

The Kingdom and the World

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 13.

B. The Lord Jesus is the ruler over the earth.

C. Every phase of human history marks some facet of the rule of Jesus mediated through people.

D. Jesus tells us what the character, extent, value and consummation of the kingdom period is like.

II. The nature of the kingdom. (Isaiah 2; 11:3; Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 20; 14)

A. The disciples wanted to know if it was the time of the judgment of the nonbelievers. (Acts 1:6)

B. The parable of the kingdom of heaven.

1. Jesus gave it to the disciples to know the mysteries of the kingdom not the masses. (Mark 4:10)

2. The reaction of the disciples was to ask for judgment on the unbelieving world.

3. Jesus identified Himself as the Messiah. (Daniel 7:13, Luke 22:69)

4. He taught that He is sowing seed in the world. (Revelation 6)

5. Jesus plants the church in the world.

a. Jesus plants us to develop. (I Peter 5:10, John 16:33)

b. Jesus plants us to influence.

6. Anyone who is not a child of God is a child of the devil. (Ephesians 2, John 8:44, I John 3, 5:19, Matthew 5:37)

7. The origin of evil is from the evil one.

8. The iniquitous worker is within the church. (Matthew 7)

9. The wheat needs to be separated from the darnel.

C. Judgment was to wait until the end of the age—if one goes about judging the world without divine influence, he may well end up condemning Christians. (Matthew 3)

D. Believers are not to condemn the world—instead the hope is that the world will be redeemed. (Matthew 15:27; 4:31; Revelation 14; 19, II Thessalonians 1)

E. An inevitable judgment will come. (Matthew 7:43)

F. Application: the hearer must listen. Judgment is inevitable for the “darnel.” The “wheat” should use his opportunity to evangelize.

Application questions:

1. What is the purpose of the church in the world today?

2. What did the disciples expect the kingdom to be like? How did Jesus correct them?

3. Why is it dangerous for the church to be condemning towards nonbelievers?
