

Message Two

**The Difference Between the Kingdom of the Heavens and the Kingdom of God
and
Jesus Christ—The Son of David and the Son of Abraham**

Scriptures reading: Matt. 21:43; 16:19; 1:1.

I. The Difference between the Kingdom of the Heavens and the Kingdom of God.

- A. The kingdom of God runs from eternity from eternity; it is a realm, a sphere, in which God can rule and exercise His authority—John 3:3, 5.
- B. 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. Kingdom of the heavens is different from the kingdom of God.
 - a. Matthew 21:43 shows that the kingdom of God was already with the Israelites.
 - b. When John the Baptist came, and when the Lord Jesus came, out to preach gospel they said “the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near” — Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:7.
 - c. In Matthew 12:28, the kingdom of heavens had still not come but the kingdom of God was there by that time.
 - d. Matthew 11:11-12 shows that up to that time the kingdom of heavens had not come and John the Baptist was not in it.
 - e. In Matthew 16:19, we see that the kingdom of the heavens had not begun because the keys had not been given.
 - f. The kingdom of the heavens started on the day of the Pentecost when the church begun to be built up—Acts 2:38-42; 10:44-48.
 - g. Matthew 13 is another proof that the kingdom of the heavens started when the church began to be built—v. 3, 24-25, 31, 33; cf. 16:18-19.
 - h. Matthew 19:23-24 proves that the kingdom of the heavens is a part of the kingdom of God.
 2. The kingdom of God is from eternity past to eternity future and that it includes the kingdom of Israel in the Old Testament, the kingdom of the heavens in the New Testament, and the millennial kingdom after the church age.

II. Jesus Christ—the son of David, the son of Abraham—Matt. 1:1.

- A. The Gospel of Matthew emphasizes the fact that Christ is the son of David—9:27; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9:
 1. Solomon, the son of David, is a type of Christ inheriting the kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12b, 13b; Jer. 23:5; Luke 1:32-33), having wisdom and speaking the word of wisdom (Matt. 12:42), and building the temple of God (2 Sam. 7:13a).
 2. As the son of David, Christ brings us into the kingdom of the heavens; thus, the title *son of David* signifies the kingdom—Matt. 5:3.
 3. Christ’s being the son of David is also for us to participate in the divine authority—16:19; 18:17-18; 28:18-19.
- B. Isaac, the son of Abraham, is a type of Christ as the promised One who brought the blessing to all the nations (Gen. 22:18; Gal. 3:16, 14), who was offered to God unto death and was resurrected (Heb. 11:17-19), and who will receive the bride (Gen. 24:67; John 3:29; Rev. 19:7).
- C. God made a covenant with Abraham and also with David—Gen. 12:2-3; 15:18; 17:1-2; 22:17-18; 2 Sam. 7:8-16:
 1. The covenant God made with Abraham concerned God’s coming to be the blessing to His chosen people—Gen. 22:17-18:

- a. As a result of this covenant, the processed Triune God as the consummated Spirit has become our blessing—Gal. 3:14.
- b. Christ as the seed of Abraham became the life-giving Spirit to impart Himself into His believers for the blessing of all the nations of the earth—Gen. 22:18; Gal. 3:16, 14; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
2. The covenant God made with David concerned the kingdom—2 Sam. 7:8-16:
 - a. Once God has a kingdom filled with His authority, then in His administration He can carry out whatever is on His heart to be the blessing promised to His chosen people.
 - b. Christ as the seed of David is the resurrected King as God's sure mercies for the dispensing of God Himself into all the believers of Christ that they might share His kingship for God's administration—2 Sam. 7:12-13; Acts 13:32-35; Isa. 55:3-4; Rom. 5:17; Rev. 20:4, 6.
- D. We must receive Christ first as the son of David and then as the son of Abraham—Matt. 1:1:
 1. To receive Christ as the son of David is to recognize His kingly status and to realize that we should be under His kingship and sovereignty.
 2. By receiving Christ as our King and living under His ruling, we enjoy the processed Triune God as our blessing.
 3. As the son of David and the son of Abraham, Christ brings us into the Triune God—28:19.

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Reference Scripture Verses:

Matt. 21:43 Therefore I say to you that **the kingdom of God** shall be taken from you and shall be given to a nation producing its fruit.

Matt. 16:19 I will give to you **the keys of the kingdom of the heavens**, and whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in the heavens.

Matt. 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

I.

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. 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. 10:7 And as you go, proclaim, saying, **The kingdom of the heavens** has drawn near.

Matt. 12:28 But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then **the kingdom of God** has come upon you.

Matt. 11:11-12. 11 Truly I say to you, Among those born of women there has not arisen one greater than John the Baptist, yet he who is least in **the kingdom of the heavens** is greater than he. **12** But from the days of John the Baptist until now, **the kingdom of the heavens** is taken by violence, and violent men seize it.

