

# The God who is KING

## Definitions:

Kingdom of God : synonymous to “kingdom of heaven” in Matt.  
“God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule (and blessing)”

## The kingdom of God

(Resource: God’s big picture by Vaughan Roberts)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Old Testament</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The pattern of the kingdom</li><li>2. The perished kingdom</li><li>3. The promised kingdom</li><li>4. The partial kingdom</li><li>5. The prophesied kingdom</li></ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The New Testament</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. The present kingdom</li><li>7. The proclaimed kingdom</li><li>8. The perfected kingdom</li></ol>
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### 1. The pattern of the kingdom

#### **Gen 1-2**

God is the creator of all things. Therefore He is the rightful Lord and King of everything He has made. The only proper response is to acknowledge His rule and worship Him. (**Psalm 95:3-7**), (**Rev. 4:11**)

Humans are made in the image of God. We reflect something of God’s nature in a way that nothing else in creation does. Therefore we have also been set above the rest of the created order with responsibility for it. If God is the King, we are His stewards. Also entrusted with the care and rule of His creation. (**Gen 1:26**)

### 2. The perished kingdom

**Gen 3** tells the sad story of how God’s perfect creation is corrupted.

God exercised his rule in the garden through His word and that is where Satan directs his attack : “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” (**Gen 3:1**)  
Then in verse 4 he questions God’s word: “You will not surely die.”

It is wrong because God told them not to; it was an act of blatant disobedience. 'knowledge of good and evil' refers not simply to knowing what is right and wrong, but rather to deciding what is right and wrong. Their sin is that of law-making, not just law-breaking. They were usurping his authority and establishing their independence. That has been the nature of sin ever since.

Relationships are broken on all levels. Between man and woman, between humans and God. Ever since the fall, all human beings have been born facing the same predicament as Adam and Eve: spiritual and physical death because of the rebellion of our ancestors. The tower of Babel is a vivid symbol of our sinful desire to exalt ourselves and create our own kingdom independently of God. But he will not ignore such arrogance. Human beings are now divided not just from God but from one another.

### 3. The promised kingdom

**(Eph 1:3-6)**

→ What is striking about this fulfilled promise in Christ? From eternity to eternity. From before creation to after it's end. The eternal plan of God in His complete sovereignty.

From before the creation, God has had a plan to put the world right by re-establishing his kingdom through his Son, the Lord Jesus, so that once more he is glorified.



This promised kingdom is enacted through God's covenant (a theme we looked at 2 weeks ago). Notably through the covenant with Abraham where God promises to bring back the scattered people of the world and bless them once more. It is a reverse of the effect of the fall. **(Gen 12:1-3)**

### 4. The partial kingdom

The 3 previous kingdoms were mostly about the Genesis.

There are four main elements to the promise of the kingdom of God. We have seen three of them already: people, land and blessing. A fourth is added later: the promise of a king.

Goal : to see how God's promise of the kingdom is **partially** fulfilled in the history of Israel.

The partial kingdom is just a shadow of the perfect kingdom to come.

God's people	Genesis 12 to Exodus 18
God's rule and blessing	Exodus 19 to Leviticus
God's place/land	Numbers to Joshua
God's king	Judges to 2 Chronicles

**God's promise of a people:**

**(Gen 12:2), (Exo 6:7)**

We discover more of God's character as a King through:

- Abraham and Isaac : A miracle through a barren womb.
- Jacob and Esau: God does not choose people upon merit.
- Joseph: God is always in control.

- Moses : “I am who I am” - God is the hero from the beginning to the end.
- Israel : God is not just a God who delivers; he is also a God who draws near.

### God's promise of a place:

(Gen 12:7)

- The promised land:
  - Initial ingratitude and unbelief from the people causes a delay.
  - Joshua and the conquest: God is mighty. A King that fights their battles and gives them victory. **(Deut 9:4-5)**
  - Time of rest: **(Joshua 21:43-45)**

### God's promise of a rule and blessing:

(Gen 12:2)

- God's law : it enables life and blessing. Obedience is not a desperate attempt to salvation but a response to the salvation which has already been achieved.
- God's presence : (tabernacle, ark, pillar of fire and smoke) The purpose is a restored relationship. He will provide, watch over them, comfort them.
- Blessings and curses: **(Deuteronomy 28)**. If they obey they will be blessed, and if not curses will come upon them.

### God's promise of a king:

(Deut 17:14-15)

Before the Israelites entered the land, God planned that they should be governed by a king. This king was not to be an authority separate from God, but would rule under God, submitting to him and his law.

- Judges: a cycle of sin (rebellion against God's rule) and grace.
- 1 Samuel : A false start. King Saul. They want a king instead of God rather than a king under God. Rejection of God's kingship.
- 2 Sam : David's reign. A king and man after God's own heart. David rules under God. One who is greater than David is prophesied (**2 Sam 7:9-16**).
- 1 Kings 1-11: Solomon and the golden age.
- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 2 : General direction of the kings is downwards.
- Wisdom books : How life should be lived in the kingdom.

