

Message Five

**Proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God**

Scripture Reading: Matt. 12:28; 24:14; 28:18-19; Mark 1:14-15; John 3:3, 5; Col. 1:13

- I. The kingdom of God is a divine sphere for God to work out His plan; it is a realm where God can exercise His authority to accomplish what He intends—Mark 1:15; John 3:3, 5; Matt. 12:28; Rev. 11:15.**
- II. As God incarnate, the Lord Jesus came to establish the kingdom of God, to establish a realm in which God can carry out His purpose through the exercise of His authority—John 1:1, 14; 3:3, 5; 18:36; Mark 4:3, 26-29; Matt. 12:28.**
- III. The fundamental problem in the universe is rebellion against the authority of God—Isa. 14:12-14:**
  - A. Satan intends to violate God's sovereignty, usurp God's authority, overthrow God's throne, and establish his own kingdom—Matt. 12:26; Eph. 2:2.
  - B. When man fell, he rebelled against God, put God's authority aside, denied God's authority, and rejected God's rule—Gen. 3:6, 11; Rom. 5:12; 1 John 3:4.
- IV. Through the gospel of the kingdom, God brings people under the ruling of the heavenly authority so that they may become His kingdom, those who are ruled by His authority—Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:5-6:**
  - A. The New Testament preaches the gospel in the way of the kingdom; because the kingdom of God is the real gospel, to know the gospel requires that we know the kingdom—Mark 1:14-15; Acts 8:12.
  - B. The gospel is for the kingdom, and the gospel is proclaimed so that rebellious sinners might be saved, qualified, and equipped to enter into the kingdom of God—Mark 1:14-15; Matt. 4:17; Acts 8:12:
    1. The gospel of life, the gospel of grace, and the gospel of salvation are all for the kingdom; the kingdom is the center, the hub—John 3:16; Acts 20:24; 4:12.
    2. The gospel of the kingdom brings people not only into God's salvation but also into the kingdom; the emphasis of the gospel of the kingdom is on the heavenly ruling of God and the authority of the Lord—Matt. 24:14.
    3. The gospel of the kingdom brings the believers into the realm of the divine ruling so that they may participate in the blessings of the divine life in the divine kingdom—1 Thes. 2:12.
  - C. In Matthew the goal of the gospel of the kingdom is to set up the kingdom of the heavens by putting people into the Triune God, making them citizens of the kingdom of the heavens—28:19; Rom. 14:17.
- V. As believers in Christ, we have been regenerated to enter into the kingdom of God as the realm of the divine species to live under the rule of God in life, light, and love—John 3:3, 5, 15-16; Col. 1:12-13:**
  - A. We have been born into the kingdom of God, and now the divine life in our spirit knows the kingdom of God—John 3:5-6.

- B. The kingdom of God into which we have entered through regeneration is a realm of the divine species; we have entered into this divine realm by being born of God to become children of God, God-men, who have the life and nature of God—1:12-13; 3:3, 5.
- C. Through regeneration we have been transferred into the delightful kingdom of the Son of God's love—a realm where we are ruled in love with life; the kingdom in which we find ourselves today is a realm full of life, light, and love—Col. 1:12-13; 1 Pet. 2:9.

**VI. The gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations before the end of this age—Matt. 24:14:**

- A. This preaching, signified by the white horse of the first seal in Revelation 6:1-2, will be a sign of the consummation of this age.
- B. To disciple the nations is to make the heathen the kingdom people for the establishing of His kingdom, which is the church, even today, on this earth—1 Thes. 1:9; 2:12; Rev. 1:5-6, 9; 5:9-10.
- C. The intrinsic purpose of our preaching the gospel is to bring people of the nations into the Triune God in order to make them the citizens of the kingdom of the heavens—Matt. 24:14; 28:18-19.