

## The Kingdom of God is NEAR...

Gen 3:8 – heard Him, felt Him, in the garden

Mark 1:15 – The time is now! It is here!

Matt 18:20 – 2 or 3 are gathered, He is there

Exod 40:34 – Moses and tabernacle

Acts 2:1,2 – Upper room, day of Pentecost

Rev 21:3 – The dwelling place of God is with man

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What is IT?

How does it feel?

What does it look like?

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1. at hand, perfect timing in history, now dwelling at our exact location

a. the tabernacle, the temple, our hearts, the church body

b. could be **random vague elusive** if we don't have time and place

c. if it includes time and place, does it exclude all other times and places?

2. enter into it?

Appearances - Pharisees thought it was Race, behavior, dress, laws,

Reality - Jesus taught parables, examples, stories, concepts

3. Seek the kingdom – Matt 6:33 – first, before everything else

4. can be taken away? - Matt 21:33-46 two sons, landowner

5. It is “like” ? (32 times the Bible says it is like...)

a. seed, weeds, grain, tree, pearl, treasure, net, fish, landowner, vineyard

patiently wait for results, sell everything to acquire it, harvesting, gathering

Matt 13:44-48 -

Luke 13:18 -

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## **The Culture of Heaven?**

**The kingdom of heaven - movie in 2005 with Liam Nisan, Orlando Bloom, Jeremy Irons about the crusades. 3hrs long grossed 218 million**

**Examining Christian culture? Islamic culture?**

What is Culture =

INWARDLY - atmosphere, presence, beliefs, feeling of belonging, relatability, ideas, values

OUTWARDLY - Expression of “manners and customs” pop art, clothes, music, location / region

In your school? In your home?

A “Christian Nation” practiced imminent domain with Native Americans and embraced ownership of African slaves. How is that THE KINGDOM of heaven?

I do NOT believe in Critical race theory, nor do I believe that the “perfect puritans” and founding fathers were free from establishing their own kingdom on earth.

Many Christians over the years, use “faith” to serve their own purpose.

i.e. – televangelists buying jets, politicians who manipulate followers

### **Kingdom Values:**

1. life, liberty, pursuit of happiness? Scripture?
  2. love and peace (give it away, not fight for your right to have it)
  3. acceptance and inclusion
  4. wisdom and truth (seek it don't argue that you alone have it)
  5. contentment, fulfillment
  6. Order and freedom – with purpose!
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The World is always COMPETITION trying to replace Gods values.

**Opposing culture?** (Halloween, tarot cards, Ouija boards, seances, sorcery)

Demonic, worldly, flesh, evil, sinful

Hell is eternal separation from Gods culture, byproducts, benefits and values

What about the “angel of light”? church people who gossip, stuck in tradition, religious, never had a life changing experience, manipulate like jezebel, oppose leadership, etc

These same people are often, nice, friendly, work hard, volunteer, give money, etc.

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Tolstoy – a Russian Novelist in the late 1800’s wrote war and peace

(1200 pages, same as Bible) also wrote “The Kingdom of God is within”

Orthodox Christian values until 18 yrs. He left that belief until his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He was a “Christian anarchist and pacifist” – excommunicated by the orthodox church of Russia in 1901 for heresy

not a fan of state or church oversight.

Spiritual but did not like organized religion

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Martin Luther and the reformers had a problem with “organized religion”

The Church in Rome – said salvation apart from the church is impossible

Said tradition is just as authoritative as the Bible

Said the popes word “ex-cathedra” over rides scripture

The church in Rome is one of the worlds largest corporations owning 177 million acres of land. The largest non govt land owner in the world. Also owning billions of shares in gulf oil, shell, general motors, morgan bank, chase manhattan, TWA, etc

Is a sovereign nation, with its own banking system and billions of gold according to the united Nations. Vatican city ruled by an absolute monarchy has jurisdiction over international laws.

Population of only 1,000 but GDP of \$ 60 billion annually including 63 mill of surplus from the Vatican Museums. (2<sup>nd</sup> to Mormons annual income of 200 billion)

I too have a problem with “organized religion”

We as a local church are not tethered to a denominational home office.

We live and die by our own internal vision, actions and financial support.

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1 chron 29:10-13

King David said that all the wealth of the temple was Gods alone.

**Jesus said to pray –**

matt 6:9-13 Your kingdom come, your will be done

1. our ambitions, Our Legacy
2. our dreams
3. our hopes and plans
4. everything we prepare for our future
5. our accumulation of toys, real estate, cars, jewelry, investments

this is so overwhelming, sorrowful and anguishing

He prayed – Luke 22:42 - Not my will but yours

Vs 44 – a Hematohidrosis of sweat turning to blood in the garden.

This overwhelming, sorrowful and anguishing “KINGDOM RELINQUISHMENT”

Gives God glory, turns to eternal reward, and supernatural dividends we know not of.