

**The Coming Kingdom**  
Chapter 1



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**Introductory Lesson**



1. Kingdom confusion illustrations
2. Series outline
3. An important distinction




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Emergent: Kingdom

“The *Kingdom* of God is a *central* conversation in emerging communities... And let me tell you ‘Kingdom of God’ language is *really big* in the emerging church” (Italics added).



Doug Pagitt, cited in Oakland, 163.

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Emergent: Kingdom

“He selected 12 and trained them in a new way of life. He sent them to teach everyone this new way of life...Even if only a few would practice this new way, many would benefit. Oppressed people would be free. Poor people would be liberated from poverty. Minorities would be treated with respect. Sinners would be loved, not resented.”



Brian McLaren, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, 111.

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Emergent: Kingdom

“Industrialists would realize that God cares for sparrows and wildflowers – so their industries should respect, not rape, the environment. The homeless would be invited in for a hot meal. *The kingdom of God would come* – not everywhere at once, not suddenly, but gradually like a seed growing in a field, like yeast spreading in a lump of bread dough, like light spreading across the sky at dawn.”



Brian McLaren, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, 111.

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### Emergent: Kingdom

"If Revelation were a blueprint of the distant future, it would have been unintelligible to its original readers...In light of this, Revelation becomes a powerful book about the kingdom of God here and now, available to all."



Brian McLaren, cited in Oakland, 158.

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### Russell Moore

President: Ethics and Religious Liberties  
Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention



"The locus of the kingdom of God in this age is within the church, where Jesus rules as king. As we live our lives together, we see the transforming power of the gospel and the in breaking of the future kingdom."

Justin Taylor, "An Interview with Russell Moore," [www.thegospelcoalition.org](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org).

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### Kingdom



Rick Warren, cited in Oakland, Kindle edition.

"I stand before you confidently right now and say to you that God is going to use you to change the world...I'm looking at a stadium full of people right now who are telling God they will do whatever it takes to establish God's Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven." What will happen if the followers of Jesus say to Him, "We are yours?" What kind of spiritual awakening will occur?"

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### Kingdom

“If we are to be a part of this coming kingdom, God expects our lives – our churches and faith communities too – to be characterized by these authentic signs of our own transformation: compassion, mercy, justice, and love – demonstrated *tangibly*. Only then will our light break forth like the dawn, our healing quickly appear, and our cries for help be answered with a divine *Here am I.*”



Stearns, *Hole in the Gospel*, 57.

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### Kingdom

“The gospel that we have been given – the whole gospel – is God’s vision for a new way of living...Christ’s vision was of a redeemed world order populated by redeemed people – now. To accomplish this, we are to be salt and light in a dark and fallen world, the “yeast” that leavens the whole loaf of bread (the whole of society). *We are the ones God has called to be His Church. It’s up to us. We are to be the change.* But a changed world requires *change agents*, and change agents are people who have first been changed themselves.”



Stearns, *Hole in the Gospel*, 276, 243-44.

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**Kingdom Study Outline**



1. What does the Bible Says About the Kingdom?
2. The Main Problem with Kingdom Now NT interpretations
3. Why do some believe that we are in the kingdom now?
4. Why does it matter?




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**Universal vs. Theocratic Kingdom**

	Universal Kingdom	Theocratic Kingdom
<b>Time</b>	Eternal (Ps 93:1-2)	Future (Dan 2:44)
<b>Scope</b>	Universal (Ps 103:19)	Earthly (Dan 2:35, 44-45)
<b>Rule</b>	God rules directly (Dan 4:17)	God rules indirectly through a human (Ps 2:6-9)
<b>Existence</b>	Always (Ps. 93:1-2)	Contingent upon a human response (Exod. 19:5; Matt. 3:2; 11:14; 23:37-39)

Alva J. McClain, *The Greatness of the Kingdom* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1959), 19-21

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