

At this time we will begin the eleventh lecture on biblical theology. /Today we will cover **Chapter 3, Theology of the Kingdom of God**, of the New Testament Bible. /The New Testament uses the expressions: kingdom of heaven, heaven, and kingdom of God.

### **/1. Meaning of the Kingdom of Heaven.**

/John the Baptist and Jesus preached about “the kingdom of heaven.” /John the Baptist preached, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” /Jesus also preached, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” /Matthew 3:2 /Matthew 4:17

/The Old Testament does not specifically mention the term “kingdom of heaven.” /It does refer to it as “the throne of God.” /However, the kingdom of heaven in the New Testament is based on the Old Testament. /God created the universe, and God is the king who reigns over the entire universe.

/God would come as the king of Israel. /This was the thought of those who waited for the Messiah. /Jesus would come as King, as an offspring of David.

### **/2. Features of the Kingdom of Heaven.**

#### **/A. It is God-Centered.**

/The coming of the kingdom of heaven implies two things: redemption and judgment. /“Redemption” means that God leads his people so that they would maintain a correct relationship with him.

/God solves the problem of his people’s sins. /On the other hand, “Judgment” means that God disposes of those who are against God. /Redemption and judgment are both God-centered.

/John the Baptist and Jesus’ evangelism was based on this. /Therefore, it shows that God is the Creator, Promisor, King, and Savior of the movement of the kingdom of heaven.

/The New Testament Bible begins with God at the center and ends with God at the center. /Thus, “The kingdom of heaven is near,” means that Jesus Christ came into this world. /Therefore, God’s kingdom begins with Jesus at the center, and God’s kingdom becomes complete.

#### **/B. It is Power-Centered.**

/The Gospels emphasize the movement of the kingdom of heaven, rather than the locational aspect of the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 4:17. /This is also centered on a characteristic element. /The kingdom of heaven is centered on the character of God’s Son, of whom all works are accomplished through. Matthew 20:1; 22:2.

#### **/C. It is Messiah-Centered.**

/The beginning of the Gospels speaks of the birth of the Messiah. /It also says that the kingdom of heaven is near. /Luke 1:32-33 /Luke 2:5-14 /John the Baptist implies that the coming of the Messiah and the coming of the kingdom of heaven parallel each other. /John the Baptist also said that the Messiah would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit.

**/D. The Futurity of the Kingdom of Heaven.** Future characteristics.

/John the Baptist spoke about the coming wrath. /Matthew 3:7-12 /He also spoke of the futurity of the kingdom of heaven. /Jesus too spoke of the conditions of the afterlife and the blessings of the afterlife. /Matthew 6:10 /Matthew 7:21 /Matthew 8:11 /Matthew 13:43 /Matthew 16:28

**/E. The Presence of the Kingdom of Heaven.** Present characteristics.

/The coming of the kingdom of heaven in the Gospel of Matthew is not referred to as a final and eschatological stage, but rather, a transitional coming. /The kingdom of heaven indicates the transitional present times.

/Jesus' coming to this earth was the coming of the kingdom of heaven. Its completion will take place in the future. /Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven would be completed in the future. /Jesus implied that the kingdom of heaven was a place of the future, but also said that the kingdom of heaven had come with Him into the world. /Mark 1:15 /Luke 4:18 /19.

/Also, 1) Jesus' defeat of the devil was a witness to the coming of the kingdom of heaven. /Thus, Luke 11:20 says that the kingdom of God has come. /Jesus' chasing out of the demon indicated that God's reign would soon come.

/It testified to the kingdom of God. /Next, 2) the miraculous signs that Jesus performed testified to the coming of the kingdom of heaven. /The miracles that Jesus performed in healing the sick testified to the coming of the Messiah. /Matthew 11:5 /Daniel 7:13-14

/3) The gospel was proof of the coming of the kingdom of heaven. /Jesus clearly implied that the coming of the kingdom of heaven was fulfilled through Jesus' gospel ministry. /Matthew 11:5 /The gospel is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy.

/This fulfillment would establish the coming of the kingdom of heaven. /4) The present possession of salvation testifies to the coming of the kingdom of heaven. /Jesus promised to give believers the kingdom of heaven. /Sometimes, Jesus gives believers the kingdom of heaven in the present times. /The kingdom of heaven will also come in the future.

/The kingdom of heaven is referred to in a present state and also in a future state. /Matthew 6:33, /21:42, /25:34 /Mark 10:15 /Luke 12:32 /Luke 22:29 /In this way, the kingdom of heaven is both of the present and the future.

/At times, the kingdom of heaven refers to the New Testament church generation. /A parable is told in Matthew 13. /It says, "the kingdom of heaven." /The kingdom of heaven that is mentioned in Matthew 13 refers to the New Testament church generation.

/It refers to the current times. /It also means that we will enter the eternal kingdom of heaven when we die. /Then this world will be completely destroyed. /God's kingdom will exist forever. /This is the kingdom of heaven that we will go to in the future.

### **/3. Hope for the Kingdom of Heaven.**

/There are verses in the Bible that hope for the kingdom of heaven. /Matthew 10:23  
/Mark 9:1 /Mark 13:30 /These verses look forward to the completion of the New Testament period. Jesus died and rose again to life, and then He ascended into heaven.

/Jesus also said that He would send the Holy Spirit. /Thus, the New Testament church generation officially began. /The kingdom of God would be established through the spreading of the gospel.

### **/4. The Kingdom of Heaven and the Apocalypse.**

/The Apocalypse is the final end of the New Testament period. It is the last stop. /The Apocalypse will be fulfilled through the Second Coming of Jesus the Son. /The Gospels speak of the Last Days. /Matthew 24 /Luke 17:24

/Our Jesus will return in the Last Days. /This sinful world will be destroyed. /Then the Lord will establish the eternal kingdom of God. /Our Jesus alone is the King of kings. /We are the citizens of that kingdom, the people.

