



# FIRST BAPTIST of Hayden

**4/17/2024**

**The Baptist Faith and Message  
The Kingdom**



# Outline

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## **Preface**

The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven are synonymous in scripture. Both are used to refer to God's sovereign rule over the universe and his coming kingdom upon this earth and its rule over humanity.

In ancient Israel, the kingdom of God was not a topic that was written about by the prophets or scribes. However, there was a general cultural understanding of the gods as kings among the nations of the regions; and specifically to the Israelites, there was an understanding of God, Jehovah as king over all creation.

## **8. The Kingdom**

**BFM:** *The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.*

As we look tonight at the Kingdom of God, we can see from our BFM that we accept two distinct aspects of the kingdom – the Kingdom as a spiritual entity where God's rule over the universe and us as individuals is understood by those who follow the teachings of the Bible.

There is also the idea of the Kingdom as an actual entity that is established at some future point in history.

### **A. The Kingdom as Spiritual:**

First, there is the kingdom that exists only in our hearts by faith. It is here and now, but not in a physical sense which has a specific location, government, administrator, etc. It is a spiritual kingdom, which is not political, nor is it subject to man's influence; rather, it influences man and how he lives. It is in this sense that the church is a part of the kingdom and works in and for the kingdom.

This is the acknowledgment that God is the supreme ruler of our lives and destiny and that we must submit to his rule in our lives as we would any king who may have established a temporary and transitory kingdom in this world.

Jesus speaking to Nicodemus shows him the requirement to enter the kingdom.

*John 3:5–6 (ESV): 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

To demonstrate how a person might receive and enter the kingdom of God, Jesus used a child, whose innocence and trust were a perfect example of how we might enter God's Kingdom.

*Luke 18:15–17 (ESV): 15 Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 17 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."*

While standing on trial, Jesus makes it very clear before Pilate that the kingdom of God is not a kingdom of earthly origin.

*John 18:36–38 (ESV): 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." 37 Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." 38 Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him."*

Even though the kingdom is a spiritual kingdom that must first be experienced through faith, the kingdom of God does have practical implications for us as we live our lives here and now. The Sermon on the Mount could be titled 'Kingdom Living - How a follower of Christ lives like the kingdom is here and now.'

Jesus calls our attention to very practical concerns and teaches us how we should act regarding everyday

*Matthew 6:25 (ESV): 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"*

These are very real concerns, if, we focus on this life only. But they pale when held up to the promise of God's coming kingdom.

*Matthew 6:26 (ESV): 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"*

God's care for the natural world and the animals living in it demonstrates that he will care for us, the citizens of his kingdom.

*Matthew 6:27 (ESV): 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?"*

It is only by entering God's kingdom by faith, that we can add life to our lives. His promise is eternal life, a life that is lived with him in a place called heaven. The kingdom of heaven.

*Matthew 6:28-32 (ESV): 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.*

Jesus will use a wealthy king from their past and the flowers of a field to show how his Father will take care of those who enter his kingdom. There is no need to worry, their needs will be met by the one who rules in this spiritual kingdom called the Kingdom of God.

*Mathew 6:33-34 (ESV): 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*



It is here that we are given instructions as to how we live out a kingdom lifestyle in the here and now.

Seek God's kingdom

Seek God's righteousness

Do not worry about or allow tomorrow's concerns to invade today. Next time we will look at the kingdom as an actual kingdom.

## **Additional Scripture:**

Genesis 1:1

Isaiah 9:6-7

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46;  
26:29;

Mark 1:14-15; 9:1

Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42

John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31

Romans 5:17; 8:19

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

Colossians 1:13

Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28

1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13

Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.