

The Kingdom Come at Christmas

John 8:12 (1730)

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I. What do we mean when we talk about the Kingdom of God?

a. The Kingdom is not of this world...

John 18:36 NLT *"My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."*

b. ...but the Kingdom is certainly present in this world

Luke 17:20-21 NLT ²⁰ *One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will the Kingdom of God come?" Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. ²¹ You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you."*

The kingdom of God is the rule and reign of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to restore and renew what sin destroyed. By faith through grace we embrace the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, enabling us to live as kingdom people. Though not fully realized until Jesus returns, the kingdom is present now, anywhere, anytime we choose to listen, to engage, to obey Jesus. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we live, love, and serve with Jesus in every area of our lives. Therefore we pray, "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

II. Why is the Kingdom so critical to the well-being of human-kind?

a. Apart from the Kingdom of God, the world groans in pain and despair

Isaiah 8:20-22; 9:1-2 NLT ²⁰ *Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict his word are completely in the dark. ²¹ They will go from one place to another, weary and hungry. And because they are hungry, they will rage and curse their king and their God. They will look up to heaven ²² and down at the earth, but wherever they look, there will be trouble and anguish and dark despair. They will be thrown out into the darkness. Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. ... There will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory. ²The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.*

b. The light of the world is Jesus

John 1:1-5 NLT *In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He existed in the beginning with God. ³ God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.*

III. Every person must make a personal decision daily whether they will or will not be a Kingdom person

a. Darkness or light—it really is our choice!

John 8:12 NLT ¹² Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, *“I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”*

Martin Luther King Jr. *“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.”*

b. The temptation to seek refuge in our own goodness

Genesis 3:12 NLT *The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”*

Plato *“We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.”*

Mark Twain *“Everyone is a moon, and has a dark side which he never shows to anybody.”*

Isaiah 9:2 NLT ²*The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.*