

THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM

I. [Luke 4:38-44](#) [Revelation 21:1-8](#)

A. Our main text takes place in Capernaum in Galilee. Jesus has been rejected in His hometown of Nazareth. He goes down the road 20 miles to Capernaum where they welcome Him to teach in their synagogue. There, He casts out a demon from a man in attendance. The people are amazed at His teaching and His preaching with authority.

B. **Luke 4:38-44 (ESV) picks up there: 38** *And He (Jesus) arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. (Simon Peter's house) Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to Him on her behalf. 39* *And He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. 40* *Now when the sun was setting, (Sabbath was ending) all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him, and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. (Dr. Luke is writing this. Had his practice been in Capernaum, he'd be out of business, at least for a time.) 41* *And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that He was the Christ. (The realm of darkness knew the Son of God had arrived on earth as the Messiah, the Promised One, the Chosen One, the Righteous One; they knew, believed, and shuddered!) 42* *And when it was day, He departed and went into a desolate place. (Jesus often retreated to remote areas to pray and be replenished.) And the people sought Him and came to Him, and would have kept Him from leaving them, 43* *but He said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." 44* *And He was preaching in the synagogues of Judea. (After this time of prayer, Jesus will begin choosing His first disciples.)*

C. Luke often uses the term, *the Kingdom of God*. (30+ times) The Gospel, the Good News, is about a King and His Kingdom. Don't think so much as to territory, but rather as to the complete sphere of God's rule and reign. The coming of Jesus, God the Son, was the inauguration of God's Kingdom on the earth and we are moving daily towards its full consummation when Christ Jesus returns.

D. Each day we pray, "*Father in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*" Out of all the prayers we pray, this one will be answered. We pray for big things. We pray for small things. Some of those get answered just like we want and some do not. Our Father knows best! But when we pray for God's Kingdom to come on the earth, we are praying as Jesus taught us and the outcome is never in doubt!

E. Dr. Luke in our text indicates that Jesus healed all the people brought to Him no matter what disease, ailment, or affliction they had. It must've been glorious to behold. It was a foretaste of what's to come. Every cancer Jesus healed, every leper who lost his rash, every childhood disease that was cured, every demon that was exorcized, revealed that God had touched down on the planet and His rule and reign were here, it was advancing, and it would not be stopped until the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

F. Now some may wonder if our ascended Lord still heals today. I will couch it this way: The One who was, and is, and is to come, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, can and will do whatever He wants to advance His Kingdom. He's the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Two things we dare not do: First, let's not be presumptuous about what He can and wants to do with respect to anyone or anything, anywhere! Second, let's never (in our minds) pigeon hole our Lord or limit Him or reduce Him to compliance with doctrinal narratives that veer away from His sovereignty and providential goodness. Let God be God in all Three Persons; let Him be as limitless as He truly is, and let us enjoy Him now and forevermore!

G. Throughout His earthly ministry, demons shrieked and wailed when Jesus cast them out. Once He allowed a legion of devils to enter a herd of pigs who summarily ran down a hill, plunged into the sea, and drowned. But perhaps demons gathered with some sense of victory when they saw Jesus being nailed to the wood. Perhaps there was some glee in the dark realm when the Jewish leaders and Roman soldiers conspired to arrest Jesus, crown Him with thorns, and pound nails through His hands and feet. Maybe, just maybe, it slipped right pass them when our bleeding Jesus declared forgiveness from that cross.

H. But what was it like for the demonic realm the moment they realized Jesus was being executed with our sins imputed to Him and His record of righteousness was being conferred upon us?! How loud were their screams when the stone blocking the tomb flew open and Jesus stepped out?! How piercing was the agony of their defeat that day?! And likewise, how deep is the rage when an adopted child of God is laid to rest with the promise of the same resurrection?! What does allegiance to a losing cause feel like when the Children of the Most High God escape the second death even while the devil and his minions inch ever closer to the lake of fire?!

I. Revelation 21:1-8 (ESV) is a glimpse of the coming Kingdom. John let's us peer through a keyhole into our future royal inheritance. Let's go home with this sneak peak:
1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5 And He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (And what are the monuments of triumph for the Kingdom of God? A bloody cross, an empty tomb, and countless regenerated souls and transformed hearts. All hail to The King of kings and Lord of Lords!

