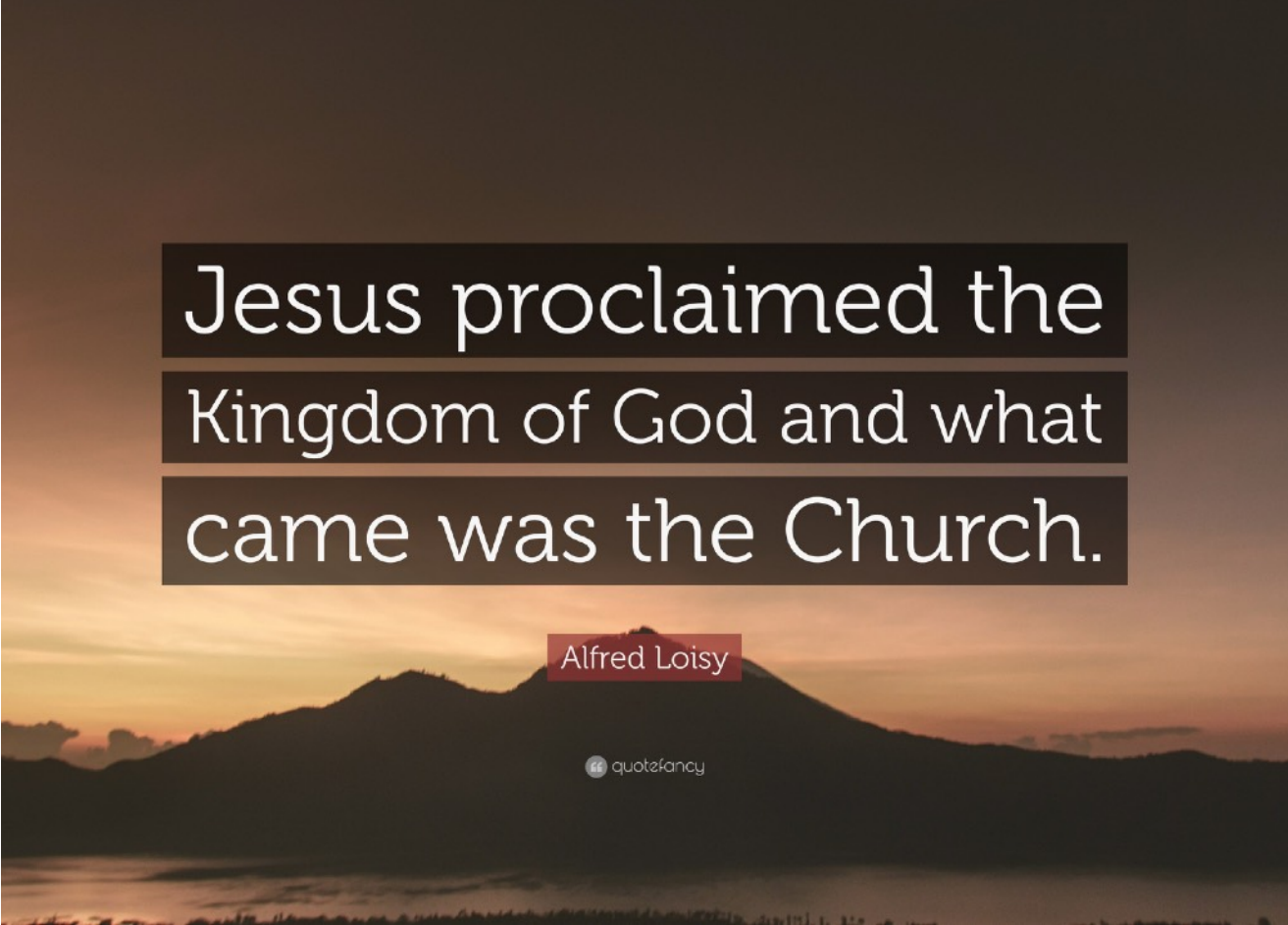


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# PROMISED KINGDOM

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## Part 4 - The Church in the Kingdom



Jesus proclaimed the  
Kingdom of God and what  
came was the Church.

