

The Coming of the Kingdom

A king is the sovereign ruler of a domain, and
a kingdom is a domain ruled by a king.
In our world, this domain is usually an area of land
with all that it holds.

But God is more selective.

His domain is not a land area –
though eventually His domain will be all creation.

With God's kingdom,
the domain is people.

And specifically, it is those people who
recognize the presence of the King and
bow to His authority.

The coming of the kingdom of God had been
long promised and eagerly anticipated.

But when it finally arrived,
few recognized it.

The kingdom arrived as a baby,
conceived in an unmarried teenager
in the humblest of circumstances

This King came
not as a military or political leader,
but as a homeless peasant;
not as a ruler,
but as a servant (Isaiah 42:1-4);
not with a mighty shout,
but with a gentle whisper;

The King came,
not to conquer
but to die,
to be executed as a criminal and an imposter.

John the Baptist introduced Him saying,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

But apparently John was expecting
the Day of the Lord, as taught by the Old Testament prophets –
a day of judgment (Matthew 3:7-12).

When Jesus came healing and teaching,
John wondered if He was the Messiah at all (Matthew 11:2-3).

The Kingdom had indeed come,

not with overwhelming force,
but as a tiny seed.
Yet in God's time, His Kingdom would
grow and
grow and
grow and
become far more than
anyone ever dreamed it could be.

The God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. (Daniel 2:44, NASB)

*"I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a son of man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.
And to Him was given dominion,
Honor, and a kingdom,
So that all the peoples, nations, and populations of all languages
Might serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14, NASB)*

*The earth will be filled
With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord,
As the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14, NASB)*

Hymn: God's Kingdom Has Come

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