

## Week 4

### The Kingdom in the New Testament (2)

Morpheus 50-71

#### THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM

1. The Kingdom is coming immediately
  - The Kingdom is here now; the Kingdom will come in the future – a mystery. *Mark 1:15*
  - Jesus also said the Kingdom was - upon you; at hand; near. Mark 1: 15 "The time has come," He said. "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news." (NIV) *Matt 10:23*  
*Mark 9:1*  
*Luke 21:32*
  - Jesus told his disciples the Kingdom would come in their generation. "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened."
  - As a result some writers have felt that statements about the Kingdom being present are a misunderstanding of Jesus' words. *Matt 21 - 25*
  
2. The Kingdom will be delayed
  - Jesus taught in his great discourse on the end times in Matt 21 – 25 that the Kingdom of God will be delayed.
  - The son of Man will come after the Tribulation.
  - We have to believe without fully understanding. The four truths are true simultaneously. The Kingdom is present; near; delayed; future. Jesus taught all of these.
  - Some scholars and theologians cannot handle this. They think it must be one or another. So they have developed a Theology of Delay – "the disciples were mistaken." There is no textual basis for this stance.
  - We need prophetic insight to understand!
  
3. The mystery of the kingdom
  - No one but the Father knows the time.
  - OT prophecies were often immediate and future.
  - We must hold to the four contradictory strands – the Kingdom is future, immediate, present and delayed.
  - The Kingdom breaks through from the future into the present in successive interventions of God.
  - Two ages co-exist – the Already and the Not Yet
  - Victory in Europe was assured at D-Day but not won until VE-Day.

4. Fulfilment without consummation
  - Expectations of Isaiah and Daniel are one
  - The full revelation of the Kingdom as in Isaiah will only come at the second coming
  - But, in Jesus every element of the Kingdom broke through, in fulfilment yet not in consummation
  - In a sense the Day of Judgement has already taken place although it is still to come
  - Jesus is the eschatos; the Alpha and the Omega; the beginning and the end. Present at the Creation; present at the end.
  
5. Major issues
  - Two ages co-exist – the Already and the Not Yet
  - The Victory is already won
  
6. Importance
  - The mystery of the Kingdom is the key to understanding the New Testament and the Christian life
  - The only way we can understand why healing occurs sometimes and not others
  - It is the basis of the experience of the Christian in this world – we are a glorious contradiction
  - The Church militant and frail – the powers of the age to come are overcoming the powers of this age
  - The mystery of the Kingdom is the key to evaluating doctrinal & practical issues in the Church

## THE CENTRALITY OF CHRIST

1. The Ministry of Christ – The beginning of the end
  - Mission Statement (Luke 4:18,19)
    - Jesus was anointed as king, divine mandate
    - Good news to the poor
    - Release for captives
    - Healing from disease
  - Jesus was probably not the first to claim that these words applied to him, but he said it with uncommon conviction
  - 'Believe in the good news' (Mark 1:14-15)
  - Consolation of Israel (Luke 2:25-32, 38)
  - Salvation and peace
  - Jesus was the last word
  - A king like David
  - Bringing in the gentiles

2. The Cross
  - Jesus' time on earth was the 'year of the Lord's favour'
  - There remained a day of vengeance (Isaiah 61:2)
  - Jesus drank the cup of God's anger (Luke 22:42)
  - There is nothing left to fear
  
3. Resurrection
  - Death is entirely natural
  - Jesus' nature was not to die
  - The kingdom coming brings the future into the present; the resurrection takes the present into the future.
  
4. Pentecost
  - The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is unexpected and hard to ignore
  - The coming kingdom finds a way in to the one going
  - First instalment
  - Empowering for service

#### THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE KINGDOM

1. Understanding the eschaton and what it means in terms of
  - The Divinity of Christ
  - Our surety of the future
  - The last days
  
2. What happens when the Kingdom breaks in
  - Eschatological interventions
  - The elements
  - The barrier
  
3. Using the Kingdom of God as a framework for understanding:
  - Church history and accelerating interventions
  - Evangelism/World missions
  - Christian Life
  - Healing
  - The relationship between church and society
  
4. So what!!!!