

THE UNSHAKABLE, ALL-CONQUERING, NEVER-ENDING KINGDOM

(No. 1287 – 8/31/26 – Sermon Online Zoom)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The Kingdom of God is a major theme in the NT

1. “Kingdom of God” is mentioned 116 times in the four Gospels (Matthew uses “kingdom of heaven” synonymously 31 times); “church” is only mentioned twice!
2. It seems that the modern Church needs a fresh revelation of the kingdom of God! We may like to have our separate Korean or American or Indian churches, but there is only ONE kingdom with ONE King seated on ONE throne! It’s time to “renew the kingdom” (1 Sam. 11:14)!
3. According to Matthew, the first words preached by both John the Baptist and Jesus were: “Repent, for the **kingdom of heaven is near.**”
4. The Gospel is the Good News of the kingdom of God.
5. Jesus taught us in the Lord’s prayer to pray for God’s kingdom to come.
6. We are to seek *first* the kingdom of God.
7. We are to receive, enter, inherit, and walk worthy of the kingdom of God.
8. Most of Jesus’ parables were telling us what the kingdom of God is like.

B. So, what exactly is a kingdom?

1. The simple definition is “a country, state, or territory ruled by a king or a queen.”
2. As Creator of the universe, God has the absolute right, power and authority to rule over all things—He is Lord and Sovereign. Because God is eternal, His kingdom is also eternal—it includes the past, present, and future!

3. In the kingdom of God, there is one King seated on a throne who has unquestioned power and authority to rule—He reigns, governs, and has dominion!

II. NATURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE KINGDOM

A. God's kingdom is a spiritual mystery understood only by revelation:

1. **Mat. 13:10-11** (NKJV): ¹⁰*And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"* ¹¹*He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the **mysteries of the kingdom** of heaven, but to them it has not been given."*
2. **1 Cor. 15:50-52**: ⁵⁰*I declare to you, brothers, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.* ⁵¹*Listen, **I tell you a mystery**: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—* ⁵²*in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*
3. **Luke 17:20-21**: ²⁰*Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The **kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation**, ²¹nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because **the kingdom of God is within you.**"*
4. **Rom. 14:17**: *For the **kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking**, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

B. Not of this world

1. **John 18:36**: [Pilate had asked Jesus if He was a king] *Jesus said, "**My kingdom is not of this world**. If it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now **My kingdom is from another place.**"*
2. Jesus was born to reign and His kingdom is ever-increasing and never-ending:
Isa. 9:6-7: ⁶*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government [Heb. "empire"] will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* ⁷*Of the*

*increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will **reign** on David's **throne** and over his **kingdom**, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.*

3. God gave King Nebuchadnezzar a most amazing dream in which He showed him in one image hundreds of years of human history involving 4 major kingdoms followed by a fifth kingdom—the kingdom of God:

Dan. 2:26-45: ²⁶*The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?”* ²⁷*Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the **mystery** he has asked about,* ²⁸*but **there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries**. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these:* ²⁹*“As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen.* ³⁰*As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.*

³¹*“You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance.* ³²*The **head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,*** ³³*its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.* ³⁴*While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.* ³⁵*Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But **the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth***

³⁶*“This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.* ³⁷*You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory;* ³⁸*in your hands He has placed mankind and the*

beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, He has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold. ³⁹“After you, another kingdom will rise, **inferior** to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. ⁴⁰Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. ⁴¹Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. ⁴²As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay

⁴⁴“In the time of those kings, **the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed**, nor will it be left to another people. **It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.** ⁴⁵This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. “The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy.”

- a) God revealed the mystery of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream to Daniel; more importantly, He revealed the mystery of His kingdom to anyone with ears to hear!
- b) The decreasing value (gold → silver → bronze → iron → clay) shows the diminishing power of each successive kingdom, inferior to the previous one.
- c) Interpretation: gold = Babylonian empire; silver = Medo-Persian empire under Cyrus; bronze = Greek empire under Alexander the Great; iron = Roman empire.
- d) Then God showed Nebuchadnezzar a fifth kingdom represented by the Rock that struck the statue and smashed the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold into pieces, leaving them like chaff swept away by the wind without leaving a trace!

Earthly kingdoms are diminishing, but God’s kingdom is ever-increasing and “forcefully advancing” (Mat. 11:12).

e) Interpretation: In the last days, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. It will crush every human kingdom and bring them all to an end, but it will itself endure forever! Nebuchadnezzar saw the Unshakable, All-Conquering, Never-Ending Kingdom of God! Glory to God!

4. Let's not get too excited about politics and national pride—
hear what God has to say about it:

But God
loves the
people!
(John 3:16)

Isa. 40:15, 17: ¹⁵*Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; He weighs the islands as though they were fine dust... ¹⁷Before Him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by Him as worthless and less than nothing.*

5. Nebuchadnezzar's vision will soon culminate after the Rapture of the Bride and the completion of Daniel's 70th week—the ensuing 7-year Tribulation:

Rev. 11:15-17 (NKJV): ¹⁵*Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" ¹⁶And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.*

C. A glorious heavenly kingdom

1. **2 Tim. 4:18:** *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*
2. In his Gospel, Matthew refers to the kingdom of God as the "kingdom of heaven" 31 times!
3. The resurrected, ascended, exalted Christ is now seated on His glorious heavenly throne:
 - a) **Mat. 19:28:** *Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."*

- b) **Mat. 25:31:** *“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, **He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory.**”*
- c) We need to fix our eyes and hearts on heavenly things:
Col. 3:2: ***Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.***
- d) God showed the Apostle John the One seated on His glorious throne surrounded by all of the glory of His heavenly kingdom:

Jesus had promised that His followers would “see heaven open” (John 1:51).