Acts. 2:38-42. 38 And Peter said to them, Repent and each one of you be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For to you is the promise and to your children, and to all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God calls to *Himself*. **40** And with many other words he solemnly testified and exhorted them, saying, Be saved from this crooked generation. **41** Those then who received his word were baptized, and there were added on that day about three thousand souls. **42** And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts. 10:44-48. 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those hearing the word. **45** And the believers *who were* of the circumcision, as many as had accompanied Peter, were amazed, because on the Gentiles also the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out; **46** For they heard them speaking in tongues and magnifying God. Then Peter answered, **47** Can anyone forbid the water so that these would not be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we? **48** And he charged them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Matt. 13:3 And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow.

Matt. 13:24-25. 24 Another parable He set before them, saying, **The kingdom of the heavens** has become like a man sowing good seed in his field. 25 But while the men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares in the midst of the wheat and went away.

Matt. 13:31 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,

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. 16:18-19. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in the heavens.

Matt. 19:23-24. 23 And Jesus said to His disciples, Truly I say to you, *Only* with difficulty will a rich man enter into **the kingdom of the heavens**. 24 And again I say to you, It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man **to enter into the kingdom of God**.

II.

Matt. 9:27 And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, Have mercy on us, Son of David!

Matt. 15:22 And behold, a Canaanite woman came out from those borders and cried out, saying, Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter suffers terribly from demon possession.

Matt. 20:30-31. 30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, hearing that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David! 31 And the crowd rebuked them so that they would be silent, but they cried out the more, saying, Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!

Matt. 21:9 And the crowds who went before Him and those who followed cried out, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

2Sam. 7:12-13. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Jer. 23:5 Indeed, days are coming, Declares Jehovah, When I will raise up to David a righteous Shoot; And He will reign as King and act prudently And will execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Luke 1:32-33. 32 He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of David His father,

Matt. 12:42 The queen of the south will rise up in the judgment with this generation and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something more than Solomon is here.

Matt. 5:33 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

Matt. 16:19 I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in the heavens.

Matt. 18:17-18. 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church; and if he refuses to hear the church also, let him be to you just like the Gentile and the tax collector. 18 Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

Matt. 28:18-19. 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Gen. 22:18 And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

Gal. 3:14 In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Gal. 3:16 But to Abraham were the promises spoken and to his seed. He does not say, "And to the seeds," as concerning many, but as concerning one: "And to your seed," who is Christ.

Heb. 11:17-19. 17 By faith Abraham, being tested, offered up Isaac; indeed he who gladly received the promises was offering up his only begotten, 18 Of whom it was said, "In Isaac shall your seed be called"; 19 Counting that God was able to raise *men* even from the dead, from which he also received him back in figure.

Gen. 24:67 And Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother. And he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. And Isaac was comforted after the death of his mother.

John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.

Rev. 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Gen. 12:2-3. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, And I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And he who curses you I will curse; And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

Gen. 15:18 On that day Jehovah made a covenant with Abram, saying, To your seed do I give this land, From the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates:

Gen. 17:1-2. 1 And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, Jehovah appeared to Abram and said to him, I am the All-sufficient God; Walk before Me, and be perfect. 2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly.

Gen. 22:17-18. 17 I will surely bless you and will greatly multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens and like the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. 18 And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

2Sam. 7:8-16. 8 And now thus shall you say to My servant David, Thus says Jehovah of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you might be ruler over My people, over Israel; 9 And I have been with you in every place that you have gone and have cut off all your enemies before you; and I will make a great name for you, like the name of the great ones who are on the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them there, that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more; and the sons of wickedness will ill-treat them no more as before, 11 Even since the time when I commanded that there be judges over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover Jehovah declares to you that Jehovah will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 It is he

who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14** I will be his Father, and he will be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will strike him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men; **15** But My lovingkindness will not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I put away before you. **16** And your house and your kingdom will be made sure forever before you; your throne will be established forever.

1Cor. 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam *became* a life-giving Spirit.

Acts. 13:32-35. **32** And we announce to you the gospel of the promise made to the fathers, **33** That God has fully fulfilled this *promise* to us their children in raising up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, "You are My Son; this day have I begotten You." **34** And as to His having raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to corruption, He spoke in this way, "I will give you the holy things of David, the faithful things." **35** Therefore He also says in another *place*, "You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption."

Isa. 55:3-4. **3** Incline your ear and come to Me; Hear, so that your soul may live; And I will make an eternal covenant with you, Even the sure mercies shown to David. **4** Indeed, I have given Him as a Witness to the peoples, A Leader and a Commander to the peoples.

Rom. 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

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.

Matt. 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,