Alfred Loisy

quartzfancy

### Does the Kingdom of God exist now?

Yes. We are citizens (Phil 3:20; Col 1:13). The church manifests many of the blessings of the kingdom, but the full realization is in the future when Christ returns. Then, he will reign in righteousness and the Father's will will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

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**We are  
citizens now,  
we enter in  
the future.**

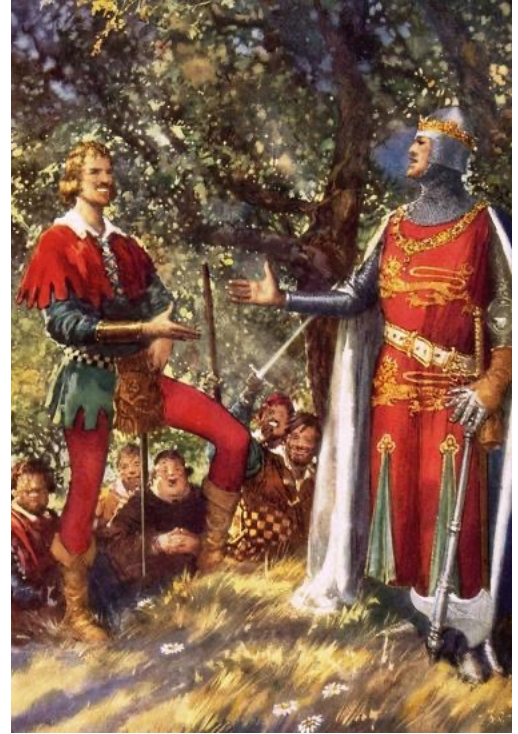
## Paul taught that the kingdom is future.

*'confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.'* Acts 14:22 (KJV) At the end of his life Paul looked forward to his reward in the coming kingdom. 2 Tim 4:1, 14.

Romans 8:17-23 paints a beautiful picture of the entire creation longing for God to set it right. When He does, saved believers in Jesus Christ will be there in glorious liberty as his joint-heirs. If we must suffer in this present life, it is minuscule compare to the glory to be revealed in us. The message is that the fullness of the kingdom is in the future and that we should faithfully endure whatever this crooked world throws at us. 2 Tim 2:11-13.

Revelation 11:15-18 tells us that at a certain point during the events of Jesus Christ's return, heavenly voices will declare, *"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."*

The phrase **"already, but not yet"** is often used to describe all the blessings promised to the church. We manifest them now in part, but when our Lord Jesus returns and reigns, their fullness will be revealed.



The story of Robin Hood is a good analogy. King Richard the Lionhearted was the rightful king, but he was away at the crusades. Evil Prince John was running the kingdom until he came back. Robin Hood and his men were living in loyalty to King Richard while fighting the evil that was running rampant. When Richard returned, Robin and his band were honored and promoted.



