

# THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

By Pastor Art Watkins

In Luke 8:10 Jesus said: ***Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.***

In Matthew 13:17 Jesus said: ***For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.***

The mysteries of the kingdom of God are revealed in the parables of the kingdom of God. The mysteries of the kingdom are the secrets of the kingdom of God that the prophets did not see or understand according to Matthew 13:17.

**To understand the mysteries of the kingdom you must see the prophecies of the kingdom.** To understand what Christ said about the kingdom you must first understand what the prophets said about the kingdom. Christ reveals secrets about the kingdom that were hidden from the prophets, but you will never understand the secrets until you see the kingdom the way the prophets did.

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS

**It comes when Christ comes and will be seen by all**

Matthew 16:28: ***Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.***

It is a literal, physical, and visible kingdom that comes when Christ comes at his second coming. What the Lord said about the coming of his kingdom in this verse is the way the prophets in the Old Testament saw it.

**It comes after the great tribulation**

Matthew 24:29-30: ***Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be***

***shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.***

It says Christ will come again after the great tribulation and Matthew 16:28 says: They shall see the Son of man coming in his kingdom. It comes when he comes and he comes after the great tribulation. What the Lord said about his kingdom in these verses is the one and only way the prophets saw it in the Old Testament.

### **It will come by power and brute force**

In Daniel 2 Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a great image of a man and in the dream he saw a stone fall out of heaven and it smote the image and broke it into pieces and then the stone became a great mountain that filled the whole earth. Daniel was called in to interpret the dream and he said: the image of the man and all his parts represents the gentile kingdoms of this world from the time of Babylon till the second coming of Christ. He said the stone that came down from heaven and smote the image represents Christ second coming. And when he comes he will destroy all the kingdoms of this world and set up the kingdom of God over the whole earth which will never be destroyed.

Daniel 2:44: ***And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.***

### **It cannot be resisted**

Matthew 21:43-44: ***Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.***

The stone in Matthew 21 is the same stone in Daniel 2. It's Christ at his second coming and when he comes in his kingdom it will grind to powder anyone who resists. If you are not ready when it comes it will grind you to powder. The Lord quotes Isaiah 8:14 and this is the way Isaiah and all the prophets saw the kingdom of God in the Old Testament. It would come as a stone out of heaven and grind sinners to powder.

### **It will destroy all the kingdoms of this world when it comes**

Daniel 2:44: ***But it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.***

Psalms 2:8-9: ***Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.***

### **It will fill the earth**

In Daniel 2 the stone that falls from heaven represents Christ's second coming and when he comes he will not only destroy all the kingdoms of this world but it says in Daniel 2:35: ***The stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*** In verse 44 it says that mountain that will fill the whole earth is the kingdom of God; ***And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed.***

### **It will destroy all sinners when it comes**

Isaiah 13:9: ***Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.***

The kingdom of God will come when Jesus comes and these verses say when it comes he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

Matthew 13:41-42: ***The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.***

### **It will bring peace to the earth**

Isaiah 9:7: ***Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.***

Isaiah 2:2,4: ***And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the***

***mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.***

According to the prophets in the Old Testament when the kingdom comes war will end and men will not learn war anymore. All instruments of war will be turned into instruments of peace.

### **It will destroy satan**

Isaiah 14:12-16: ***How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms.***

According to the prophets satan will be cast down to hell when the kingdom of God comes. There will be no devil in the kingdom according to the Old Testament prophets.

### **Righteousness will fill the earth**

2 Peter 3:13: ***Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.***

Isaiah 32:17: ***And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.***

Isaiah 45:8: ***Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.***

The prophets said that in the kingdom of God iniquity will be purged from the earth and righteousness will fill the earth in its place.

## **Christ will rule in person on the earth**

**Luke 1:31-33: And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.**

**Isaiah 9:6-7: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

According to the prophets Christ will rule literally, physically and visibly on this earth seated on David's throne.

## **THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM**

These are the secrets of the kingdom of God the prophets did not see. What the Lord shows us is that before the kingdom of God comes in its physical form it first comes in its spiritual form and it is here today.

Jesus said:

### **It comes without observation**

**Luke 17:20-21: And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, 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.**

The prophets said it would come literally, physically and visibly but Jesus said it cometh not with observation. Why? Because the kingdom of God today is spiritual and invisible and cannot be seen with the physical eye.

### **It came when the Spirit of God came**

In Matthew 12:28 he said: **But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.**

When Christ was on earth the kingdom of God was here because the Spirit of God was here for he was full of the Holy Ghost. And when God sent the Spirit back into the world in Acts 2, the Kingdom of God re-entered the

earth in its spiritual form.

### **It came by persuasion, not by force or constraint**

The prophets said the kingdom would come like a giant stone out of heaven smashing all the kingdoms of this world by force and wrath. But Jesus compares it to a man sowing seed in a field. He said the kingdom of God is like a man sowing seed in a field.

Matthew 13:3: ***And he spake many things unto them in parables, (of the kingdom of God) saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;***

The sower is Christ and the Apostles. The seed is the Gospel of the Kingdom. Those who believed the Gospel sown by Christ and the Apostles entered into the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of God entered into them. Instead of the Kingdom coming in brute force and wrath it comes by persuasion and faith. Persuasion on the part of the sower and faith on the part of the hearer.

### **It can be resisted**

In the parable of the sower only 1 out of 4 received the word of the kingdom sown in their hearts. 3 out of 4 resisted the kingdom of God.

Lost men continually resist the kingdom of God today.

In Acts 7:51 Stephen said to the Jews who rejected the word of the kingdom: ***Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.***

When Paul preached the kingdom of God to the Jews in Antioch it says: ***But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. (Acts 13:45-46)***

### **It did not destroy all the gentile kingdoms of this world**

We are living in the times of the gentiles when gentiles are in control of the kingdoms of this world politically and religiously. When the kingdom of God came in Acts 2 it had no effect on the other kingdoms of this world. The kingdom of God is here, but so are the times of the Gentiles.

### **It does not fill the earth**

Matthew 13:31: ***Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:***

The kingdom of God today is small in size like a mustard seed for there are very few people who are in it.

### **It did not destroy sinners out of the earth when it came**

In the parables of the kingdom we see there are tares in the kingdom who are the children of the devil. See Matthew 13:24-27, 41-42

### **It did not bring peace to the earth**

Jesus said that in the kingdom of God today: ***Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. (Matt. 24:6-7)***

There are wars and rumors of war in the Kingdom of God today.

### **It did not destroy satan**

Matthew 13:19 says: ***When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart.***

The wicked one is the devil and what is he doing? He is the kingdom stealing the word of God sewn into the hearts of men.

Matthew 13:24-25 says: ***Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.***

Satan is in the kingdom sewing tares among the wheat. He is also the god of this world and the prince and power of the air during the kingdom of God today.

### **There is apostacy and false teachers in the kingdom**

Matthew 24:24 says: ***For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.***

## **Christ rules in the kingdom of God from heaven**

In 1Peter 3:22 he wrote: ***Christ is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.***

The mysteries of the kingdom of God pertain to the kingdom in its spiritual form. The prophecies of the kingdom pertain to the kingdom in its physical form. The mysteries of the kingdom pertain to the kingdom from the coming of the Spirit in Acts 2 till the second coming of Christ. The prophecies of the kingdom pertain to the kingdom from the second coming of Christ into eternity.

The new birth is necessary to enter into the kingdom of God now and later and to see it now and later.

John 3:3-6 says: ***Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water (physical birth) and of the Spirit, (spiritual birth) he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh (first birth) ; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (second birth) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.***