

Message One

The Kingdom of the Heavens and Its Three Aspects

Scriptures reading: Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 5:3, 10, 20; 7:21; 13:33; 25:14; 19:28

I. The kingdom of the heavens—3:2; 4:17:

- A. Matthew is a book on the kingdom, with Christ as the King, the Messiah; everything written in this book is related to the kingdom—2:2; 21:5; 27:11.
- B. The kingdom of God is God's reign in a general way over the entire universe by power and authority and also God's reign in a particular way in the sense of life—Psa. 103:19; 145:11-13; 1 Chron. 29:11; Dan. 4:3, 34b; John 3:3, 5.
- C. As a specific section within the kingdom of God, the kingdom of the heavens is the heavenly rule—the kingdom of God in the third heaven where God exercises His authority over everything created by Him—Matt. 3:2:
 1. God's intention is to have the earth controlled by the heavens; thus, His heavenly reign must descend to the earth to be the authority over the earth—6:10.
 2. The Lord Jesus came to bring the heavenly rule to earth so that the earth might be recovered for God's right and that the will of God might be done on earth as in heaven—4:17; 5:3.
- D. The kingdom of the heavens is the heavenly ruling, the heavenly government, of the Lord Jesus—25:31, 34:
 1. The Christ in Matthew is the King-Savior who sets up the kingdom of the heavens over us and within us—5:3.
 2. The Christ who entered into our spirit through regeneration is the King with the kingdom—John 3:5-6; Rom. 8:10; 1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Tim. 4:22:
 - a. When He came into our spirit, the kingdom arrived with Him.
 - b. Now in our spirit we have the King with the kingdom; thus, to say that the Lord is with our spirit means that the kingdom is with our spirit—2 Tim. 4:22.
 3. God's intention in regenerating us is to bring us under His heavenly rule—John 3:3, 5:
 - a. We have been born into a royal, heavenly family, and we must be exercised in a heavenly way and be governed by a heavenly rule—Matt. 5:48.
 - b. If we are under this ruling, we will be victorious and overcoming, we will be in the reality of the kingdom of the heavens, and we will enter into the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens to rule and reign with the Lord—25:21, 23; Rev. 20:4, 6.

II. If we would know the truth of the kingdom in a thorough way, we need a full understanding of the three aspects of the kingdom of the heavens—the reality, the appearance, and the manifestation:

- A. The reality of the kingdom of the heavens is the inward content of the kingdom of the heavens in its heavenly and spiritual nature—chs. 5—7:
 1. The reality of the kingdom of the heavens is an exercise to the seeking believers—5:3, 20; 7:13-14, 21.
 2. Only the overcomers are in the reality of the kingdom—Rev. 2:7.

3. Those who live in the reality of the kingdom of the heavens today will be manifested with Christ to be kings in the millennium—20:4, 6.
- B. The appearance of the kingdom of the heavens is the outward condition of the kingdom of the heavens in name—Matt. 13:
 1. The appearance of the kingdom of the heavens is today's Christendom, which includes all the false Christians—vv. 27, 31-33, 38-39a.
 2. That which constitutes the appearance of the kingdom of the heavens will be thrown into the lake of fire—vv. 30, 40-42a.
- C. The manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens is the practical coming of the kingdom of the heavens in power—chs. 24—25:
 1. The manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens will be the manifestation of the reality of the kingdom of the heavens—5:3; 13:43; 19:28
 2. The manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens, composed of the overcoming saints, will actually be the New Jerusalem during the millennium—Rev. 2:7; 3:12.

Message One

Reference Scripture Verses:

Matt. 3:2 And saying, Repent, for **the kingdom of the heavens** has drawn near.

Matt. 4:17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim and to say, Repent, for **the kingdom of the heavens** has drawn near.

Matt. 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is **the kingdom of the heavens**.

Matt. 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is **the kingdom of the heavens**.

Matt. 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into **the kingdom of the heavens**.

Matt. 7:21 Not every one who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into **the kingdom of the heavens**, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.

Matt. 13:33 Another parable He spoke to them: **The kingdom of the heavens** is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened.

Matt. 25:14 For *the kingdom of the heavens* is just like a man about to go abroad, who called his own slaves and delivered to them his possessions.

Matt. 19:28 And Jesus said to them, Truly I say to you that you who have followed Me, in the restoration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you also shall sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

I.

Matt. 2:2 Saying, Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star at its rising and have come to worship Him.

Matt. 21:5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold, your King is coming to you, meek and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, a foal of a beast of burden."

Matt. 27:11 And Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, Are You the King of the Jews? And Jesus said, It is as you say.

Psa. 103:19 Jehovah has established His throne in the heavens, And His kingdom rules over all.

Psa. 145:11-13. **11** They will speak of the glory of Your kingdom And tell of Your power, **12** To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts And the glorious splendor of Your kingdom. **13** Your kingdom is an eternal kingdom, And Your dominion is throughout all generations.

1Chron. 29:11 Yours is the greatness and the power and the splendor and the victory and the majesty, indeed all that is in heaven and on earth; Yours, O Jehovah, is the kingdom, and You are exalted as Head over all.

Dan. 4:3 How great are His signs, And how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom, And His dominion is from generation to generation.

Dan. 4:34 And at the end of those days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation;

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Matt. 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, *so* also on earth.

Matt. 25:31 But when the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him, at that time He will sit on the throne of His glory.

Matt. 25:34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

John 3:5-6. **5** Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Rom. 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

1Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

2Tim. 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Matt. 5:48 You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matt. 25:21 His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

Matt. 25:23 His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and *of those* who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev. 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

II.

Matt. 7:13-14. **13** Enter in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it. **14** Because narrow is the gate and constricted is the way that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

Matt. 7:21 Not every one who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.

Rev. 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Matt. 13:27 And the slaves of the master of the house came and said to him, Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where then did the tares come from?

Matt. 13:30-33. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, Collect first the tares and bind them into bundles to burn them up, but the wheat gather into my barn. **31** Another parable He set before them, saying, The kingdom of the heavens is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, **32** *And* which is smaller than all the seeds; but when it has grown, it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of heaven come and roost in its branches. **33** Another parable He spoke to them: The kingdom of the heavens is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened.

Matt. 13:38-41. **38** And the field is the world; and the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; **39** And the enemy who sowed them is the devil; and the harvest is the consummation of the age; and the reapers are angels. **40** Therefore just as the tares are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the consummation of the age. **41** The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will collect out of His kingdom all the stumbling blocks and those who practice lawlessness,

Matt. 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Rev. 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.