

## Kingdoms in contrast.

### Summary so far:

*Matt 4*<sup>17</sup> *From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”*

*Matt 24*<sup>14</sup> *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

Jesus begins His earthly ministry with a powerful message of another Kingdom. He emphasises the need for us to change our way of thinking because this is essential for the kingdom to come.

*Repent - metanoeo translates as “repent” ; to change one’s mind, i.e. to repent; to change one’s mind for better,...*

Clearly this is much more than us all leaving our ways of sin, it is about changing our way of thinking about the Kingdom of God entirely. He then says right at the end of His earthly ministry that it is this message of the Kingdom that must be preached to all nations before the end will come.

What is this message about:

- 1 The extension of the rulership of God on earth.
- 2 God’s rulership is extended through His sons not His subjects.
- 3 God never intended for a religion to be formed but a commonwealth of citizens.
- 4 The Kingdom comes into the lives of individuals as they accept the rulership of God. This is a Kingdom that grows in significance and influence one individual at a time.

### God’s purpose involves dominion.

*Gen 1*<sup>26</sup> *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

Dominion – rule, subjugate, dominion, reign, manage, lead, master..

When God creates anything for a purpose He also gives the created the ability to accomplish that purpose. Fish need to swim therefore they have the ability to swim, birds to fly and man to have dominion. He has created us to govern, rule, master, lead, subjugate...the word dominion speaks about kingship, a king has rule over a dominion. He is a ruling power. So God is giving us ruling power over His creation.

This is why the Lord speaks to that which is inside of us when He speaks of us:  
He calls Gideon a mighty man of valour, David a king while he is just a small and insignificant boy, Joseph to rulership while he is a slave,

In the light of this I am not surprised that Jesus:

*Mark 4:*<sup>39</sup>....., *rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm....*

*Matt 11*<sup>4</sup> *Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.*

*Matt 10*<sup>7</sup> *As you go, preach this message: ‘The **kingdom of heaven** is near.’ <sup>8</sup>Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*

*Matt 14*<sup>27</sup> *But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” <sup>28</sup>“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” <sup>29</sup>“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”*

What did Peter walk on?

He turned *water into wine, got money from a fish and filled a boat with fish.*

Jesus knew His dominion role. He ruled over sickness, disease, deformity, storms, lack but He served man. This is our role too. Because God has placed within us the purpose AND ability to rule Jesus said to us in *John 14*<sup>12</sup> *I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.*

How many of us really believe that?  
We cannot behave as if the world and its wisdom makes sense AND believe in the power of the Word of God. They are in contrast with each other. The whole source of life flows out of who God is. Things like *fate and future, random order and predestination, evolution and creation,*

### **There are two kingdoms at odds with each other.**

Satan has from the beginning of time been focussed on one thing:  
*Gen 3: Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”*

Did God really say? OR  
Is it just a story.....  
Not really for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.....  
That’s not what my minister, bishop, pastor, pope or church says....  
That’s just for gullible weaklings who need a crutch.....

Satan is a master at snatching the Word of God away from our minds. He wants darkness to overcome us because he is the prince of darkness.

*2 Cor 4 <sup>4</sup>The god of this age has **blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that they **cannot see the light of the gospel** of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

*Col 1 <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the **dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son** he loves,*

This is the seat of Satan’s power – to snatch knowledge away from us. What knowledge?

The knowledge of the Kingdom.

Satan doesn’t mind if you go to church every day. Church doesn’t worry him. He doesn’t mind if we pray 24/7, even give our bodies to be burned. He fears one thing and he uses it as a specific weapon

every time, it never fails. Satan isn’t even really interested in you and me, we are not his goal.

When Jesus confronted him he used that one weapon that He knew Satan couldn’t defeat – THE WORD.

The Word of God is our lamp and light, (Psalm 119:115) take away our light and we stumble around in the dark, exactly where he wants us.

*Matt 13 <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and **does not understand it**, the evil one comes and snatches away what was **sown in his heart.***

When the head and the heart are in agreement Satan is in trouble. We understand with our head and become convicted in our heart to believe.

Satan hates the Word of God.

### **But first the role of righteousness.**

*Matt 6 <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Righteousness is a legal word and not a religious word.

Adam fell and lost his rights, it is like being thrown into prison and Satan is our prisoner. He has a court order to keep us bound. When we are in prison we have no rights, our ID and Passport have been surrendered to the prison authorities. We are citizens with no rights. Jesus came to restore our citizenship with full rights. He came to set us in the created order. We have a presidential pardon.

*Luke 15 <sup>22</sup> “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the **best robe** and put it on him. Put **a ring on his finger** and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.*

*Gen 41 <sup>41</sup> So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby **put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.**” <sup>42</sup> Then Pharaoh took his **signet ring** from his finger and put it on Joseph’s finger. He dressed him in **robes of fine linen**.....*

Jesus came to align us with God so that we would again have our original rights restored.