

VOL. 9 21ST JULY 2024

A PUBLICATION OF THE STONE CHURCH, IYAGANKU, IBADAN, OYO STATE

# THY KINGDOM COME

he kingdom of God is very relevant to our lives today. The very heart of the gospel lies in the kingdom of God and the power for evangelism and discipleship relates directly to our understanding and experiencing the kingdom today. The kingdom is clearly at the center of Jesus' teaching.

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance, because in his words 'the kingdom of heaven was near.

Jesus began His public ministry by announcing "The kingdom of God is near" and then describing it in detail to His followers (Mark 1:15; Matthew 5:1-10). He told them "The kingdom of God has come upon you", and taught the mystery of the kingdom through parables (Matthew 12:28).

When he sent out the Twelve, he said 'As you go, preach this message: "The kingdom of Heaven is near". The Seventy-two were sent out with similar instructions. The apostles also taught about the kingdom of God. Paul 'boldly and without hindrance...preached the kingdom of God' (Acts 28:31)

What did Jesus mean by the phrase 'Kingdom of God'? It's meaning was not explicitly defined anywhere, but may be discerned from its common usage among first century Jews and in terms of Jesus' total mission and conduct. During His time, many of the Jews were hoping for a political kingdom; a military and geographic realm from which the Jews will rule under a descendant of David, they were expecting the promised Messiah as king. They thought, a Messiah, referred to as the 'Son of Man' in Daniel 7:13-14 would usher in an eternal kingdom on earth.

This explains why they tried to make Jesus king by force, during the early part of His ministry. They wanted Him to lead them out from Roman oppression and establish a political kingdom greater than David's (John 6:15).

Jesus often referred to Himself as the 'Son of Man' and so, His listeners knew He was claiming Messiahship. By this claim, He was saying the kingdom of God has come in Him.

"I am here. Watch out! I'm going to set everything straight. This is the beginning of the end of Satan and evil'

Jesus was sent by God, and this points to the supernatural nature of the kingdom. Because of this, we receive it only if God gives it to us, which is why it was taught in parables. The secret of the kingdom to which Christ referred was His own presence; for through Him the kingdom of God came into the world.

The kingdom of God is the dynamic reign or rule of God. Christ's kingdom is present, but it is present in an evil world.

Jesus did not only announce the kingdom was near; He demonstrated it by casting out demons, healing the sick, raising the dead, and by this, convincing His listeners that He was the presence of the kingdom, sent from His heavenly Father.

Signs and wonders were Jesus' calling cards, a sure sign to the people that the kingdom of God had come.

Four categories of Jesus' miracles conclusively demonstrates that Satan's power had been broken, and consequently the kingdom had come.

1. Demons: casting out demons

2. Disease: healing the sick

3. Nature: stilling storms

4. Death: raising the dead

Our job is to know the will of the father and cooperate with His work here on earth.

Our part is to pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Then, trust and obey.

## **TESTIMONY CORNER**

Thanks for today. I just finished listening to today's message. I am encouraged, but I just want more of the strength you talked about. God really sees me that am losing it and that's why he sent this message. Thanks so much for yielding to the Lord. Sis. E

This is my first service here. It was a mind blowing experience listening to the message. I came here being burdened, but all my burdens got lifted, even from the worship. Sis. M

The service was awesome and my spirit was lifted. I also understood better about tithing and how to receive from the Lord. Bro. K

# TO GIVE YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST, PLEASE SAY THIS PRAYER:

I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is the son of God. I believe that he died for my sins and was raised from the dead for my justification. And I confess him now as my Lord

### Snippets from last Sunday Topic: Tomorrow is Better Scripture: Isaiah 40:31

- 1. Trouble happens to everybody. Trouble is part of life
- 2. You become strengthened by the troubles of life
- 3. What you need to know is how to navigate
- 4. What you need to have is the person to help you through troubles
- 5. God's promises assures us of a better tomorrow
- 6. Waiting on God births and strengthens hope





 Standing on the promises of Christ my King, Through eternal ages let His praises ring, Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing, Standing on the promises of God my Savior; Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

- 2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail, When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, By the living Word of God I shall prevail, Standing on the promises of God.
- 3. Standing on the promises I now can see Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me; Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free, Standing on the promises of God.
- 4. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord, Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, Standing on the promises of God.
- Standing on the promises I shall not fall, List'ning every moment to the Spirit's call. Resting in my Savior as my All in all, Standing on the promises of God.

#### **SERVICE DAYS:**

SUNDAYS: TUESDAYS: 9AM-11:30AM 5.30PM-7:30PM.

#### **FREE TRANSPORT ROUTES**

#### **TUESDAYS:**

**Route 1:** Church - Eleyele- Apete

Route 2: Church - Dugbe - Mokola - Sango - Ul

#### **SUNDAYS:**

Route 1: Apete (from H SQUARE PHARMACY

Time.7.45am.) - ELEYELE - Church

Route 2: From UI Gate 7:45am

SANGO - MOKOLA - DUGBE - CHURCH