

Zechariah 8

The people are being encouraged that their building the temple is part of a much bigger picture, the Kingdom of the Messiah.

In chapter 4: 6-10

v.2 we see the Lord's heart for Zion

- Zion refers not just to Jerusalem but the Lord ruling it

v.3 Jerusalem- city of truth now? Hardly

v.4 peace for elderly and children- a place of safety

v.8 The Lord will be worshipped

v.11-13 the Lord restores a remnant

v.14 the Word of the Lord is sure

v.18 the rituals will now be meaningful

v.22-23 people will want to be joined with God's people

What does that have to do with us today? Although there is certainly a millennial reign to come, we are very much in a sense in that Kingdom now as believers.

What are the characteristics of that Kingdom?

John 18:36

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

- not a political kingdom, not Kingdom Now or Dominion Theology

Romans 14:17

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. - not purely religious or outward

1 Corinthians 4:20

20 For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. - those who hold to a form of godliness but deny the power

Luke 17:21

21 nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

1 Corinthians 6:9

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

Matthew 5:3

3 *“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

v.3 Blessed/happy are the poor in spirit- those who know they are in need of spiritual help

- Luke 18:9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men; extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- for theirs is the kingdom of heaven- this is the attitude necessary to enter in
Matthew 5:10

10 *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

See John 15:18-25

Matthew 5:19

19 *Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 5:20

20 *For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 6:33

33 *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.* Matthew 19:14

14 *But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."* Luke 9:62

62 *But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

What the church does concerning the Kingdom Acts 8:12

12But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Acts 14:22

22strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." Acts 19:8

8And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. Acts 28:23

23So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

Assurances of the Kingdom

Colossians 1:13

13He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 1 Thessalonians 2:12

12that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

2 Thessalonians 1:5

*5which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 2 Timothy 4:1
1I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:*

2 Timothy 4:18

18And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Hebrews 12:28

28Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 2

Peter 1:11

11for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.