

## **Understanding what the terms “Kingdom of God” and “Kingdom of Heaven” mean in the New Testament**

The Greek word translated “kingdom” is βασιλεία {bä-sē-lā'-ä} which denotes all that recognize the dominion of a ruler. That ruler may be a person or a system of law or truth. It is derived from the Greek word βάσις {bä'-sēs} which means the foot or foundation on which one stands.

Living in the Kingdom of God, means living by the LORD’s revealed truth and authority.

In the Old Testament and the ancient world, the foot was the symbol of conquest or rule:

Psalms 8:6 “You made him (the Messiah) ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:”

Psalms 18:9 “He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet.”

Zechariah 14:4 “On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem.”

1 Corinthians 15:25-27 “For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he ‘has put everything under his feet.’”

Ephesians 1:22 “And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church.”

Falling at Jesus’ or someone else’s feet meant you recognized their authority.

In the story where Jesus walked on the water, it was a figure of the coming crucifixion and death of Christ.

Matthew 14:22-31 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

This was a clear foreshadowing of the Cross exactly one year later. In this passage, after breaking bread (a foreshadowing of the Last Supper), Jesus left the disciples alone and they had

to deal with the storm alone for three watches (a foreshadowing of the days Jesus was in the grave). Jesus came to them walking on the water. Since deep water or the sea is often used as a figure for judgment, Jesus' walking on it was a figure of the fact that when He came back to them after the grave, He would have conquered the judgment of death. Added to the story is the fact that Peter asserted the superiority of his faith and tried to come to Jesus on the water. He failed just as he did one year later when he asserted that though all else would abandon Jesus, he never would. Then he also failed when he denied Jesus. In both cases Jesus rescued him!

A βασιλεία {bä-sē-lā'-ä} does not necessarily refer to territory, but rather to adherents. The Kingdom of Heaven, or the Kingdom of God which Jesus brought was the presentation of Himself as the one to whom worship and obedience was due.

His death on the Cross was a presentation of His resume. It was quite different from the world's concept of a King as Jesus pointed out in Mark 10:42-45 "Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

As Jesus explained to Pontius Pilate in John:

**John 18:36-37 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."**

He also explained to the Pharisees:

**Luke 17:20-21 Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the Kingdom of God is within you."**

Below I have listed the occurrences of the phrases Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of God.

Here are two of the many parallel scriptures which demonstrate the terms Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of God are meant to refer to the same thing:

Matthew 13:31 He told them another parable: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

Mark 4:30 Again he said, “What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground.

Luke 13:18-21 Then Jesus asked, “What is the Kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches.”

In light of the verses below, I will leave it to you to consider how the phrase should be interpreted in each passage. Sometimes it referred to a truth of God that referred to the present, sometimes it referred a truth of God that referred to the past, and sometimes it referred a truth of God that referred to the future. However, it is clear to me that we are currently living in the Kingdom of God which is the Kingdom of Heaven.

### ***Kingdom of Heaven (only in Matthew)***

Matthew 3:1-2 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near” (*at hand or close enough to be grasped*).

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near” (*at hand or close enough to be grasped*).

Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” (*present tense*)

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven (*present tense*).

Matthew 5:19-20 Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the Kingdom of Heaven (*the Kingdom of Heaven requires submission to the truth of God*).

Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven” (*the Kingdom of Heaven requires submission to the truth of God*).

Matthew 8:11-12 “I (*Jesus*) say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (*part of God’s truth refers to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb*).

Matthew 10:6-7 “Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is near.’” *(at hand or close enough to be grasped)*.

Matthew 11:11-12 I (*Jesus*) tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force *(violence was being done to the truth of God)*.

Matthew 13:11 He (*Jesus*) replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven has been given to you, but not to them *(only those who believed in Christ could begin to understand God’s truth)*.”

Matthew 13:24 Jesus told them another parable: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field *(part of God’s truth was thus illustrated)*.”

Matthew 13:31 He told them another parable: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field *(part of God’s truth was thus illustrated)*.”

Matthew 13:33 He told them still another parable: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like leaven that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough” *(part of God’s truth was thus illustrated)*.

Matthew 13:44-48 “The Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. “Once again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away” *(part of God’s truth was thus illustrated)*.

Matthew 13:52 He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the Kingdom of Heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old” *(God’s truth had new treasures)*.

Matthew 16:19 “I (*Jesus*) will give you (*Peter*) the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; whatever you bind on earth has been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth has been loosed in heaven” *(those who understood and relied on God’s truth would never be disappointed)*.

