

## 1. Overview

### The Kingdom of God and Divine Healing

Best & David, *Kingdom II*, 1-28; Wimber, *Power Healing*, 1-33, 39-41.

1. **Course introduction and objectives**
  - **Overview: Healing flows from the compassion of God, operating naturally out of our relationship with Him through Jesus, as part of his Kingdom coming on earth. Jesus healed people 2000 years ago, and he hasn't stopped yet!**
  
  - **What do we want to accomplish?**
    - To get a good scriptural basis for doing and sharing the words and works of Jesus about healing
    - To train believers to pray for the sick and to teach others to do the same
    - To heal sick people!
  
2. **What is 'divine healing'?**
  - **Defined:** Intervention by God himself, through his own Son and Messiah Jesus, to accomplish spiritual, mental and physical healing.
  
  - **Different from:**
    - 'Mind over matter'
    - 'Miracle' healing
    - 'Faith' healing
    - 'Psychic' or 'spiritist' healing
  
  - **Not antagonistic to medical science**
  
3. **Healing is an important part of the coming of God's Kingdom.**
  - **The 'Kingdom of God' was the central theme of Jesus's message and practice** (126 references to it in the Gospels).
    - 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!"

Strong's Number:	832	<a href="#">Browse Lexicon</a>
Original Word	Word Origin	
βασίλεια	from (835)	
Transliterated Word	BIBLI Entry	
Basileia	1:570,97	
Phonetic Spelling	Parts of Speech	
bas-ī-lē'-ah	Noun Feminine	
<b>Definition</b>		

1. royal power, kingship, dominion, rule
  - a. not to be confused with an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom
  - b. of the royal power of Jesus as the triumphant Messiah
  - c. of the royal power and dignity conferred on Christians in the Messiah's kingdom.
2. a kingdom, the territory subject to the rule of a king.
3. used in the N.T. to refer to the reign of the Messiah.

- **The Kingdom of God is not just a physical location (heaven) or a future time, but wherever God's sovereignty, authority, rule, and reign exist, including in our present age.**
  - 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.'"
  
- **Jesus gave us different 'pictures' of the Kingdom, as a future heaven, an internal spiritual reality, and also as a present and physical reality.**
  - Matthew 13: Sower, weeds, mustard seed, hidden treasure, pearls, net.
  - Luke 13:29: "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."
  - 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."
  
- **Jesus and his ministry of rescue and reconciliation are the best reflection of the will, i.e., the Kingdom, of God.**
  - John 14:9: "Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."
  
- **Healing is an important and ongoing part of the advancing of the Kingdom of God in our age. As with evangelism and prophecy, we are all called to proclaim and demonstrate the Kingdom through healing.**
  - Matthew 9:2-8: Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." And the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.
  - Luke 11:20-22: "But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But

when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armour in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.”

- 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.
- Luke 10:1-2, 9: After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ... Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'"

4.

#### Why do we seem to see very little divine healing?

- **Secularisation:** the view that there's no God, or that everything happens without God's involvement or intervention.
- **Materialism:** the view that nothing 'supernatural' exists, only matter and its movements and modifications. Carried to its logical conclusion, materialism denies the existence of God and the soul.
- **Rationalism:** the view that human reason, or understanding, is the only source and final test of all truth. Carried to its logical conclusion, rationalism declares faith in God invalid.
- **Faulty logic:** the view that mistakes in particular practices (ministry style) or in parts of doctrines ('confession/possession') invalidate the truth of the overall doctrine (Kingdom/healing) or other doctrines (atonement of Christ).
- **Spiritism:** the view that there is a spiritual existence outside our material and rational existence, but that there is no difference between the Spirit of God (Jesus) or other spirits or 'forces'.

*It is the same with prophecies, miracles, divination by dreams, sorceries, &c. For if there had been nothing true in all this, men would have believed nothing of them; and thus, instead of concluding that there are no true miracles because there are so many false, we must, on the contrary, say that there certainly are true miracles, since there are false, and that there are false miracles only because some are true. We must reason in the same way about religion; for it would not be possible that men should have imagined so many false religions, if there had not been a true one.*

Blaise Pascal (1623-1662),  
*Thoughts [Pensées]*, Harvard  
Classics (1909-14 ed.), p. 818

5. **We are called to proclaim the words and do the works of Jesus.**
  1. **Jesus' proclamation and demonstration of the Kingdom provide our marching orders and model for ministry, including healing the sick.**
    - Mark 16:15-18: "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons . . . they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."
    - Matthew 28:19-20: "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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
  2. **It's a proclamation and demonstration of rescue and reconciliation.**
    - Luke 19:10: For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."
    - Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."
    - 1 John 3:8: The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.
    - 2 Corinthians 5:18-19: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.
  3. **It's a conflict with the spirit of this age, destroying the 'work of the devil' in the power of the Holy Spirit.**
    - Acts 10:37-38: You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.
    - 1 John 3:8; Luke 11:20-22