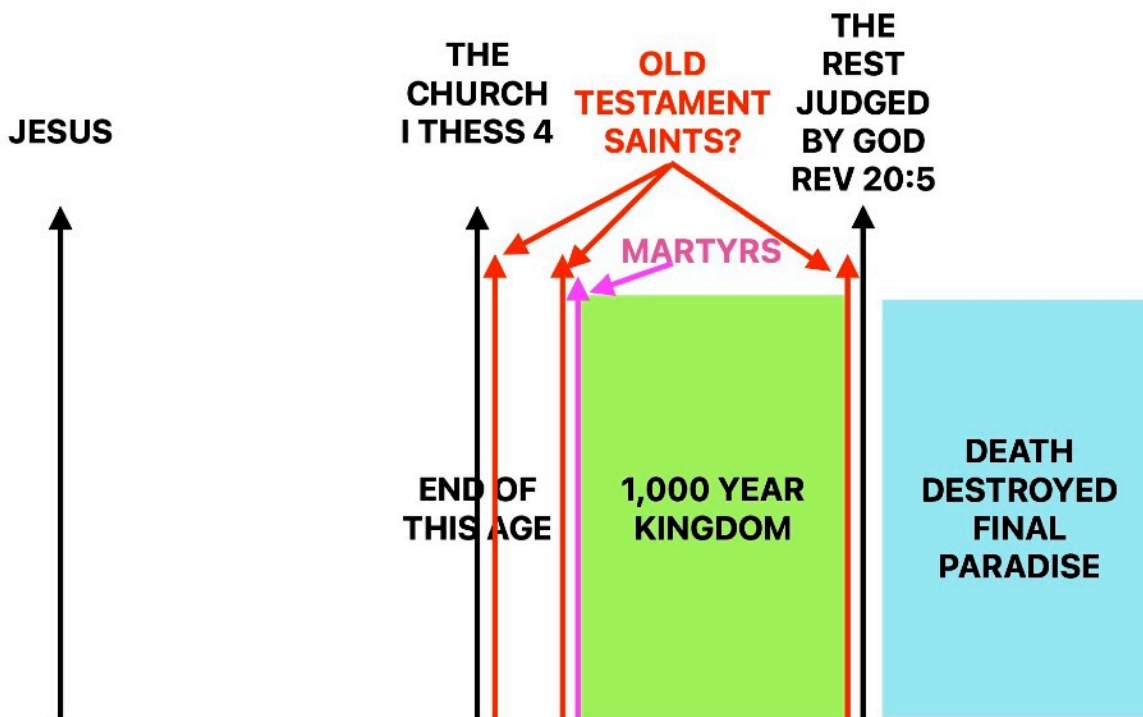
## The Rapture and the Resurrections

The NT saints who are saved by faith in Jesus Christ and will be in the rapture, or gathering together. Will OT saints be in the Millennial Kingdom too? This is the kingdom promised to Israel by all the prophets. It would not make sense for the righteous of Israel to miss it. Many Bible teachers and writers say that the righteous saints of the OT will be in the rapture. As covered in the last session, I believe that the “resurrection of the just” is at or before the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom. (Dan 12:1-3; Rev 11:18)

**‘if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful – for he cannot deny himself.’**

**2 Tim 2:12-13**

1 Corinthians 15:40-42 talks about different glory of the sun, moon and stars and says the resurrection is like that. That might mean that the resurrected ones of the church have a different glory than others. It also seems to tell us there we will still each be unique individuals in the life to come.



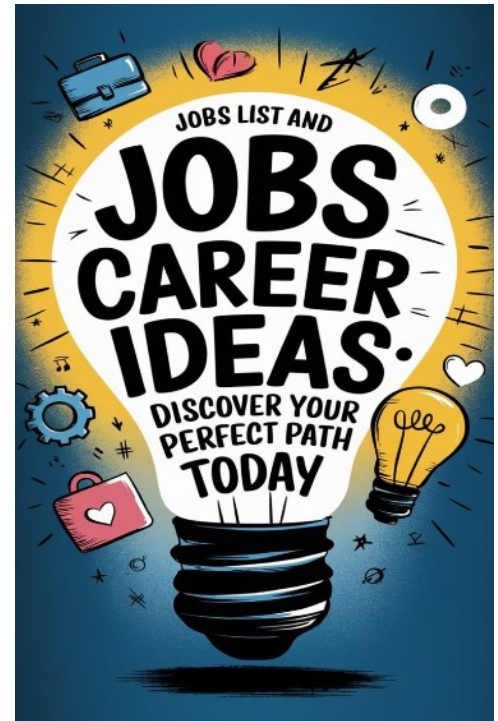
## Would you like a satisfying, prestigious career in Jesus Christ's kingdom?

How we live in this life defines how we will live in the Kingdom. The crowd in Jericho thought the kingdom was to come when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem. In Luke 19:11-27 he tells **The Parable of the Minas**. Clearly, the lesson for them and for us is that the Lord is going away and that we must use what he has given us faithfully according to his will. Jesus Christ is going to rule the whole restored world from Jerusalem and we will have responsibilities.

