

## WHAT IS GOD'S KINGDOM?

Some say it hasn't come yet, and still others claim we're already in it, while still others avow that it's yet to be given to either the Jews or the Christians or the Muslims, or all, in some future time or place! Most people seem to think it's some fancy place somewhere in outer space called Heaven, only to be reached when you die, if you've been good while on Earth! THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT ALL OF THESE MISCONCEPTIONS are unscriptural! Astounding as it may seem, The Kingdom of God is:--YOU!— "The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there!

For, behold, the Kingdom of God is within you!" (Luke 17:20,21)

<u>WHAT IS GOD'S KINGDOM</u>? It's <u>souls</u>, people, His people! The Kingdom of God is <u>not</u> a building <u>nor</u> a denomination nor an organization! <u>People</u> are God's Kingdom!

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TO HELP HIS KINGDOM IS TO HELP PEOPLE. In helping people, you're helping God--because He wants to help people.--And the way He helps people is through you & me. Seeking first the Kingdom of God: By loving God first of all, & then loving your neighbour as yourself. For the treasures and rewards of the Kingdom of God go to those who have given of themselves for another--for a lost one, for a lonely one, for a sad child, for a friend in need, for an outcast, for the unlovely. The honors and medals go to those who stretch themselves to the limit and beyond--giving more than they are capable of giving, sharing more than they are able to share, loving with more love than they possess.

Jesus's religion was so simple that He said you must become as a little child to receive it. He didn't advocate temple worship; He didn't preach going to synagogue or church. He didn't advise people to observe any complicated ceremonies or difficult rules. All He did was teach love and show love as He strove to lead God's children into the true Kingdom of God, where the only laws are to "love the Lord with all your heart" and "love your neighbor as yourself."

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"FOR THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN ARE TEMPORAL, BUT THE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SEEN ARE ETERNAL. "Set not therefore your affections on the things which are upon the earth, but the things which are above in the realm of the Spirit and the hearts of men--the Kingdom of God whose building are ye, lively stones, living organisms in a spiritual house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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But if you put these desires of the flesh first above God & others & the needs of your spirit, then you'll find that nothing ever satisfies, not even the most total indulgence in the flesh! You will become as the world-famous poet, Lord Byron, when he despaired at the height of his fame with these words: "I've drunk of every fount of pleasure & quaffed every cup of fame, yet, alas, I die of thirst!" For the things of this earth can satisfy your body, but only God & His true love can ever fill that aching spiritual void of your heart which He created for Himself alone! For true happiness comes not in your personal pursuit of selfish pleasure & satisfaction, but in finding God & giving His life to others & bringing them happiness! Then happiness pursues & overtakes & overwhelms you, personally, without even seeking it for yourself!

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Did you know that GOD'S ECONOMICS IS UTTERLY CONTRARY TO THE ECONOMICS OF MAN. Man's economics says: <u>Self-preservation</u> is the <u>first</u> law of nature. The first of man's carnal, evil, human, wicked nature is: I'm going to live for myself! <u>First</u>, I'm going to take care of <u>myself</u>

GOD'S ECONOMY SAYS, Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; (for where your treasure is, there your heart is also) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:19,20,21,33)

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Spend your life <u>losing</u> your life for <u>others</u>--that's the <u>secret</u> of <u>saving</u> it and living it well.

It is not the fact that a man owns riches which keeps him from the Kingdom of Heaven, but the fact that riches own him.

The Kingdom of God is the only Country that never did a wrong thing or fought a wrong war or persecuted the poor or oppressed the weak or polluted the Earth.

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The Kingdom of God is already here, within you! Even now, His invisible Heavenly Kingdom is already in operation and existence! It not only surrounds us, but it is within us.