6. **Reasons for divine healing**

**Jesus healed and continues to heal for several reasons He himself disclosed, which remain valid today:**

– **Demonstrating Christ's compassion and mercy**

Matthew 14:14: When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (See also Matthew 20:34; Mark 1:41)

– **Bearing witness to the truth of Christ's claims about himself**

Matthew 8:14-17: When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases." (See also Luke 5:18-26)

– **Demonstrating that God's Kingdom has arrived**

Matthew 4:23: Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

– **Showing that Jesus was the one promised by the Father**

Matthew 11:2-6: When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

– **Showing that salvation was for Jewish people and non-Jews**

Luke 7:1-10 (healing the centurion's servant)

– **Showing by physical means what God wants to do spiritually**

Matthew 9:1-8 (is it easier to heal or give forgiveness?)

– **Bringing people to repentance**

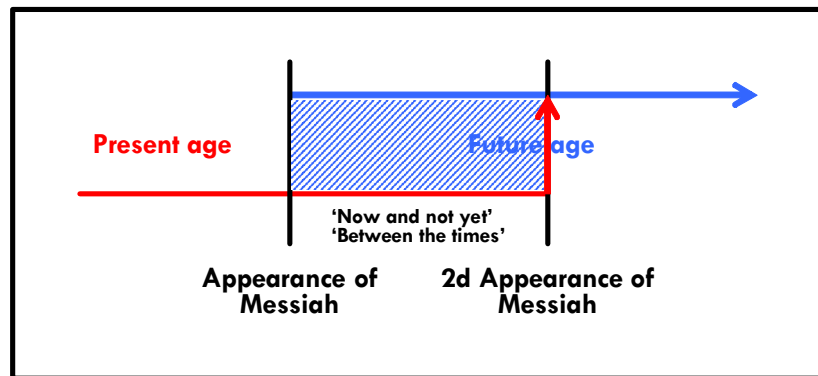
Luke 10:8-12

John 10:37-38: "Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

7. The 'not yet' of the Kingdom

**God's Kingdom has not yet fully come on earth. Healing is 'not yet' universal or unlimited.**

1 John 3:2: Dear friends, *now we are children of God*, and what we will be has *not yet* been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.



- **Disappointments can arise when we treat the Kingdom as either 'all future' or 'all now'.**  
*Compare Isaiah 9:7 (He will reign on David's throne forever), 11:4 (with righteousness he will judge the needy), 49:8-13 (I will restore the land and free the captives); John 6:14-15 (tried to make Jesus king by force as 'The Prophet' predicted by Moses); Matthew 11:2-4 (healing a sign of the predicted Prophet); Luke 24:19-26 (we had hoped that he was the one that would redeem Israel; Mark 1:15 (the Kingdom of God is at hand!); with Matthew 13:38, 43 (good seed are the sons of the Kingdom to be redeemed at the end of the age); 1 Corinthians 15:24-26 (Jesus must reign until he puts all enemies under his feet).*
- **Both the early disciples and we have partial experiences of Kingdom rule.**  
*Matthew 17:16 (disciples could not heal epileptic); 1 Corinthians 13:9-12 (now we know and prophesy 'in part'); Galatians 4:13 (Paul's illness 'was a trial for you'); Philippians 2:25-27 (Ephroditus ill and nearly died); 1 Timothy 5:23 (Timothy had bad stomach and 'frequent illnesses'), 2 Timothy 4:20 (Trophimus left in Miletus ill); Hebrews 6:5 ('tasted' the power of the coming age).*

- **We are engaged in an on-going battle against the kingdom of this evil age, until its final defeat by Jesus.**  
1 Peter 5:8-9 (*your enemy prowls like roaring lion looking for someone to devour*); Revelation 12:11 (*the overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony*).
  
- **God is sovereign. Healing grows out of our relationship and co-operation with Him. Healing comes when He speaks the word.**  
Psalm 115:3 (*God does whatever he pleases*); Daniel 4:25 (*Most High is sovereign over kingdoms of men*); John 15:1-7 (*apart from me you can do nothing*); Psalm 107:20 (*He sent forth his word his word and healed them*); Romans 10:17 (*faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*).

## 8. Overview of the rest of the course

### 1. Why does God heal?

- Old Testament experience and promise: *Jehovah Rapha: I am the Lord who heals*. Promise of a healing Messiah and the Holy Spirit on ordinary people.
  
- New Testament proclamation and demonstration of the Kingdom of God: Jesus and the early believers. Our commission to do what Jesus did the way he did it.

### 2. What does God heal?

- Jesus came to deal with the whole person – spiritual, mental, physical ailments.

### 3. How does God heal?

- Through gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Through relationship with and authority, character, love of Jesus
- The role of faith

### 4. Practical model and training

- The 'five-step healing model'