

Reflections on the Kingdom of God

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Introduction

- Who is this message for?
- Where is your heart today?
- Billy Graham, "God shaped vacuum" – only He can fill.
 - Ecclesiastes 3:11 God has set eternity in the hearts of men, yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
- Difficulties in discerning God's truths
 - Amos 3:7 Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plans to his servants the prophets
- Are you in the Kingdom of God?
 - **1 Cor. 6:9-10** Either in the Kingdom of God or not

To whom shall we turn?

Hebrews 1:1-3

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **in these last days** has spoken to us in **His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

Blessed = Oh the Blessedness! (Objective, On-going, continual)

- Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for **theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the gentle,
for they shall inherit the earth.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.
- Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy.
- Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.
- Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake
of righteousness, for **theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Category	Interactions	Timing of blessing	Blessing	Significance
Poor in spirit	What we are	Now	Kingdom of Heaven	Foretaste of heaven Messianic Age Wretchedness of earth
Mourn	What we do	Future	Comfort	Grief forever eliminated
Meek/Gentle	What we do to Others	Future	Inherit the Earth (New Eden)	We will finally be in the place where we were meant to be
Hunger & thirst for righteousness	Our response to God	Future	Satisfaction	The person we were meant to be. All our hopes and longings will be fulfilled.
Merciful	Our response to Others	Future	Mercy (from God)	Forgiveness of an eternal debt that we could never hope to be able to pay.
Pure in heart	God's work in us	Future	See God	We will be with the one we've always longed to be with
Peacemakers	God's work in us	Future	Sons of God (not slaves)	In God's family – Eternal Bliss God's extravagant grace!
Persecuted because of Righteousness	Others response to us	Now	Kingdom of heaven	Foretaste of heaven Messianic Age Wretchedness of earth

Application

For seekers:

The Kingdom of God is at hand!

What is your response?

Mark 8:36-38

“What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

For believers:

The Kingdom of God is at hand!

What is your response?

- Read and obey God's word (Rev. 3:3)

To the Church in Sardis: "Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.