

Acts 1:1-8 and Hebrews 10:19-25

“The Big Picture of the Bible”

The Kingdom and our Mission

We have been talking about the kingdom of God that underpins the whole of the Bible story. We find the pattern of the kingdom that every time God's People failed to live under God's rule because of their unfaithfulness and disobedience to God's word, God continues to show his grace. God restores his kingdom. God made promises to David that the king who will be in his line will reign forever. In other words, the perfect kingdom will be established through Jesus Christ.

In the Bible, Jesus talks about the kingdom of God all the time. He says the kingdom can be received; it can be also rejected; we can wait for it; we can pray for its coming; we can seek it first; we can give up everything for it; we can work for it; we can suffer for it; we can inherit it; we can know its secret; we can understand it; we cannot understand it as well; we can enter it; we can possess it; we can be persecuted because of it; we can believe in it; we can belong to it and it can belong to us; we can preach the kingdom and persuade people to enter the kingdom; but it is God alone who built the kingdom, and who will bring it in.

In fact, Jesus lived for the kingdom of God and died for it. Even when he appeared to his apostles over a period of forty days after the resurrection, he spoke about the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3). Furthermore, Jesus gave them the command to proclaim the kingdom of God as witnesses for Christ (Acts 1:8). The kingdom is present through Jesus and now the kingdom is to be proclaimed and practised by us as His people (Hebrews 10:19-25).

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