## 5. The prophesied kingdom

God uses prophets as His mouthpieces to proclaim His word to the people.

Main themes: Hope and judgement.

- a. Judgement through the historical events that God's people go through. Shows that God has not changed. God of infinite love but also a holy God.
- b. Hope : God will not rebuild the partial kingdom but will establish something better, the perfect kingdom.

### God's people

- The remnant: judgement but not total destruction. **(Isa 10:20-21)**
- A new exodus : fulfilled by “the servant”. **(Isa 53:5-6)**
- A servant to the nations: **(Isa 49:6)**

### God's place

- A new temple: from the book of **Ezekiel**.
- A new creation: (**Isa 65 17-18**)

### God's rule and blessing

- A new covenant : (**Jerem 31:31**) Promises are not abandoned. Rather the making of an unbreakable covenant. Inaugurated at the last supper. (**Luke 22:20**)
- A new king: The son of David. (**Isa 9:6-7**) The son of man (**Dan 7:13-14**)
- A great blessing: Return to the blessings of Eden. (**Amos 9:13-14**)

### **Return from the exile**

After the return of the remnants, a restoration of the nation begins but it's not quite what was prophesied. Some promises have been fulfilled (or partly) but it's clear that the complete fulfilment has not yet arrived. (**Nehemiah, Ezra,**)

## 6. The present kingdom

**Matthew** records the genealogy of the Jesus Christ, son of David, as He fulfils the promises of the OT. The kingdom of God is an expression used often by Jesus Christ to sum up the fulfilment of the promises and the prophetic hope.

All the promises of the kingdom of God are fulfilled in Christ, He is God's people, place and rule.

### God's people (Jesus):

- The true Adam: (**Rom 5:19**)
- The true Israel: Jesus is also tempted in the wilderness but does not fall. Choice of 12 disciples for the calling of a new Israel.

### God's place (Jesus):

- The true temple/tabernacle: the place where we may enter perfectly into God's presence. (**John 2:19**)

### God's rule or blessing (Jesus):

- The new covenant: He does not abolish the law but fulfil it. Christ through his death is the mediator of the new covenant. (**Heb 9:15**)
- The new king: just a prophesied to be a descendant of David. He is king not only through the Davidic lineage but also as the son of God.
- The source of blessing: Rest was the goal of God's creation and Jesus fulfils (**Matt 11:28**). He is the resurrection of which if we trust, we too can pass from death to life.
- The cross: no tragic failure; it is a triumphant success. He fulfils the perfect sacrifice which was required for the cleansing of sin.

The Gospels:

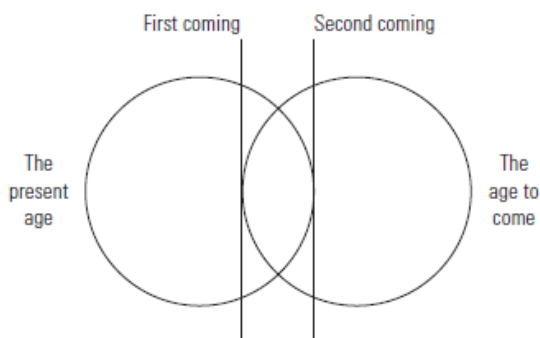
Complementary accounts of what Jesus said and did.

- **Matthew**: Jesus is the Christ of the Old Testament Scriptures
- **Mark**: Jesus is the Suffering Servant who calls us to suffer too
- **Luke**: Jesus is the Saviour of the world
- **John**: Jesus is the Son of God who gives eternal life

## 7. The proclaimed kingdom

Many still did not understand that Christ was the prophesied King until He rose again on the first Easter day and proved He is the Messiah. Jesus tells us to be ready until the 2nd coming.

The proclaimed kingdom is an overlap between the present and perfected kingdom. The now and not yet:



It is the proclaimed kingdom because during this time the gospel needs to be heard by many people. It is the age of Gospel proclamation to all the nations. **(Mark 16:15)**

The kingdom of God spreads as the Spirit works through the proclamation of the gospel.

### **God's people:**

- Church: is the new Israel. **(1 Peter 2:9)** A circumcision of the heart is necessary.

