

Kingdom of God I: The Content of the Messianic Message

In Isaiah 61 we see how God is spoken of as omnipotent, we also see how Jesus is spoken of as the one who will bring good news to the poor, heal hearts to the wounded, and proclaim deliverance to the captives, and freedom to the prisoners. Those who believe in him, call them Priests of the Lord, and Ministers of God. We also see how the Lord loves justice, but hates robbery and iniquity. The Lord will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations. This verse gives us much to understand that God is a God of justice, good news, mercy and grace, which would also lead us to understand that if God is all of these things then His kingdom will be also.

As we continue reading Isaiah 58, we see that fasting is a way to do God's will, and all that his Kingdom is, for example it speaks to us of sharing bread with the hungry, and giving shelter to the poor, as we fast we should know that heaven hears our prayers. Following the reading also tells us how we can inherit eternal life, and for that we are told that although we want to be good the only good is God, so the only thing God asks us to inherit it is obedience, and fulfill the commandments, do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, honor father and mother, love your neighbor as yourself, let go of our riches, help the poor, and so we will have the treasure in heaven.

According to the gospel of Luke, and the story that is told, of the fool who wanted to keep his wealth, and is judged by this, for he is a fool who keeps his riches for himself, instead of not being rich before God, we can see how Jesus wanted us to completely get rid of all greed, for he tells us "the life of a person does not depend on his goods" and to be rich before God, we have to get rid of any greed.

Then in Matthew we can see how the word of God has been fulfilled where it is said that the Jews did not believe that Jesus was the messiah, because they were waiting for Elijah who was the one who came before him, but they did not recognize him either because it was John the Baptist who came before Jesus to announce him.

Later in the book we can see how the Jews wanted to make Jesus, with many conversations and with questions as tricks to set traps and that the Roman government was after him, and in this case is the story of Caesar, where one of the Jews asks him who should be given the money, and Jesus answering says "to Caesar what is Caesar's to God what is God's" in this way we can understand the ethics of Jesus to be able to answer these questions, although the Kingdom of Jesus had nothing to do with the earthly kingdoms, he knew that he had to be careful of the misinterpretations of his teachings. Like many of these answers we can see that Jesus was never a law and order problem for the Romans. I found it very interesting how Jesus seems to have chosen his disciples very well, or almost strategically, for Simon one of them was a Zealot, and as we know also a tax collector, Matthew. But back to the Zealots who were a group that apparently wanted the same as the other Jews, but in a different way, with terrorist activities: this group wanted to free themselves from the Romans but by the side of violence.

We see how in Jesus' teachings he always talked about how to find the Kingdom of God, but as the Jews were expecting another Messiah they could never identify him as the son of God, as we see in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples "Thy Kingdom come", he lets us understand that the Kingdom of God was already on earth and could. Everyone who takes the yoke of the law and throws off the yoke of government, and goes on to say that when Israel wants to do the will of God that day the Kingdom of heaven will be lifted up to them.

The way Israel will see the Kingdom of God will be when their will is completely surrendered to God.

Finally I say that the Kingdom of God is what Jesus came to show us, and it is what few could understand, it is what he came to teach the disciples and what he commanded them to do, because the Kingdom of God is among us.