*** Close with Prayer...**

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Luke 4:38-44 (ESV)

38 And He arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to Him on her behalf. **39** And He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. **40** Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him, and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. **41** And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that He was the Christ. **42** And when it was day, He departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought Him and came to Him, and would have kept Him from leaving them, **43** but He said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." **44** And He was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Revelation 21:1-8 (ESV)

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." **5** And He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." **6** And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. **7** The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be My son. **8** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Bonus Rations for Further Nourishment

Do Miracles Happen Today? - John Piper

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bgs38_x1XJg

How Do I Pray for Healing and Honor God's 'No'? - John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okaxcNEzddg>

Gospel Panel Discussion: John Piper, Sam Storms, Francis Chan, Miguel Núñez, Jason Meyer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEQ3CenOqy8>

When Jesus Brags About You - Tim Challies

<https://www.challies.com/quotes/when-jesus-brags-about-you/>

"The Pain of Pretended Omniscience" - Andrew Roycroft

<https://thinkingpastorally.com/2021/02/19/the-pain-of-pretended-omniscience/>

Script Ohio in the Snow - Tom Krutsch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjIO0TCibOU>

Mark 1:21-39 (ESV)

21 And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and was teaching. **22** And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. **23** And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, **24** “What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God.” **25** But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” **26** And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. **27** And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” **28** And at once His fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. **29** And immediately He left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. **30** Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told Him about her. **31** And He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. **32** That evening at sundown they brought to Him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. **33** And the whole city was gathered together at the door. **34** And He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew Him. **35** And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed. **36** And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him, **37** and they found Him and said to Him, “Everyone is looking for You.” **38** And He said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” **39** And He went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Matthew 8:14-17 (ESV)

14 And when Jesus entered Peter's house, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. **15** He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve Him. **16** That evening they brought to Him many who were oppressed by demons, and He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. **17** This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

Isaiah 42:1 (AMP)

1 “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My Chosen One in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

Isaiah 53:10-12 (NASB)

10 But the LORD desired to crush Him, causing Him grief; if He renders Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. **11** As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, for He will bear their wrongdoings. **12** Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the plunder with the strong, because He poured out His life unto death, and was counted with wrongdoers; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the wrongdoers.

1 Chronicles 29:10-13 (NASB)

10 So David blessed the Lord in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. **11** Yours, LORD, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and on the earth; Yours is the dominion, Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. **12** Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. **13** Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name.

John 1:29-34 (NIV)

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is the One I meant when I said, 'A Man who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.' **31** I myself did not know Him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that He might be revealed to Israel." **32** Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on Him. **33** And I myself did not know Him, but the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The Man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' **34** I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

Hebrews 13:8 (AMP)

8 Jesus Christ is [eternally changeless, always] the same yesterday and today and forever.

Revelation 4:1-11 (ESV)

1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." **2** At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with One seated on the throne. **3** And He who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. **4** Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. **5** From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, **6** and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: **7** the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. **8** And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, *“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”* **9** And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, **10** the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who is seated on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, **11** “Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.”

Revelation 11:15-18 (ESV)

15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.” **16** And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, **17** saying, “We give thanks to You, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for You have taken Your great power and begun to reign. **18** The nations raged, but Your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding Your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear Your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

Quote by Os Guinness

"Jesus made clear that the Kingdom of God is organic and not organizational. It grows like a seed and it works like leaven: secretly, invisibly, surprisingly, and irresistibly."

Quote by R.C. Sproul

"The only way the kingdom of God is going to be manifest in this world before Christ comes is if we manifest it by the way we live as citizens of heaven and subjects of the King."

Quote by Charles Colson

"It is not what we do that matters, but what a sovereign God chooses to do through us. God doesn't want our success; He wants us. He doesn't demand our achievements; He demands our obedience. The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of paradox, where through the ugly defeat of a cross, a holy God is utterly glorified. Victory comes through defeat; healing through brokenness; finding self through losing self."

Quote by David Livingstone

"I will place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. If anything will advance the interests of that kingdom, it shall be given away or kept only in reference to whether giving or keeping will most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity."

Quote by Dallas Willard

"We are built to live in the kingdom of God. It is our natural habitat."

