



The Kingdom of God

Saturday 7th February 2026

Teaching by Andy McCullough

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1. Enter the Kingdom (Matt 4:17-25)

“The word means reign, not realm and refers to actual dynamic power effective in ministry. Thus the kingdom invades the old age through the person and ministry of Jesus and that ministry consists of both proclamation of the kingdom with its accompanying call to follow Jesus, and the effective demonstration of the power and reality of the kingdom.” John Wimber

“Here comes the kingdom of the heavens!”

*Does it suggest a **future** or a **present** kingdom? It means **both**: it is on its way, it is just about to break in, in fact it is breaking in, in some ways, as Jesus speaks – “here comes!” (This “here-coming” is what newscasters call “breaking news”, the announcement of an event taking place at the time of its telling.” Bruner*

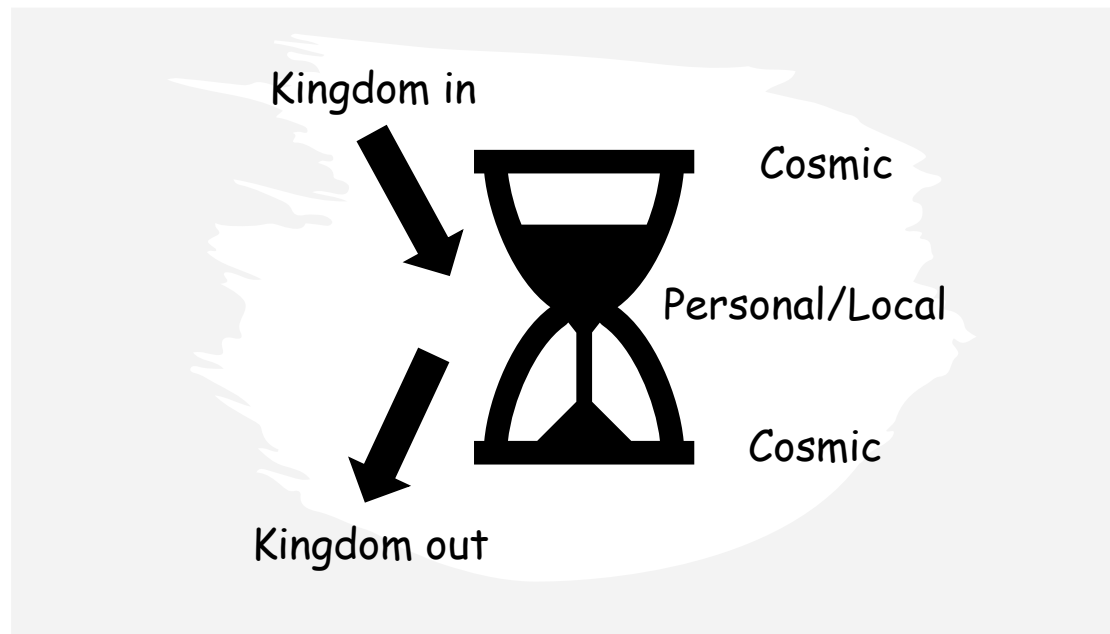
I now tend to speak much more about the “coming” of the Kingdom now and in the future. We expect to see the Kingdom coming now but recognise that it will come fully in the future. David Devenish

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2. Clash of Kingdoms (Matt 12:22-30)

Kingdom of Satan	Kingdom of God
Expressed through people (mixed)	Expressed through people (mixed)
Oppressive	Liberative
Makes people blind and mute	Makes people see and speak
Hurts	Heals
Accuses	Announces
Evil spirit	Holy Spirit
Strong man is bound and plundered	Almighty God: Father, Son and Spirit

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3. Kingdom Mystery (Matt 13:10-23)

“Parables are ‘hidden things.’ In this way the medium (parables) is itself integral to the message it conveys (the secrets of the kingdom of heaven).” RT France

Our expectation of the Kingdom	Mystery of the Kingdom
Very visible	Mostly invisible
All at once	Gradual
Fully-formed	Small and growing
Direct from heaven	Through God’s people
Earnt through righteousness (v17)	Given through election (v16)
Now-orientation	Future-orientation (v30)

“Evidence of the presence of the Kingdom of God is thick wherever and whenever people stand on the promise of God that there is more to this world – more to this life – than what we see. There is more than the getting over, getting by, or getting mine. There is more than the brokenness, the destruction, and the despair that threaten to wash over us like the water of the deep. There is a vision of a world where God cuts through the chaos, where God speaks and there is light.”

Lisa Sharon Harper

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4. Kingdom by contrast (Matthew 14: 3-21)

Evil king Herod	Good king Jesus
Invitees: big, influential, useful	Invitees: the poor and the sick
Behaves badly to woman and child	Includes women and children
Lavish meal in the palace	Simple meal in the open air (God's palace)
Left the people hungry.	Everyone ate and was satisfied.
Injustice – taxed fish and bread	Justice – defied the tax
Didn't listen to John the Baptist	Listened to his disciples
Death passes from hand to hand – everyone defiled	Life passes from hand to hand – everyone blessed
Banquet of death	Banquet of life