Matthew 18:1-4 “At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?” He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the

Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.” *(God’s truth cannot be understood apart from humility)*.

Matthew 18:23-35 “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart” *(part of God’s truth was thus illustrated)*.

Matthew 19:12 “For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the Kingdom of Heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it” *(part of God’s truth was thus illustrated)*.

Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.” *(God’s truth cannot be understood apart from humility)*.

Matthew 19:23-24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God” *(God’s truth cannot be understood apart from humility and the rich tend to be arrogant)*.

Matthew 20:1-16 “For the Kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. “About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. “He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the

workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ “The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These men who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ “But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” (*part of God’s truth was thus illustrated*).

Matthew 22:1-2 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son” (*part of God’s truth was thus illustrated*).

Matthew 23:13 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the Kingdom of Heaven in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to” (*the Pharisees obscured God’s truth*).

Matthew 25:1-2 “At that time the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. (*part of God’s truth was thus illustrated*).

### **Kingdom of God**

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (*seek the wisdom of God and His righteousness by faith*).

Matthew 12:28 But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you” (*it was at hand or close enough to be grasped*).

Matthew 19:23-24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God” (*God’s truth cannot be understood apart from humility and the rich tend to be arrogant*).

Matthew 21:31 “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God ahead of you (*the Pharisees*)” (*the Pharisees were arrogant and self-righteous. It was a barrier to their understanding God*).

Matthew 21:42-43 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ““The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our

eyes’? “Therefore I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit (*the responsibility for teaching the truth would be given to the Church*).

Mark 1:14-15 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” (*the fulfillment of the truths of God was at hand*).

Mark 4:11 He told them, “The secret of the Kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables (*only those who believed in Christ could begin to understand God’s truth*).

Mark 4:26 He also said, “This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground” (*part of God’s truth was thus illustrated*).

Mark 4:30 Again he said, “What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground (*part of God’s truth was thus illustrated*).

Mark 9:1 And he said to them, “I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power” (*Peter, James, and John would soon see Jesus transfigured and hear the Father*).

Mark 9:47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the Kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell (*part of God’s truth was thus illustrated*).

Mark 10:14-15 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it” (*God’s truth cannot be understood apart from humility*).

Mark 10:23-25 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God” (*God’s truth cannot be understood apart from humility and the rich tend to be arrogant*).

Mark 12:34 When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God” (*true wisdom is encompassed in the Kingdom of God*).

Mark 14:24-25 “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. “I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I

drink it anew in the Kingdom of God<sup>1</sup> (*the core of God's truth and authority would be accomplished on the Cross*).

Mark 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the Kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body (*he was waiting for the fulfillment of God's Word*).

Luke 4:42-43 At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said, "I must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." (*Jesus was the Living Word*).

Luke 6:20 Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God" (*present tense showing that the Kingdom of God was available to them in the present*).

Luke 7:28 I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he" (*present tense*).

Luke 8:1a After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God. (*He proclaimed the truth*)

Luke 8:10 He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of God has been given to you (*believers*), but to others I speak in parables, so that, "“though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand”" (*only those who believed in Christ could begin to understand God's truth*).

Luke 9:1-2 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick" (*the Kingdom of God is the content of His authority and truth from beginning to end.*)

Luke 9:11 The crowds --- followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the Kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

Luke 9:27 "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God" (*Peter, James, and John would soon see Jesus transfigured and hear the Father*).

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<sup>1</sup> This was to be a sign to His disciples, if they would believe, of when the Kingdom of God had been won. When He next drank, just before He died, it had been won. Also see, Luke 22:18 Matthew 26:29.

Luke 9:60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the Kingdom of God.” *(go and preach God’s truth)*

Luke 9:62 Jesus replied, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God.”

Luke 10:8-11 “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The Kingdom of God is near you.’ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The Kingdom of God is near.’” *(the fulfillment of God’s truth was near)*

Luke 11:20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the Kingdom of God has come to you.

Luke 13:18-21 Then Jesus asked, “What is the Kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches.” Again he asked, “What shall I compare the Kingdom of God to? It is like yeast leaven that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.” *(part of God’s truth was thus illustrated).*

Luke 13:26-30 “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’ “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the Kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.” *(part of God’s truth refers to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb).*

Luke 16:16 “The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the Kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.<sup>2</sup> *(violence was being done to the truth of God).*

Luke 17:20-21 Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the Kingdom of God is within you” *(the Kingdom of God which is the truth of God is spiritual, not material).*

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<sup>2</sup> *This is not about people trying to enter the Kingdom through the Gate of Christ, but to storm the wall, enter it and defeat it. In other words, when the word of God arises forcefully, the force of this world will be forcefully brought against it. John preached the Kingdom and was imprisoned and executed. Jesus has been preaching the Kingdom, and now they are trying to kill Him.*

Luke 18:16-17 But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it” (*God’s truth cannot be understood apart from humility*).