Quote by Cal Thomas

"The Kingdom of God is not going to arrive on Air Force One."

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Ligonier Ministries - The Teaching Fellowship of R.C. Sproul

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/gospel-kingdom/>

"Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them, 'The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or "There!" for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.'"
- [Luke 17:20–21](#)

The book of Romans is well known as Paul's most comprehensive presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet the Apostle's teaching on the gospel does not exist in a vacuum; rather, it presupposes and is connected with the other presentations in the Bible regarding the good news of salvation. In order to help us see how the perspectives of the other biblical authors on the gospel fit in with Paul's exposition of the book of Romans, we are now going to pause our study of this epistle for a two-day look at what the rest of Scripture says about the good news. Dr. R.C. Sproul's teaching series *What Is the Gospel?* will guide our consideration of this important topic.

You will note that we have used the phrase good news of salvation synonymously with the word gospel in the previous paragraph, and with good reason. That is because *euangelion*, the Greek word we translate into English as "gospel," literally means "good news" or "good message." In biblical times, *euangelion* could refer to any piece of favorable news, including reports that a city's army had been victorious in battle. The authors of Scripture took the term and invested it with new meaning based on divine revelation, so that now we as Christians use the word gospel to speak of the good message of salvation.

In the New Testament, we find the term gospel on the lips of Jesus Himself ([Matt. 26:13](#)). Christ uses the word most often in connection with the kingdom of God; thus, the Evangelists can speak of Jesus proclaiming "the gospel of the kingdom" (9:35). From Genesis to Revelation, we see the Lord's servants longing for the kingdom of God to come. Put most simply, the kingdom of God is that place where His reign is recognized openly and gladly ([Isa. 52:7](#)). When we speak of the kingdom of God, we do not mean to imply that there are places over which the Lord does not currently reign, for our Creator sovereignly rules over all ([Ps. 9:7–8](#)). However, since the fall of Adam, His realm has been in open rebellion against Him (Gen. 3). Men and women do not willingly or happily embrace, submit to, and rejoice in God's reign, and because of that they forfeit many blessings.

For people to recognize God's kingdom, our Lord had to act and overcome humanity's suppression of the knowledge that He is King and that we are to be His loyal subjects. This He did in the person and work of Jesus Christ, who as the second person of the Trinity and victor over sin and death now reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords ([Rev. 19:16](#)).

Coram Deo

With the coming of Christ, the kingdom of God is now evident among His people even as we wait for its final consummation at His return. The gospel announces that Jesus has done the work necessary to overcome our natural resistance to God's kingdom and to make us citizens of this kingdom through faith alone. As we preach the gospel, we are announcing the blessed reign of the Lord, and we must repeat His command that all people everywhere repent and bow to His rule.

The Danger of Seeking Signs and Wonders

By Charles H. Spurgeon

"Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe." – John 4:48

A craving after marvels was a symptom of the sickly state of men's minds in our Lord's day; they refused solid nourishment, and pined after mere wonder. The gospel which they so greatly needed they would not have; the miracles which Jesus did not always choose to give they eagerly demanded. Many nowadays must see signs and wonders, or they will not believe. Some have said in their heart, 'I must feel deep horror of soul, or I never will believe in Jesus.' But what if you never should feel it, as probably you never may? Will you go to hell out of spite against God, because He will not treat you like another?

One has said to himself, 'If I had a dream, or if I could feel a sudden shock of I know not what, then I would believe.' Thus you undeserving mortals dream that my Lord is to be dictated to by you! You are beggars at His gate, asking for mercy, and you must needs draw up rules and regulations as to how He shall give that mercy. Think you that He will submit to this? My Master is of a generous spirit, but He has a right royal heart, He spurns all dictation, and maintains His sovereignty of action. Why, dear reader, if such be your case, do you crave for signs and wonders?

Is not the gospel its own sign and wonder? Is not this a miracle of miracles, that 'God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish'? Surely that precious word, 'Whosoever will, let him come and take the water of life freely' and that solemn promise, 'Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out,' are better than signs and wonders! A truthful Saviour ought to be believed. He is truth itself. Why will you ask proof of the veracity of One who cannot lie? The devils themselves declared Him to be the Son of God; will you mistrust Him?

- Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), taken from: Morning and Evening, evening devotion for September 2.