

The Baptist Faith and Message **Article 9 – The Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ.

Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

There are phrases about the kingdom:

Kingdom of God, kingdom of heaven, kingdom of their Father, kingdom of the Son of Man, My kingdom, the Kingdom of His Beloved Son, a Kingdom which cannot be moved, the kingdom which He has promised, the kingdom of Christ and of His God, His Kingdom, His heavenly kingdom, the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.

There are prayers about the kingdom:

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

There are prophecies about the kingdom:

Nave's Topical Bible – More space in the prophetic Scriptures is devoted to a future rule of God on earth than to any other theme.

Luke 1:33 – And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever and ever and of His kingdom there shall be no end.

There are parables about the kingdom:

Matthew 13 – Parables of the Kingdom of God

1. Parable of the sower

In the hard highway, shallow soil, thorny thicket, fertile field

The seed was “The seed of the Word of the Kingdom”

2. Kingdom of heaven is like...Wheat and Tares

3. Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. Starts out small but yet one day birds will rest in its branches.

4. Kingdom of heaven is like leaven...it spreads.

5. Hidden treasure...man finds it, hides it again, and then sells all and buys the field.

6. Like a man who finds a pearl and sells all to buy the pearl.

7. Like a dragnet which catches good and bad fish. The good ones are kept but the bad ones are thrown away.

The PRESENT Kingdom

The Kingdom has come and the Kingdom is coming!

I. The Sovereignty of His Kingdom (*Philippians 2:5-11*)

A. The identity of the Sovereign

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that ever tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Phil 2:10-11

This is of course, referring to Jesus.

B. The quality of the Sovereign

And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "King of kings and Lord of lords." Rev. 19:16
King of kings and Lord of lords.
The best king! The greatest king!

II. Space (*Where does He reign?*)

Hymn #20 – 1976 Baptist Hymnal

God is everywhere (Psalm 139)

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to Heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Your hand will lay hold of me. Psalm 139:7-10

Everywhere God goes He takes sovereignty with him.

III. The Subjects Of His Kingdom

A. Over His creation

Jesus Christ is not causing all things but He is controlling all things.

Jesus is Lord whether the world acknowledges Him as Lord or not (one day they will).

Some believe Satan rules this world. He does in one sense. But His power is borrowed. He cannot do anything except for what he operates under the Lordship of God and of His Christ (Job and Pilate).

Then the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord. Job 1:12

Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above." John 19:11

Ephesians 2:2 refers to Satan as the "prince of the power of the air."

A prince has power but it is not ultimate power.

A prince's power is based on the identity of the King.

B. Over His children

For He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Col. 1:13

Lordship salvation – Jesus does not “check” His Lordship at the door of your heart.”

There is not one verse in the Bible that says you are saved by making Jesus your Savior. (Notice BFM, page 67 in study guide)

For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

And why do you call Me “Lord, Lord,” and do not do what I say? Luke 6:46

The FUTURE Kingdom

IV Our COMMITMENT To The Kingdom

A. Through Intercession

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

The model prayer – “*Thy kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...*”

How is God’s will being done in heaven? Perfectly!

Praying for God’s will is not a lack of faith.

B. Through Involvement

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us. 2 Corinthians 5:20

Think for example of politics, abortion, gay marriage

Chapter 18 of this book page 147, article 15.

V. The CONSUMMATION Of The Kingdom

A. The return of Christ (*Revelation 19:11-21*)

A visible return, A victorious return, A violent return

Do not confuse His first and second comings:

He came to produce peace...He comes now to wage war.

He came once to die...to dominate

Redeem...rule and reign

Savior...Sovereign

His Deity was denied...it will be declared

In a stable...in the skies

To a crucifixion...to a coronation

They ridiculed him...they will revere Him.

He stood before Pilate...Pilate will stand before Him.

¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

¹²His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.

¹³He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

¹⁴And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

¹⁵From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

¹⁶And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 19:11-16

1. The army He assembles (14)

The angels will be His army.

The saints will be His soldiers.

The clouds will be His chariot.

Notice: He does all the work. We just get in on it.

2. The weapon He wields (15a)

Revelation 1:16 says it's a 2-edged sword (Heb. 4:12)

1 Thessalonians 2:8 – "And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming."

3. The war He wages (15b)

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 says "The Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."

4. The foes He faces (17-19)

After everything they have seen, the beast and the false prophet gather together their generals and kings. Such is the demonic insanity of their unholy alliance that they say to themselves, "I think we can take Him!"

They raise their voices, their hands, and their swords against our God and against His Christ.

B. The reign of Christ

And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war. Isaiah 2:4

In His kingdom there will be no candidates or elections.

No democrats or republicans, liberals or conservatives.

There will be no Supreme Court and no Congress.

He's not coming to take sides but to take over.
His kingdom will be marked by economic prosperity,
personal civility, and international tranquility.

1. A peaceful reign

No disobedience. No murder, rape, stealing, lying...
No police and no prisons for there are no criminals.
No car alarms for there are no car thieves...
No locks on the doors or guns by the bed...

No disaster. No drought, no famine, no hurricanes...
No tornados, no tsunamis, no earthquakes...
No weather channel because the weather's perfect!

No disease

Isaiah 35:4-6a – *“Say to those who are fearful-hearted, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the wrath of God; He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.”*

No disputes

Isaiah 2:3b-4 – *“The law will come forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He will judge between the nations and will render decisions for many peoples. And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation and never again will they study war.”*

He will do in a day what the UN will never accomplish.

Military academies close. Police officers are retrained for other lines of work. Soldiers from privates to admirals must learn a new trade for Jesus is setting up His MK and He will reign as Prince of Peace!

2. A powerful reign (They shall reign)

Psalms 66:3 – *“Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.”*

Daniel 7:27 – *“His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom and all dominions will serve and obey Him.”*

Revelation 19:15 says He will rule with a rod of iron.

The world will be at peace, not because of its inhabitants but because of its ruler...Not because the people are perfect but because the King is powerful.

Daniel 4:3 – *“His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and His dominion is from generation to generation.”*

Daniel 7:14 – *“And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom that all the peoples, nations, and men from every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away and His kingdom is one which will never be destroyed.”*

Revelation 7, the tribulation saints say, *“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.”* The angels cry out in response, *“Amen, praise, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and strength be to our God forever and ever, Amen!”*

Then Gabriel’s promise to the virgin Mary will be fulfilled:

Luke 1:31 – *“Behold you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son and will call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord will give Him the throne of His father David and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and His kingdom will have no end.”*