

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD REVEALED

### Mark 1:14-15

**Introduction:** It is evident that some have taken up their "Christian" belief lightly and have little staying power for as soon as difficulties or differences threaten, they are quick to renounce their profession of faith and the truth of their "profession in Christ" is made clear. However, those who have truly accepted the truth of Jesus Christ and given themselves to Him will be intimidated by nothing. They are the ones who stay through thick and thin, even through persecution. Jesus, again, is our example:

- As soon as Jesus learned of John the Baptist's imprisonment, He went into Galilee, where John had been preaching and picked up where John had left off, even the same message, *"...Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the Gospel."*

### I. WHAT IS THIS KINGDOM THEY WERE ANNOUNCING?

#### 1. It was the Kingdom of God.

- An empire God raises over the souls of men not by worldly means of weapons and war, but by an invisible spiritual influence over the minds and hearts of men.
- An empire not determined by particular boundaries, but spread over the face of the whole earth.
- Its laws are written in the hearts of His subjects and affect their thoughts and desires as well as their outward actions.
- A kingdom that has not the pomp and show as other kingdoms, but is located within the hearts of men and consists of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- His subjects have peculiar privileges such as no other people on earth have which are spiritual in nature and invisible to fleshly eyes.
- Their King is always with them and every subject has access to Him at all times and all that He possesses is theirs.
- His power is constantly put forth for the protection and support of every individual among them, ordering everything for their good and is ever occupied in making them happy, giving them a peace that passes all understanding and a joy that is unspeakable and glorified.
- This kingdom is also called "The Kingdom of Heaven" as it is an exact counterpart of that which is in heaven and differs only in its measure and degree. Whatever goes on in Heaven is duplicated in the kingdom on earth, only to a lesser degree. The law of holiness is the same, the privileges are the same and happiness in God is one great shared privilege.

#### 2. It was a Kingdom which was at that time to be established.

- The prophets had for centuries spoken clearly of a kingdom to be established by the Messiah at an appointed time.
- The time had arrived. The Samaritan woman said, *"...we know that the Messiah is coming..."* *"...The time is fulfilled; the kingdom of God is at hand..."* replied Jesus. Jesus commanded His disciples to declare the same- *"...be sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you."*
- Although everyone was looking for and expecting a visible, earthly kingdom, the kingdom John and Jesus spoke of was a spiritual kingdom made up of spiritual subjects.

## **II. WHAT WAS/IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO BECOME SUBJECTS OF THIS KINGDOM?**

There is no need to migrate to another country in order to place oneself under the dominion of Christ, for there is an appointed way for all to have their names enrolled among His people.

### 1. To repent.

- To repent is the duty of every person, whether a Christian or not, for every human has violated the laws of God, however repentance is an indispensable requirement for admission into the Kingdom of God. No unrepentant sinner with sins great or small can be numbered among those of the Kingdom of God.
- Those who refuse to repent, do not yield to the authority of God and despises the privileges which come to those within this Kingdom.
- No matter what an unrepentant one may call him/herself, the King of the Kingdom of God will consider that person an enemy, a rebel, a traitor.
- In order to become a fellow-citizen with the saints, he/she must him/herself become a saint.

### 2. To believe the Gospel.

- Repentance is necessary to prepare men/women for the kingdom, but it is faith which actually introduces them into it.
- The Gospel sets forth Jesus Christ as "Prince" but the "Savior" also. It represents Him as having born our sins in His own body on the cross, thereby made a full satisfaction to God for them. It assures also of perfect satisfaction to God. The very moment that one embraces the truths of the Gospel, complete reconciliation is made.
- By repentance, we cast away our weapons of rebellion and by faith, we give an devote ourselves to Jesus Christ as His peculiar people.

## **CONCLUSION:**

### 1. Questions come to mind at this point.

- Whose subjects are we now? We can belong only to one of two kingdoms on this earth - Satan's or God's.
- Have YOU met the requirements to belong to the Kingdom of God? If not you still belong to the kingdom of Satan.
- Do you enjoy all the benefits and privileges that come to a subject of the Kingdom of God?

### 2. Should not there be humiliation to all in the Kingdom of God?

- How little love we bear to our Heavenly King, how little interest we have shown in His service.
  - Think of the lengths a subject of an earthly kingdom will go for his/her king - even death in order to receive a "nod" of recognition from his/her honored king.
- When called into God's service, who does not complain or beg to be excused? Whose conscience is not shamed when thought is given to how little gratitude is shown the greatest benefactor of all?

### 3. Who has not reason to be thankful to the King of the Kingdom of Heaven?

- Even those who do not belong for they still have opportunity to belong to God's Kingdom.
- Especially those of us who belong to and enjoy all the privileges and benefits from our King.