

THY KINGDOM COME



Pathway to Destiny
Eric Holmlund

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

But when, Lord?

When will the kingdom come?

If you are poor in spirit, the kingdom of heaven is already yours.

No delay.

But if you are overwhelmed with sorrow,

the comfort of the kingdom may be a while in coming.

If you are walking in meekness, the whole earth is yours.

But not yet.

According to Jesus the kingdom of God comes to us in three stages.

The kingdom now.

The kingdom beyond the grave.

The New Jerusalem.

The Kingdom Now



Shower of Light
Eric Holmlund

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the good news."

Mark 1

The instant Jesus emerged from his baptism the kingdom of God arrived on this earth.

After centuries of preparation through the ups and downs of Israel, the kingdom was finally here.

Jesus' words are kingdom words.

Jesus' signs are kingdom signs.

Every parable Jesus gives is a kingdom parable.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy, he goes and sells all that he has, and buys the field."

Matthew 13



Pearl of Great Price
Eric Holmlund

Across the earth men, women and children are even now flooding into the kingdom with joy.

But the kingdom, as we know it now, is incomplete.

There is still sickness.

And death.

And lies.

Fear, pain, suffering and sadness cover the earth.

When will things change?

The change begins the moment we die.

The kingdom beyond the grave.



Dark to Light
Eric Holmlund

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."

And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

And he said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23

For this man the kingdom is not in some far-off future, but today on the other side of death!

"Today you will be with me in Paradise."



Paradise!

Life with God on the other side of death.

It is a place where wrongs are made right.

Where evil is brought to account,

Where beggars like Lazarus, who languished at the rich man's gate, are now comforted.

And at his gate lay a poor man named Laz'arus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom.

Luke 16

"Abraham's bosom" is God's Kingdom.

Millions of forgotten souls are even now joining Lazarus in this place of kingdom comfort.

The apostle Paul looked forward to the kingdom beyond death.

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

Philippians 2

Call it Heaven, call it Paradise, it is God's kingdom over there "across the River"!

Where millions who were given nothing but misery by this world, now receive the comfort they were denied.

There, across the River, is where we lay up our true treasure.

Over there those who claim to belong to Jesus stand before his judgment seat.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.

II Corinthians 5

And there will be surprises.

"Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.'"

Matthew 7

In the kingdom beyond the grave we begin to grow up.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood.

So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13

But the kingdom beyond the grave is still incomplete. We are still in a spiritual state awaiting a resurrection.

The New Jerusalem



The kingdom will be complete when we have bodies like the body of the risen Lord.

A body which belongs to The New Creation.



New Man Eric Holmlund

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.

It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

I Corinthians 15

But when will this be?

God alone knows.

The disciples asked for a hint.

"What will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?"

Jesus predicted a time of unspeakable suffering.

Then, when the smoke clears, signs of hope will appear.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken; then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; and he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Matthew 24

At last the kingdom of God has arrived in fullness.

From now on God's redemptive will controls all that goes on.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In his vision John sees the New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven....

free of all evil, all pain, all sadness, all despair.

Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There shall no more be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall worship him; they shall see his face, and his name shall be on their foreheads. And night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever. And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." "And behold, I am coming soon."

Revelation 22



Throne Room Worship
Eric Holmlund

Prayer- Lord in the midst of our trials, fears, and concerns.... in the midst of chaos, in the midst of the growing wickedness in this world.... give us the faith, give us the vision to see that your kingdom is at hand. May we find and treasure your words that draw us to kingdom life now. May we find the joy you offer us now...as we draw close to you now.... enabling us to live your kingdom now. And thank you, thank you that comfort is found in your arms on the other side of death. May we hang onto that as we mourn the countless ones who only found suffering and misery on this earth and remind ourselves of your comfort, your promise when we feel overcome with our own disappointments and sorrows. How beautiful that in your presence all the hurt will disappear. And give us the vision to also behold your coming kingdom. Give us the hearts to desire an age where there is no evil....knowing that your light will shine for eternity and we shall see you, the Holy of Holies, face to face... May it come soon.

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