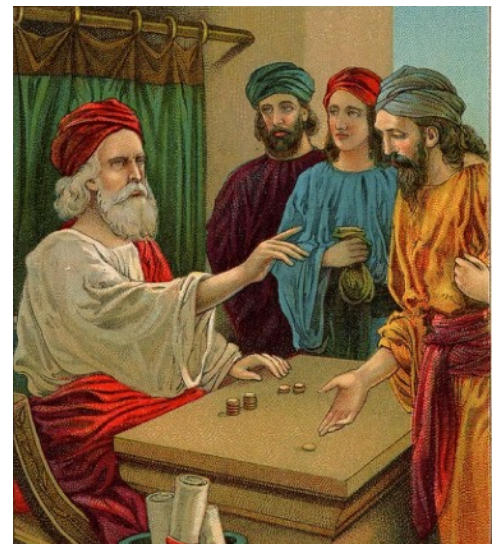
**‘that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:’**

**1 Peter 1:7 (KJV)**

Think of all the faithful servants he will need to administer this realm all over the earth! Think of the beautiful art and music and engineering and building there will be! In this parable, the Lord takes the one mina from the do-nothing servant and gives it to the most successful and competent one. How then should we faithfully live making the most of the unique gifting we each have?



The Parable of the Minas was spoken 'because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear'. Two of the three servants put to use what their lord had given them. **“You shall have authority over ten cities,”** the lord said and he gave five cities to the second. “To everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.” Luke 19:11-27





## Conclusion

### What is the Gospel of the Kingdom?

- **First, the good news is that God will restore His creation to His original plan of man having dominion in a paradise kingdom ruled in righteousness by His son, Jesus.**
- **Second, you get to be in it with eternal life!**
- **Third, there are rewards are for the faithful.**

When we understand the kingdom, the OT and the gospels come to life. The Sermon on the Mountain declares its righteous standards. Matthew 13 reveals some of its mysteries with the wheat and the tares growing together until the harvest, the sower sowing seeds and only some bear fruit, the pearl of great price, etc. The promised kingdom unites the whole plot of the Bible to reveal that God will restore His creation to fulfill His original, beautiful plan for mankind. This plot goes from the garden, to Babel, to the calling of Abraham, to bringing His chosen nation out of Egypt into the Promised Land and all the prophets have foretold.

### Concepts to remember when reading the prophets and gospels

- What did it mean to the original audience?
- Israel's national destiny includes another invasion and captivity.
- Then God delivers Israel and judges their enemy nations and peoples.
- Jerusalem always was and is and will be at the center of this plan.
- They didn't know there is a gap between his 1st coming and 2nd.
- We live in that gap where (surprise!) gentiles are brought into the covenant promises to Israel.

**Over and over we are told to endure faithfully.**

**'But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ' Matthew 6:33**

## PARTIAL KINGDOM OF GOD SCRIPTURE LIST FOR FURTHER STUDY

### New Testament (there are many more not listed here)

Matthew has many references that also appear in the other gospels.

- John preached it – Matt 3:1-2,
- Jesus preached it at the opening of his ministry – Matt 4:17,23
- Sermon on the mountain is about the righteous standards of the kingdom – Matt 5-7. Pray for the Kingdom to come and Father's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven Matt 6:10.
- Matt 8:11, 12 – many come into Kingdom from east and west (Gentiles) and many children of the kingdom cast in outer darkness (many Israelites).
- Mysteries of the Kingdom in Matt 13 – they didn't know there would be a 1<sup>st</sup> coming and 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Messiah with a period of time in between.
  - Sow seeds now... fruit later
  - Wheat and tares... good seed and bad seed grow over time and are sorted out at the end of the age
  - Starts small and grows
  - Israelites thought Messiah would come and bring his kingdom all at once. These mysteries explain what happens between his 1<sup>st</sup> coming and the end of the age.
- Humble are greatest in the Kingdom – Matt 18:1-4
- Rewards in the future Kingdom – Matt 20:1ff – workers in the vineyard
- The invited guests (Israelites) don't come to the wedding feast, so others are pulled in off the street (us Gentiles) – Matt 22:2 ff
- Gospel of the Kingdom to be preached to all nations before the end of the age – Matt 24:14
- Matt 25 – servants watching (or not), virgins with oil in their lamps (or not), parable of the talents all tell us to be conscientiously about the masters business
- Matt 26:29 – will drink wine new with you in my Father's kingdom.
- Luke 1:33 – Gabriel to Mary... he will reign forever on the throne of David
- Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since **that time the** kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.
- Luke 18:29 – personal sacrifices will be rewarded in the future Kingdom
- Luke 22: 29-30 – apostles will eat at King Jesus's table and judge the 12 tribes
- John 3:3-5 – must be born again to enter the Kingdom of God
- Acts 1:3 – During 40 days after the resurrection, Jesus explained the Kingdom
- Acts 8:12 – Philip preached the Kingdom
- Acts 14:22 – Paul said we must, through much tribulation, enter the (future) Kingdom
- Acts 19:8, 20:25 – Paul preached the Kingdom in Ephesus

