



the coming kingdom

a prophetic message for our universe

APRIL - MAY 2010

This Book Belongs to _____

The Coming Kingdom Reading

Jesus said, “.... **The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.... for the kingdom of heaven is near.**”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

“I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

.... Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. And this *good news* of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations... The time has come.... The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

**“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Thine is the Kingdom and the glory
forever and ever,
Amen.”**

*Matthew 4:23 Luke 17:21 Matthew 4:16-17 Matthew 13:44-46 Mark 10:15
Matthew 7:21 Matthew 5:19 Matthew 24:14 Mark 1:15 Matthew 6:9-13*



APRIL 18

Two Boys, Two Cousins, Two Prophets

Luke 1-3, Isaiah 40:3-5, Isaiah 61:1-2, Luke 17

Sermon Notes

The coming of Jesus and John meant _____ to the world but _____ for their families.

While God's _____ is always perfect, to many it seems He _____ or _____ early.

Mary and Zechariah were seemingly _____ but really shared one common characteristic: _____ in God's _____.

Jewish people were intimately aware of the need for _____ . John came to _____ a _____ to peace.

Both John and Jesus had a _____ founded in the prophecy of _____.

Jesus & John mark the _____ and the _____ . Their key message: _____ !

Introduction

My cousins are scattered throughout the nation and have been, at times, scattered around the world. One worked as a nurse in Saudi Arabia. Another served in the military in Europe and the Middle East. Some make lots of money, but most are just average people. They have families, mortgages, dreams...some realized, some forgotten, some surrendered.

I guess in time the group of cousins might make a splash in the history of the world, but it's more likely our effect will be unnoticed by most of humanity. We all had dreams of changing the world at one time or another, however, we've probably touched very few lives when you consider the big picture.

The two most influential cousins in history are Jesus and John the Baptist. I suppose most of us view fame as being accompanied by fortune. Not in their case. They are famous because of their messages, their lives and their deaths. In fact, their fame came at the ultimate cost with none of the earthly wealth and notoriety we often desire.

Sometimes we fail to remember that their births brought joy and sadness to their parents. They were born for one reason: to usher in the Kingdom of God. They pointed to the coming Kingdom. They tried to prepare people for the coming of the Kingdom.

Reflection

We launched this series, “The Coming Kingdom” on Sunday. If you heard the lesson and read some of the scriptures for this lesson, what thoughts have you reflected on about the Kingdom of God and the beginning of this study?

Heart

When we read about the birth of Jesus, we read that Mary “treasured these things in her heart.” She didn’t fully understand them, but she treasured them. What have you treasured up in your heart when it comes to the people God has placed in your life?

Soul

Family has a profound effect on our spiritual lives. Being part of the family of Jesus and John the Baptist had to have been interesting. Who in your family do you have a strong spiritual connection to? How is this (or could this) connection be utilized to encourage faith in your extended family?

Mind

Reading Luke 1–3, Isaiah 40:3–5, Isaiah 61:1–2 and Luke 17 helps us understand some of the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. The Bible comments in several places about the coming of Christ at just the right time. How do you see the hand of God at play in the relationship between Jesus and John and the timing of their entrance into the world?

Strength

When God entrusted Joseph and Mary with Jesus, it showed great trust. When Zechariah and Elizabeth were given John, God trusted them to be parents over a great prophet. Jesus and John were unique, no doubt. But in what ways has God entrusted you with people in your life? Understanding that you're caring for them as God's servant, what kind of healthy pressure does this put on you and your relationship with them?

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