Luke 18:24-25 Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God” (*God’s truth cannot be understood apart from humility and the rich tend to be arrogant*).

Luke 18:29-30 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the Kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life” (*though the Kingdom of God is Spiritual, it will have material rewards*).

Luke 21:31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the Kingdom of God is near (*the fulfillment of the promises of God’s Word*).

Luke 22:15-18 And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover <sup>3</sup> with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again <sup>4</sup> until it finds fulfillment in the Kingdom of God.” After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the Kingdom of God comes.”<sup>5</sup> (*the core of God’s truth and authority would be accomplished on the Cross*).

Luke 23:50-51 Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God (*he was waiting for the fulfillment of God’s Word*).

John 3:3 In reply (*to Nicodemus*) Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again.”<sup>6</sup> (*God’s whole truth cannot be understood apart from faith in Christ*).

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<sup>3</sup> This was not the dinner in which the Passover Lamb was eaten which was prepared at twilight of the Passover (14 Nisan) and eaten at the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (15 Nisan). It was the dinner eaten at the beginning of 14 Nisan after twilight. As such it was a Passover dinner. The next one, the main one would be eaten the next night.

<sup>4</sup> The next Passover dinner would be the next night. Jesus was prophesying His own death before then.

<sup>5</sup> This was to be a sign to His disciples, if they would believe, of when the Kingdom of God had been won. When He next drank, just before He died, it had been won.

<sup>6</sup> The concept of a spiritual birth is taught in Psalm 87.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit (*God’s whole truth cannot be understood apart from the Holy Spirit*).

Acts 1:3 After his suffering, he (*Jesus*) showed himself to these men (*His disciples*) and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God. (*Jesus revealed more of God’s Word*).

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women (*the name of Jesus is the good news of the Kingdom of God*).

Acts 14:21-22 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God,” they said (*living by God’s truth involves suffering*).

Acts 19:8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God.

Acts 28:23 They (*the Jews of Rome*) arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the Kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

Acts 28:30-31 For two whole years Paul stayed there in (*in Rome*) his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 14:17-18 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men (*the Kingdom of God is a way of thinking and a way of living based on God’s truth*).

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power (*God’s truth is real power*).

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the Kingdom of God (*anyone living a wicked life has separated themselves from God’s truth*).

1 Corinthians 15:50 I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the *corruptible*<sup>7</sup> inherit the *incorruptible*.<sup>8</sup> (*the Kingdom of God is Spiritual*)

Galatians 5:19-21 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God (*anyone living a wicked life has separated themselves from God's truth*)..

Colossians 4:11 Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the Kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5 Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the Kingdom of God, for which you are suffering (*living by God's truth involves suffering*)..

### **His or Your Kingdom**

Matthew 6:9-10 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 9:35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

Matthew 13:18-19 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.

Matthew 16:28 “I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom” (*Peter, James, and John would soon see Jesus transfigured and hear the Father*).

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<sup>7</sup> The Greek word here is the adjective **φθαρτός** {fthär-to's} which is derived from the Greek verb **φθείρω** {fthä'-rō} which clearly speaks of corruption as in the sense of 2 Corinthians 11:3 “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be corrupted {φθείρω} from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

<sup>8</sup> The Greek word here is the noun **αφθαρτός** {ä'-fthär-to's} which is the negative of **φθαρτός** {fthär-to's}.

Matthew 25:34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. *(part of the truth of God’s Kingdom is the promise of eternal rewards).*”

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. *(the Gospel of the Kingdom includes all of God’s truth, it is all “Good News.”)*

Matthew 26:29 I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew new with you in my Father’s kingdom” *(the core of God’s truth and authority would be accomplished on the Cross).*

### **An Erroneous View of the Kingdom**

Matthew 20:20-21 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. “What is it you want?” he asked. She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.”

### **Mistaken Ideas of Others**

Luke 19:11 While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the Kingdom of God was going to appear at once.

### **Other Kingdoms**

Luke 4:5-7 The devil led him (*Jesus*) up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours.” *(Satan’s kingdom also includes a system of authority and wisdom).*

Matthew 4:8-9 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” *(Satan’s kingdom)*

Matthew 12:25-26 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? *(Satan’s kingdom)*

Mark 3:23-24 So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.