

“Thy Kingdom Come”
Lesson 12 – The Heavenly Kingdom
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Introduction: Is there a kingdom yet to come?

A. Yes! It is described as a heavenly kingdom that we are preparing now to enter.

(2 Pt 1:10-11)

1. This present kingdom is a taste of the kingdom to come.
2. What is our present kingdom like?
 - a. What is our purpose?
 - b. What must we be in the kingdom?
 - c. What does God’s rule do for us?

B. At the Second Coming Christ will hand the kingdom back to God. **(1 Cor 15:24-28)**

1. In this kingdom we will glorify God forever. **(Rev 21:1-8)**
2. In this kingdom we will have the care of God.
3. In this kingdom nothing unholy will enter.

I. Only a prepared people will enter this eternal kingdom

A. We sometimes talk about a “prepared place for a prepared people.” **(Mt 25:34)**

1. Where do we get the motivation to prepare?
2. We must have our minds fixed on this coming kingdom if we are to enter.

B. In the Bible this “fixed mind” is described as “hope”. **(Heb 6:18-19)**

1. ἐλπίς, ἰδος, ἡ *hope*; (1) as an expected and awaited good *hope, expectation, prospect* ... (3) as expectation of a divinely provided future (*the hope*) ...
2. When dealing with the promises of God this is a very powerful word.

“Faith is the Christian's foundation, hope is his anchor, death is his harbor, Christ is his pilot, and heaven is his country.”

C. What is eternity? **(Titus 1:2)**

1. In eternity everything is just beginning. Elias Canetti (1905–)
2. The created world is but a small parenthesis in eternity.- Thomas Browne
3. We will share eternity with a certain kind of people. **(1 Thess 4:13, 17-18)**

“They that love beyond the world cannot be separated by it. Death cannot kill what never dies, nor can spirits ever be divided that love and live in the same divine principle.”

“When ten thousand times ten thousand times ten thousand years have passed, eternity will have just begun.”

D. We are not just looking at eternity, but eternity with God. **(Titus 2:13-14;**

1 Tim 1:1)

1. What do you think of after being away on a long trip? You want to go home to your family.
2. The Christian life is one of praise to God. We fall in love with God and long to be with Him. **(1 Pet 1:7-9)**

“Eternity will not be long enough to learn all he is, or to praise him for all he has done, but then, that matters not; for we shall be always with him, and we desire nothing more. Frederick William Faber”

3. Without this kind of love, we cannot have an anchor. **(1 Jn 3:1-3)**

II. Who will enter the kingdom?

A. Those who with closed hearts follow worldly religion will be greatly surprised.

(Mt 8:11-12; Lk 13:28-30)

1. Who had the greatest advantages to find the kingdom in Jesus' day?
2. Who in fact came into the kingdom?
3. Any lessons for us?

B. Many will try to reason with us today that many will enter the kingdom that God in fact will not allow to enter. **(1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-21; Eph 5:5)**

1. Why do we repeatedly hear the exhortation "be not deceived?"
2. What will we do if we really love the people caught in these sins?
3. Can we retreat from determining who has fellowship with God? **(Eph 5:8-11)**

C. We must not allow our desire for the approval of men cause us to be lifted up in pride. **(Jas 2:1-5)**

1. How does Satan tempt us here?
2. Can we in our associations show we are ashamed to be identified with other Christians? **(2 Tim 1:8-9)**

III. We must fight to enter the kingdom

A. We are plainly told this. **(Acts 14:22)**

1. When hope abides in us we can do this with joy. **(Heb 10:32-35)**
2. Let your trials draw you closer to God.

B. We must not give in even in the "small battles." **(Mk 9:44-47)**

1. In the end it will all be worth it. **(2 Thess 1:5)**
2. Are you fighting?

C. If we do enter it will be because of God's present provisions and protection! **(2 Tim 4:8)**

D. No earthly bodies will enter this kingdom. **(1 Cor 15:50)**

Conclusion: Are you fit for the kingdom of God?