Rev. 4:1-11: ¹*After this I looked, and there before me was **a door standing open in heaven.** And the voice I had first 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 **there before me was a throne in heaven with Someone sitting on it.*** ³*And the One who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the **throne.***

⁴*Surrounding the **throne** were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.*

⁵*From the **throne** came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.* ⁶*Also before the **throne** there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the **throne**, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.* ⁷*The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.* ⁸*Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”* ⁹*Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to Him who sits on the **throne** and who lives for ever and ever,* ¹⁰*the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the **throne**, and worship Him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the **throne** and say:* ¹¹*“You are worthy, our Lord*

and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being.”

(1) “Throne” is mentioned 9 times—it must have been overwhelming—not to mention the One seated on the throne!

(2) Day and night they never stop worshipping!

- e) Then John saw the Lamb of God—the Lion of Judah and the Root of David—standing on the throne of His father David in heaven:

Rev. 5:1-14: ¹*Then I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the **throne** a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.* ²*And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”* ³*But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.* ⁴*I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.* ⁵*Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed.** He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”* ⁶*Then I saw a **Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*** ⁷*He came and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who sat on the **throne.*** ⁸*And when He had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.* ⁹*And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain, and with Your blood You purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.* ¹⁰*You have made them to be a **kingdom and priests** to serve our God, and **they will reign on the earth.**”* ¹¹*Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand.*

*They encircled the **throne** and the living creatures and the elders. ¹²In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” ¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To Him who sits on the **throne** and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” ¹⁴The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.*

- (1) “Throne” is mentioned another 5 times here.
- (2) What a worship service—myriads of angels, the living creatures and elders, and every creature in heaven, on the earth, under the earth, and even on the sea—all singing, “Worthy is the Lamb!”
- (3) I don’t know where your dream vacation is—Europe, Africa, maybe a tropical island—but *this* is where I dream of going! When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be!

D. Messiah Jesus destined to rule and promised an eternal kingdom:

1. **Luke 1:31-33:** [Gabriel to Mary]: ³¹*“You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name **Jesus**. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The **Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David**, ³³and **He will reign** over the house of Jacob forever; **His kingdom will never end.**”*

2. God the Father declares His Son eternal King:

Heb. 1:8-13: ⁸*But about the Son He [Father] says, “**Your throne, O God [Jesus], will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of Your kingdom.** ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God [Father], has set You [Jesus] above Your companions by anointing You with the oil of joy” [Ps. 45:6-7]. ¹⁰He also says, “In the beginning, O Lord, You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. ¹¹They will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹²You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But You remain*

the same, and Your years will never end.” ¹³*To which of the angels did God [Father] ever say, “**Sit at My right hand until I make Your [Jesus] enemies a footstool for Your feet**”?*

3. God’s promise to put all enemies under His Son’s feet:

- a) **Ps. 110:1-6:** ¹*The LORD [Father] says to my Lord [Jesus]: “**Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.**”* ²*The LORD will extend Your mighty scepter from Zion; You will **rule in the midst of Your enemies.*** ³*Your troops will be willing on Your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn You will receive the dew of Your youth.* ⁴*The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind: “You [Jesus] are a priest forever, in the order of **Melchizedek.**”* ⁵*The Lord [Jesus] is at Your [Father] right hand; **He will crush kings** on the day of His wrath.* ⁶*He will **judge the nations,** heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.*
- b) **Mat. 22:41-46:** ⁴¹*While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,* ⁴²*“What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?”* *“The son of David,” they replied.* ⁴³*He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls Him ‘Lord’? For he says,* ⁴⁴*“‘The Lord [Father] said to my Lord [Jesus]: “**Sit at My right hand until I put Your enemies under Your feet.**’”* ⁴⁵*If then David calls Him ‘Lord,’ how can He be his son?”* ⁴⁶*No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask Him any more questions.*
- c) **Eph. 1:18-23 (NKJV):** ¹⁸*That you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,* ¹⁹*and what is the **exceeding greatness of His power** toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power* ²⁰*which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and **seated Him at His right hand** in the heavenly places,* ²¹***far above all principality and power and might and dominion,** and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.* ²²*And **He [Father] put all things under His***

[Christ's] **feet**, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- d) NOTE: Because every evil power and authority is under Jesus' feet, the believer can stand in victory against them:

Eph. 6:10-17: ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can **take your stand against the devil's schemes**. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, to **stand**.

¹⁴**Stand firm** then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can **extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one**.

¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

4. The kingdom of light rules over the kingdom of darkness:

Col. 1:12-13: ¹²Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the **kingdom of light**. ¹³For He has rescued ["delivered" NKJV] us from the **dominion of darkness** and brought ["transferred" NAS; "translated" KJV] us into the **kingdom of the Son** He loves.

5. The dominion of sin and death overcome by the reign of grace and righteousness:

Rom. 5:14-21: ¹⁴Nevertheless, **death reigned** from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the One to come. ¹⁵But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came

by the grace of the One Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷For if, by the trespass of the one man, **death reigned** through that one man, **how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the One Man, Jesus Christ.** ¹⁸Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. ¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the One Man the many will be made righteous. ²⁰The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, ²¹so that, **just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness** to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom. 6:14 (NKJV): *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

6. Jesus must reign until He has destroyed all dominion and power:

1 Cor. 15:20-26: ²⁰*But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

²¹*For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a Man.* ²²*For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.* ²³*But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him.* ²⁴*Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father AFTER He has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.* ²⁵*For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.* ²⁶*The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*