### **God's place:**

- A holy people: Jesus has ascended to heaven but has sent the Holy Spirit. He lives within us individually. He also lives within our Christian community **(Eph 2:20-21)**

### **God's rule and blessing:**

- New covenant and Holy Spirit. We can enjoy a new covenant with the presence of the Holy Spirit to help us to live up to God's standard. **(Rom 7:6)**

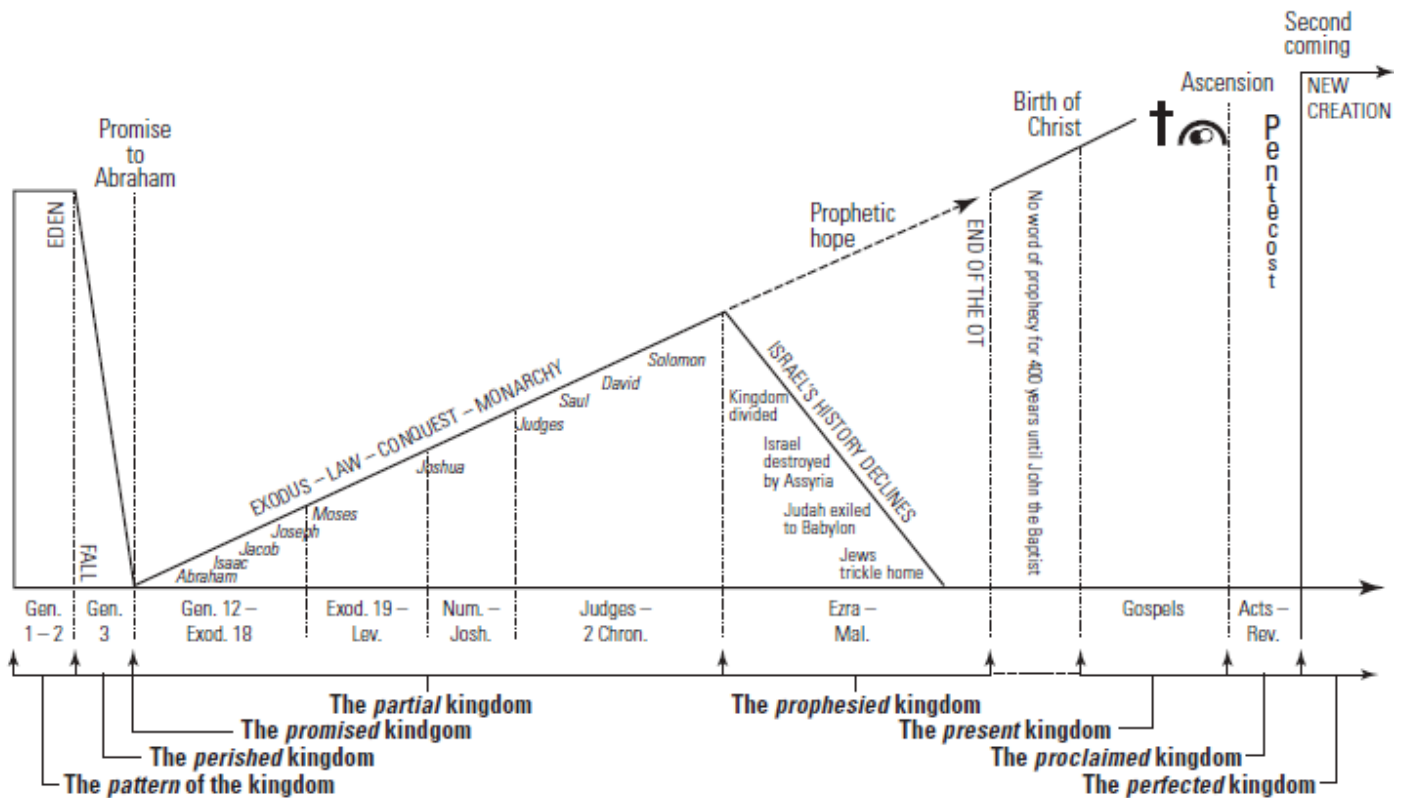
The Christian experience is one of joy (now) as well as frustration (not yet). We have a taste of heaven and earth. **(Romans 8:23)**. The Christian life is hard work it is a fight and a race.

## 8. The perfected kingdom

Just as Jesus fulfilled His promise in the first coming so he will fulfil his promise about the second coming. John gives us hope through the book of **Revelation**. It has multiple visions that are designed to strengthen believers to persevere despite the suffering. We are invited to look from our present world to his future kingdom.

**(Rev 22:1-5)**

## 9. Annex



The kingdom of God	The pattern of the kingdom	The perished kingdom	The promised kingdom	The partial kingdom	The prophesied kingdom	The present kingdom	The proclaimed kingdom	The perfected kingdom
<b>God's people</b>	Adam and Eve	No-one	Abraham's descendants	The Israelites	Remnant of Israel; inclusion of nations	<i>Jesus Christ:</i> new Adam; new Israel	The new Israel: Jew and Gentile believers in Christ	Multi-national family of God
<b>God's place</b>	The garden	Banished	Canaan	Canaan (and Jerusalem and temple)	New temple; new creation	<i>Jesus Christ:</i> true tabernacle; true temple	The individual believer; the church	New creation, new Jerusalem, new temple
<b>God's rule and blessing</b>	God's word; perfect relationships	Disobedience and curse	Blessing to Israel and the nations	The law and the king	New covenant; new king; great blessing	<i>Jesus Christ:</i> new covenant; rest	New covenant; Holy Spirit	Throne of God and the Lamb; perfect blessing