## **PARTIAL KINGDOM OF GOD SCRIPTURE LIST - continued**

- Acts 28 23-31 – At the end of his life Paul preached the Kingdom in Rome
- Practices that will keep people from entering the Kingdom – 1 Cor. 16:9, 10; Eph 5:5
- Romans 8:17-21 - Creation longing for restoration. We are joint-heirs
- 1 Cor 15:24 – The reign of Messiah Jesus on earth is the Kingdom and he will deliver it to God after he has put down all opposition.
- 1 Cor 15:50 – We enter the Kingdom in our resurrected bodies.
- Phil 3:20-21 - our citizenship is in heaven
- Col. 1:13 – We have been given citizenship in the Kingdom
- 2 Thess 1:5 – In the Kingdom we will be rewarded for suffering for it
- 2 Tim 4:1 – Lord Jesus will judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. So his Kingdom is when he returns.
- Revelation - throughout the whole book. Some specifics: Rev 1:5, 6, 9; 2:26, 27; 3:21; 5:9, 10; 11:15-17; 20:1-6.

### **Old Testament (There are many, many more)**

- 2 Sam 7:12-14 – Nathan’s prophecy about David and his descendants
- Psalm 2 – all about Messiah
- Isa 2:2-3 – Zion exalted, many coming to worship, judge nations, beat swords into plowshares
- Isa 9:7 – read at Christmas... will reign of David’s throne forever
- Isa 11:1-11 - Root of Jesse ruling in righteousness. Wolf lie down with lamb, etc.
- Isa 25:6-9. Great feast in the Kingdom... death swallowed up, rejoicing in His salvation
- Isa 60:3-6, 10, 12-15. Israel exceedingly blessed, foreigners building Jerusalem, paying homage to the King, coming to worship
- Isa 65:20-21 there will be mortals and infants and aging
- Dan 2:44 – The end of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is the future Kingdom
- Dan 7:13-18, 27 – Son of man everlasting dominion over all kingdoms
- Jer 23:5 – Future righteous branch King from Davidic line
- Jef 30:10-11 - Time of Jacob’s trouble. The LORD will chastise them then destroy their enemies
- Ezek 34:12-15, 23-36 – All Israelites gathered back to the Land... safe, blessed... David their shepherd
- Ezek 36:22-24, 26-28, 35-36 – LORD says ‘for my sake I will gather Israel and forgive sins, put spirit in them, they will obey and be very blessed’
- Ezek 37:4-14, 21-22, 26-28 – All Israel brought home, one King, everlasting covenant
- Ezek 39:21-23, 25-29 – After final Gog-Magog battle, Israel brought back from captivity and blessed so that God’s name is glorified
- Amos 9:11-15 – Harvest so great that “the plowman shall overtake the reaper...”
- Micah 4:1-3, 7-8 – Nations coming to worship the God of Jacob on Mt. Zion... Israel’s dominion
- Zech 9:9-10 – King coming who will rule nations from Mt. Zion
- Zech 12:2-3 - All nations will gather against Jerusalem before the end of the age