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GRACE**

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The
Present Kingdom
in the
New Testament

(2020)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Present Kingdom in the New Testament.

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

Jesus did cast out demons, which means the Kingdom in focus here is the God's Kingdom existing on earth at the time of Jesus, but it is not a Kingdom of bricks and mortar or land, but of people who by faith believe in Christ and make him the King of their mind and heart.

- **Matthew 13:33:** He told them another parable. "*The kingdom of heaven* is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

For the woman to hide the leaven in a Kingdom it must be existing.

- **Matthew 13:38:** The field is the world, and *the good seed is the sons of the kingdom.* The weeds are the sons of the evil one,

The Kingdom Jesus refers to here, is the Kingdom of faithful believers worldwide (i.e., believers of the kingdom (the good seed) dwelling in the world (the field) (Matt. 13:38). Believers in all nations worldwide who by faith belong to the Lord Jesus Christ are Christ's Kingdom.

- **Matthew 13:41:** The Son of Man will send his angels, and they *will gather out of his kingdom* all causes of sin and all law-breakers,

For Jesus to send his angels, to gather out of his Kingdom all law-breakers, there must be a present Kingdom existing for them to come to.

- **Matthew 13:44:** *The kingdom of heaven* is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

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Since nothing will be hidden in the literal future millennial Kingdom, this verse shows that the Kingdom in focus is the present Kingdom of Christ on earth, made up of all those who by faith believe in him,

- **Matthew 13:47-48:** *the kingdom of heaven* is like a net thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age.

When Jesus returns, he is coming to harvest a Kingdom that already exists. It is after the harvesting of this present existing Kingdom of God that this present Kingdom age ends, and the glorious new future millennial Kingdom begins.

- **Matthew 18:23:** "Therefore *the kingdom of heaven* may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

In this parable Jesus is highlighting the importance of forgiveness. The Kingdom in focus here is the present Kingdom made up of all believers in all nations worldwide who by faith belong to the Lord Jesus.

- **Matthew 23:13:** "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut *the kingdom of heaven* in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.

It is the door (i.e., entry) to the present Kingdom that the scribes and Pharisees are shutting the Kingdom to, because they denied Jesus. The Kingdom in focus here is the present spiritual Kingdom, repentant sinners enter by faith.

- **Matthew 25:1:** "Then *the kingdom of heaven* will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

The fact the brides go out to meet the bridegroom when he returns, show that the Kingdom in focus here must already existing.

- **Mark 4:20:** But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.

This parable teaches Jesus sowed good seed (the Gospel) in the world, amongst all sorts of people, many receive the seed, but only those who hear the word, accept it and bear fruit are counted as good seed. This parable clearly refers to the present spiritual Kingdom of God existing now.

- **Mark 4:26-32:** And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

This parable shows that the Kingdom in focus is the present Kingdom, because there must be a Kingdom for the Sower to return to and harvest.

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

Jesus said, “if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you,” Jesus did cast out demons, which means the Kingdom of God has come, this of course refers to the present Kingdom of God, not the future millennial Kingdom yet to come.

- **Luke 13:20-24:** Jesus said, “To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened.”

Leaven in the Bible signifies sin, in this context, false and deceptive doctrines. The leaven is referred to as being hidden, because the people believing these erroneous doctrines are blind to the fact, they are following deceptive teaches and believing false doctrines. The Kingdom here must refer to the present Kingdom of God, for their will be no false and deceptive teachers in the future Millennial Kingdom.

2

- **Luke 17:20-21:** the Pharisees asked when would the kingdom of God come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, ²¹ nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

The words, “the Kingdom of God is in the midst of you,” refers to the present Kingdom of God. Jesus says, “it is in the midst of the Pharisees,” because he is the King of the Kingdom, and it is by faith in him a sinner enters the present Kingdom of all those in Christ.

- **Colossians 1:13-14:** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

This verse clearly shows that the kingdom in focus is not the future millennial age, but a Kingdom that already exists at this present time, which is the present spiritual Kingdom made up of faithful believers worldwide (i.e., believers of the kingdom (the good seed) dwelling in the world (the field) (Matt. 13:38).

- **Colossians 4:11:** and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, (unto the kingdom of God in KJV), and they have been a comfort to me.

Here the picture is of Justus working with Paul in the Kingdom of God existing in their present time.

The word Kingdom is used about 160 times in the New Testament, it often refers to the future Kingdom to come, but most of the time the focus is on the present Kingdom of God existing now. However, neither the New Testament, Jesus, the apostles, or Paul, give any detail concerning the Old Testament promise God made to Abraham concerning the Promised land of Canaan. The sole focus in every chapter of the New Testament is upon Christ and various features, details and events concerning him, and upon those who believe in him, and how they should behave.

NOTE: some hold to the belief that a person must have a clear understanding of the promise God made to Abraham concerning the promised land of Canaan before they can be saved and baptised, if this was true it would mean, there would be no point in giving a sinner seeking God the New Testament, because it does not contain any information concerning the promise God made to Abraham concerning the promised land of Canaan, and therefore, based upon this belief, the New Testament does not contain enough knowledge for a repentant sinner to be saved, which of course is a foolish statement (at least it is for me).

The following verses show that whoever believes in the Gospel of Salvation will be saved:

- **Mark 16:15-16:** Jesus said to the eleven disciples, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- **Romans 1:16:** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Jesus, the apostles, and Paul never taught the Old Testament promise God made to Abraham, which means two things:

1. The Gospel of salvation spoken of in these verses does not include this promise
2. Those who teach that a repentant sinner must understand this promise before being saved and water baptised are adding to the Gospel of salvation that Jesus, the apostles, and Paul taught.

Those who hold to this belief should consider the following words of Paul:

- There are some who distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:7-9).

PLEASE NOTE: I am not saying, the Promise God made to Abraham has no value for us today, rather the opposite, those who fully understand it are truly blessed, all I am saying, is that understanding it is not a requirement for salvation and water baptism.

THE PRINCIPLE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

A sinner would hear the Gospel of salvation that Jesus, the apostles, and Paul taught, be convicted, repent, and accept Christ as their Saviour and be water baptised. After this glorious event, they would continue in fellowship with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and learn the Scriptures together growing in greater knowledge of God, the fruits of the Spirit and in maturity.

For greater information, see the title:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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