

## The Kingdom of God — What is it?

In Greek it's *basileia*. Strong's Concordance calls it the rule and reign of God. There is no beginning or end to his kingdom. It is eternal, yet here on earth it is framed by the first and second coming of Christ. The kingdom of God is huge--its magnitude is beyond our imagination. It's powerful, unshakeable, a worldwide kingdom liberating us from bondage and captivity and setting us free in the power and presence of God.

Many think of the kingdom of God as something to come in the future, yet Jesus said the kingdom of God is at hand (KJV) or near in NIV. It's not just a future thing. It's a present reality. Scripture says God will give us the keys to it and that it's advancing forcefully and powerful men take hold of it.

### Matthew 16:19

*"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

We need to share not only the kingdom, but the gospel message and its dual provision that Jesus' death brought us deliverance not only from our sins, but from our sicknesses and diseases. When they referred to being saved in the New Testament, it meant much more than it means to many of us today. We think of it as having eternal life in heaven with God. But Strong's Concordance describes it more fully:

\*Strong's Concordance G4982 saved, *sozo*- to save, deliver, protect, heal, preserve, do well, be made whole (same root as *soteria* 4991, rescue, safety, deliverance, health, salvation) Listen to how it changes scripture when you proclaim it fully.

### Romans 10:8-13

*"The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved\*. (delivered, protected, healed, preserved, be blessed to do well and be made whole) For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (delivered, protected, healed, preserved, be blessed to do well and be made whole) "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (delivered, protected, healed, preserved, be blessed to do well and be made whole)*

### The scriptures instruct us to proclaim the full message.

### Matthew 28:19-20a

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

### Romans 15:17-19

*Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done—by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.*

### Acts 5:20

*"Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."*

**Acts 4:19-20** (Speaking to the rulers, elders and teachers of the law after being jailed for proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead and having been instructed not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus)

*But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."*

**Acts 20:25-27** (Paul, toward the end of his missionary journey)

*Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will (determined resolve and purpose) of God.*

Not only do we need to witness to the truth of both the gospel and the kingdom of God, but we are instructed to do it boldly.

**Acts 4:29-31** (the disciples' prayer on Peter's release from jail as above)

*Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

**Acts 13:46**

*Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.*

**Acts 14:3**

*So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.*

**Acts 28:31** (Paul in Rome)

*Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Ephesians 6:19-20**

*Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

Looking back through the scriptures we've read, what are we proclaiming? That the kingdom is near, the full message of this new life, and the whole will of God.

When we don't proclaim the full message of the good news, it's like opening a gift, taking out only the first half of the gift and leaving the rest in the box, untouched. If we don't open and take out the rest of the gift, we miss out. The gospel is more than just eternal life for the future. It's the Lord's help in living our life in victory every day.

**We must also combine this full message with faith.**

**Romans 4:16**

*Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.*

### Hebrews 4:2

*For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.*

**Yes, we are to proclaim a complete gospel message & we are to proclaim it boldly.**

The good news is: it isn't our responsibility to convert, convict or make a decision for anyone or to judge whether they or not someone believes. That's the work of God and the Holy Spirit. But we must proclaim. We must say. We must witness or their blood is on our hands. (**Ezekiel 3:18-19**)

**The Kingdom of God is not life as usual. It's LIFE full of supernatural power, the power of the Holy Spirit!**