see what Jesus says in **Matthew 7:14**,

For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Entry to the kingdom is through a narrow gate and you cannot carry anything with you. To enter the kingdom of the heavens, you have to give up your habits, your places of comfort, your hang ups, your efforts. And that's why so few find it. Did not Jesus say in **Matthew 6:33**,

21 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.