/We will continue with **Chapter 4, Christology in the Synoptic Gospels.** /Christology. /The word “Kristos” in the New Testament refers to the Messiah of the Old Testament. /“Kristos” is Greek. /This is the same as the word “Messiah” in the Old Testament Bible.

/“Messiah” is Hebrew. /It means, “Christ.” /It means, “anointed.” /Both “Christ” and “Messiah” mean “anointed.” /“Christ” refers to Jesus Christ who came as a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy.

/Christ is our Savior. /There were three professions in the Old Testament times that required anointing with oil. /King, prophet, and priest. /People of these three professions were anointed. /Jesus is Christ who came with all three professions. /Jesus is our Savior.

### **/1. The Gender of Jesus Christ.**

/The apostle John said, “Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ.” /1 John 2:22 /The Synoptic Gospels emphasize that Jesus is Christ. /Matthew 16:16-20

/Jesus testifies to this. /**A. Jesus Personally Testifies.** /Jesus emphasized that He came to fulfill the prophecy of the Old Testament. /Luke 4:17, /21.

/The prophecy and promise of Christ is mentioned 456 times in the Old Testament. /Jesus fulfilled these prophecies. /We can believe in Christ. /We can believe that Jesus is Christ.

/**B. Proof in the Gospels.** /1) The Gospels speak of Jesus’ supernatural personality. /The Gospels show Jesus as the Messiah and also as One who is divine. /They show Jesus’ Messianic character and divinity.

/Jesus is called the Son of God. /Mark 1:1 /Jesus is also called “Son of David.” /Matthew 1:1 /Matthew 15:22 /Matthew 22:41 /Jesus is also referred to as the “Son of Man.” /Matthew 12:40 /Mark 8:31 /Luke 9:44

/Jesus also said that all things were committed to Him by His Father. /Matthew 11:27 /Luke 10:22 /Jesus also proclaimed that the kingdom of God is near. /Mark 1:15 /Jesus said that He has the authority to forgive sins. /Mark 2:9, /11.

/In this way, the Gospels emphasize the supernaturalism and historicity of Jesus. /Supernaturalism and historicity. /Therefore, the story of our Jesus is not a myth, but is a historically true story.

/2) The secret of the Messiah. /Jesus told people not to tell anyone about Him, about Christ. /Matthew 16:20 /Mark 3:12 /Luke 4:41

/Why did Jesus hide Himself at times and tell people not to tell others that He was Christ? /It was because Jesus did not want to carelessly tell the unchosen, those who would not repent, about the truth of the Lord.

/Jesus also did not want any political misunderstandings to arise, to those who wanted to make Him a king in the world. /Jesus said, do not throw your pearls before swine. /In the same way, the Lord hid Himself from those who opposed of the gospel.

/Jesus also did not come as a worldly king. /The Lord is King /of God’s kingdom, /King of the kingdom of heaven. /Jesus did not come to be an outward and physical king of Israel. /Why else did Jesus want to hide that He was Christ?

/Jesus hid the fact that He was the Messiah because He wanted to keep the order of the revelation. /Jesus’ Messianic character would receive sufferings. /The Messiah would receive sufferings and would not be able to avoid sufferings.

/Jesus revealed that He was “Messiah” when the time of suffering came near. /The Lord revealed that He was the Messiah when the time of the suffering of the cross came near.

**/2. Christ’s Atoning Death.** /Christ’s atoning death. /The Messiah needed to suffer in order to save mankind. /That was because all of mankind was cursed was a result of sins.

/Man was cursed as a result of his sins. /The Savior, who would save the cursed humanity, would then have to receive the curses that man would receive. /In this way, Jesus received curses in our place.

/Jesus personally took up our sins. /Matthew 9:15 /Matthew 20:28 /The writings of the apostles also allude to Jesus’ death as an atoning death. /2 Corinthians 5:15

/The Gospel of John clearly describes Jesus’ death as an atoning death. /John 1:29,

/3:14, /6:53, /10:16, /11:47, /12:32.

/There lived a famous and conservative scholar. /He was a conservative scholar named Geerhardus Vos. /He made a claim. Jesus spoke in Matthew 20:28 as the Messiah, the “servant of the LORD” that is alluded to in Isaiah 53.

/This includes the idea that Jesus gives life. /Isaiah 53:12 /It includes the idea that Jesus will serve. /Isaiah 53:11 /It also includes the idea that Jesus would serve to the point of death for the people. /Isaiah 53:11

/It also includes the ideas that Jesus will pay the price of atonement. /Isaiah 53:5 /Matthew 20:28 says, “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

/Jesus is without sin. /Jesus is the Son of God. /We sinned. /Thus, humanity received curses.

/However, Jesus carried the sins of mankind and died on the cross in our place. /Jesus fulfilled the law. /The Lord fulfilled God’s righteousness. /Jesus rose to life in three days by the power of God.

/Then Jesus clothed believers with righteousness. /Jesus took up our sins, and he completed righteousness before God through His death. /Jesus fulfilled God’s justice.

/As a result, we became righteous before God through faith in Jesus. /We became righteous through Jesus’ merits. /We receive salvation through faith in Jesus. /We believers will receive eternal life.

/Then we believers will receive heaven as inheritance. /We will receive the inheritance of heaven as children of God. /We will enjoy eternal happiness and comfort as we have harmony and fellowship with God as we worship him.

/Here we will conclude the eleventh lecture on biblical theology. /Thank you.