

The kingdom of God

Jesus, the Christ = the long-awaited Messiah sent by God; He said: *Seek first... the kingdom of God... and His righteousness* -- **Matthew 6**.

So, what is the **kingdom of God**? And where do I go looking for it?

Some might also ask is the **kingdom of God**... the same as the **kingdom of heaven**? **Yes!** Same place! If that kingdom does not belong to God who created all things; who else would it belong to? Other than some deluded subordinate who merely dreams it belongs to him.

Our grandmother's name was: Iona Elvina Sackl Starr... some called her Iona, some who didn't know she got married called her Iona Sackl, others called her Iona Starr, or Mrs. Starr... some called her Auntie, others called her Mom; we just called her Grandma -- same person, and nobody was confused.

The **kingdom of God**... **is** the **kingdom of heaven**: not complicated.

At the trial, Pontius Pilate asked Jesus: *are you a king?* Jesus answered: *My kingdom is not of this world, if My kingdom were of this world, I could call legions of angels and they would fight for me; but **now** is My kingdom not of this world.*

This question about: a **kingdom**... was asked in context to prophet Ezekiel who spoke of an earthly **realm** in the lineage of David... with a corrupt, evil ruler of Israel reigning, the **LORD** said: *I will overturn, overturn, overturn... 3 times... and then no more... until He comes whose right it is to reign* -- **Ezekiel 23**.

John wrote of the time when the Gentile nations come to an end, when: *the kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord Christ* -- **Revelation 11**... which is future... when Messiah comes a second time, a time of great power and glory... and obviously, **that kingdom** will be here on earth.

While Jesus lived among us... and as the good Teacher taught his students... sometime in his ministry, the loveless, angry Pharisees -- like roman inquisitors... demanded of him, when the **kingdom** of God will come. He answered (which always means: He assessed the situation; He sized-up what was currently going on before speaking) and then He said:

the **kingdom** of God comes... *not with observation... neither will they say; lo, it's over here; or lo, over there* (the word: **lo**... always marks a definite point in time) -- **Luke 17**. Jesus speaking to these loveless people said, His kingdom is not visible, not even with the finest microbiological or astrophysical equipment; no one is capable of pointing either here or there, to say: that definitely is it.

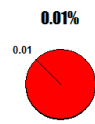
So definitely those living in our genius generation with their limited, narrow science and research minds... they will have an impossible time locating this **kingdom**. **Love** and **joy** and **peace**... **mercy** and **grace**; **goodness**, **kindness**, **thankfulness** can't be found under the most careful scrutiny of any microscope or telescope operator. By the way: *careful*... is not observable either, yet another terribly unscientific term.

Jesus, the good Teacher... who taught lessons of the heart; He chose words He knew his students could respond to... since they had hearts... so let's break down the parts of this verse.

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Seek... to look for, to go in search of; to try to discover; to try to acquire; to make an attempt. So Jesus used an action word... the activity of every human... in every country for all the generations... who wants an answer to the 4 basic questions of life: **1.** What is reality? **2.** Who is well off? **3.** Who is a good person? **4.** How do you become a good person?

Sadly, answers to these questions from our leaders and teachers fall flat in both our 21st century fun and happiness graduates and drop outs... sinking in science and research... who sound as bizarre and irrelevant as opera buffs and aficionados who wonder why .01% of the population – that is 1/10th of one percent... attend their performance and admire their portly egos.



Jesus is a good Teacher, if He sounded anything like the teachers and leaders of society today, what He started would have died and his memory swept away by the time Jerusalem fell to the romans.

Oleta Adams' song says... get there by rail way, by trail way, by airplane, with your mind, by caravan... by sailboat, or find a tree and swing rope to rope... jump on a speedy boat... take a fast train... I don't care how you get there... but get there if you can. It might not be good science; it might not be completely accurate advice, it certainly is not operatic; but it is what the good Teacher was conveying when He said to all those stumbling around or just sitting there in darkness... with nowhere to go, Jesus said:

Seek... do this **first**... in other words, stop everything else that you are doing... and since they didn't have a rail way, or trail way or airplane... no speedy boat, no fast train; but they did have a mind: so Jesus said, use it... and maybe change your thinking, too... but definitely...

Seek first... go in search of it first; try to discover first; try to acquire first; make an attempt...

Seek first... **the kingdom of God**... the place where God rules; where He sets up shop... so that all the tools He needs are readily available – make that place your priority each day, every day.

To the Romans, Paul who studied 3 years in Damascus what Jesus taught the first wave of disciples, and then he preached for 14 years in Arabia... before he reacquainted himself with the first wave of those still in Jerusalem, he wrote... *the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness* (doing things the right way), *and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit* – **Romans 15**;

...which is why Paul wrote: *let no one judge you over what you eat or drink* – **Colossians 2**; he could have mentioned tons of other things like clothing and jewelry and technology gadgets and you name it; but Paul didn't have time to focus on the negative – what the kingdom wasn't... because those things and stuff... have nothing to do with the **kingdom of God**...

...which is exactly what Jesus said twice... when He taught his Sermon on the Mount... *take no thought, do not worry yourself about what you will eat or drink*.

Your heavenly Father feeds the birds flying around the town... *and aren't you more important to Him? for your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these little things...* BUT

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Seek first... the kingdom of God, and His righteousness... look for, discover... the place of peace and joy, which is where God rules. Can you imagine a place of peace and joy? David said to his son Solomon, *if you seek the Lord with your whole heart, and with a willing mind, the Lord who searches all hearts, and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts, if you will seek him, He will let you find him -- 1 Chronicles 28.* The prophet said, *Seek the Lord while He may be found -- Isaiah 55.* The thought is incredible, isn't it?

We live in a highly sophisticated, nearly genius world... where war and anger and hate... are the norm and rule of the day... where deists, who say they believe there is a Creator... deists along with atheists, who say they don't... and of course with some fashionable agnostics... who conclude their way is absolutely okay, they can manage without him.

But the good Teacher added:

and His righteousness... **God's way of doing things right in heaven's kingdom.** In our little kingdoms down here; in our little realms of royal jackasses, we all love to do things: *my way...* that would be called: **self-righteousness...** which is something definitely **not** valued or needed in the **kingdom of God.**

Jesus, the good Teacher said... instead of the rat race down here...

Seek first... the kingdom of God... and His right way of doing things... and all the little things you need will be added to you.

By the way, Jesus said many other amazing things. Check out the Bible: 100 million new Bibles are sold every year, with annual sales increasing... making it the best seller book on the world stage... while governments ban its sales, or limit its publication; at the same time they coerce their citizens to purchase other books. Compared to the Bible, no other book is freely sought with comparable interest.

Why? Simple! In that Book are all the good lessons of life we need; so we can still learn from Him.

JESUS is the good Teacher... who invites us to find rest... for our souls!

Check out this link to testimonies of our brothers and sisters in Judah... who are still finding new life in... **the kingdom of our great God: [One For Israel](#)**