

## Introduction

Have you ever been promised an eagerly anticipated gift only to be left disappointed not long after receiving it? Be encouraged, God's gifts are different because they provide eternal satisfaction. The first gift that we will be focusing on in our short series is that of a great eternal kingdom, which once received provides much more than we could ever bargain for.

## 1. A Kingdom above all Kingdoms (v1-2a)

Some suggest that the latter or last days speak about a time at the very end of human history, this is true to an extent and also highlights the kingdom of God as ultimately ruling with an unparalleled eternal dominion. But what mustn't be neglected is the development of this kingdom over a process of time as opposed to simple relegation at the climax of the ages. The *last days* is a phrase that describes a time of growth and development of the kingdom of Christ (the church) that will culminate at the return of Christ (Matt 16:18, Heb 1:1-2, Acts 2:14-17 & 19-20), but will then continue throughout eternity succeeding all other kingdoms, so it's *already* (in existence & functioning) but *not yet* (complete & perfectly consummated).

- (a) How does Matthew 28:16-20 reflect this truth? & (b) What do we do in the light of it?
- Considering the scale & magnitude of this kingdom, do we grasp the enormity of this truth?  
Please give reasons for your answers

## 2. An Attractive, Magnetic Kingdom (v2b-3a)

Considering the promise that God made to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) in it's reach to all the families of the earth / nations and the powerful pull of the Spirit that draws men & women into this 'kingdom family', is it any great wonder that *many peoples* v3a (a large number of individuals from different nationalities) find this kingdom unusually attractive and desirable?

- How have you seen this prediction / prophecy come true in terms of being magnetic - Old, NT or currently?
- When you were drawn into the kingdom of God, did you find Jesus or anything else about the kingdom attractive? Could you list and then explain your answers
- How hard can we push for churches to be made up of and led by people from mixed and varied nationalities all working and worshipping together?

## 3. A Kingdom of Righteousness & Peace (v3b-5)

At best God's people were meant to be the source of the messiah and also '*a light to the gentiles*' (Isa 49:6) As God's people, in God's place, under God's rule and blessing in the Old as well as New Testament, they were to set an example regarding the nature of God's kingdom.

- Can you bear testimony of God's gracious, progressive work in your own life since bringing you into his kingdom? Give examples

## Conclusion

The house of Jacob historically and now the offspring of Abraham presently (the church) have received a kingdom that cannot be moved (Heb 12:28) It's a great kingdom gifted to us by a great God, amen.

## Prayer

"Therefore **let us be grateful** for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus **let us offer to God acceptable worship**, with reverence and awe....." (Heb 12:28)