

## THE BIG IDEA: The kingdom is here because the King came near.

### The Take-Off

Last week we started our “Kingdom Come” series by trying to provide some edges to the concept of the kingdom. Just like finding the corner and edge pieces of a puzzle, we tried to provide a framework to hold this picture of the kingdom.

That framework includes these truths:

- God’s will is to see his kingdom come here (Matthew 6:10)
- If it doesn’t look like heaven, there’s still work to do on heaven
- If it’s not in heaven, it doesn’t belong on earth (the authority of the kingdom)
- If it’s not good, it’s not over (the destiny of the kingdom)

These 4 statements - based clearly in the Lord’s prayer about the kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven - are the outline that will help us over the next few weeks to paint a picture of the kingdom

This morning, I’d like to start with the first 4 letters - KING

Every kingdom has a king, and the kingdom of heaven is no different except for the fact that the king of heaven is like no other king

**Revelation 19:16 (NIV)** / King of kings and the Lord of lords!

Jesus is the King of the kingdom, and so we can’t talk about the kingdom without starting with the King

This morning, I just want to answer 2 king-sized questions:

1. Is Jesus the King?
2. If he is, what kind of King is he?

Why is it important?

Because to truly understand what a kingdom is like - it’s culture and values - you need only to see the king.

Everything flows from him.

The kingdom starts with the King!

So that first question is HUGE... **is Jesus the King?**

### 1. Is Jesus the King?

- a. Jesus thought so, and in his first public message, he made that clear
- b. **Luke 4:16-21 (NIV)**
- c. Note esp verse 21 / Today - in YOUR hearing - this is fulfilled
- d. What that meant was that this Messianic scripture in Isaiah was talking about Jesus
- e. Jesus said he was THE King, THE Messiah, THE Promised One
- f. So, was he?
- g. There are 61 specific prophecies in the Bible about the Messiah, with over 300 references to them, and Jesus fulfilled them all
- h. What are the odds of that? Beyond mathematical possibility.
- i. I used to talk about the odds of 1 person fulfilling 8 of them being like filling the state of Texas with quarters 2 feet deep, mixing in one with a red X and then having a blindfolded person pick that one.
- j. But I was wrong.
- k. Professor of mathematics Peter Stoner’s students calculated that the odds against one person fulfilling all eight prophecies are astronomical - one in ten to the 21st power (that’s a 1 with 21 zeros!).
- l. To illustrate that number, Stoner gave the following example: “First, blanket the entire Earth land mass with silver dollars 120 feet high. Second, specially mark one of those dollars and randomly bury it. Third, ask a person to travel the Earth and select the marked dollar, while blindfolded, from the trillions of other dollars.”
- m. Jesus fulfilled them all, not just 8.
- n. We convict people based on DNA testing with less odds of that happening.
- o. So, is Jesus the King?
- p. Absolutely, which means we need to understand what kind of King he is if we’re going to understand the kingdom that has come, is coming, and will come.

## 2. What kind of King is Jesus?

- a. So, **what kind of king is Jesus** anyway?
- b. Again, Jesus answers this himself by quoting from Isaiah 61, so let's take a look at that
- c. In **Isaiah 61:1-2 (NIV)**, Jesus said that he had been anointed to say 3 things and do 3 things:
  - PROCLAIM good news and BIND UP the broken
  - PROCLAIM freedom and RELEASE the prisoners
  - PROCLAIM favor and COMFORT the mourning
- d. Please get a couple of things: one, Jesus is a king who didn't just proclaim things from far off, but also came near us
- e. His very incarnation was a sign that the kingdom is near
- f. The kingdom is near because the King is here!
- g. **Matthew 4:17 (NIV)** / Jesus preached that the kingdom is near
- h. **Matthew 10:7 (NIV)** / He told his disciples to do the same
- i. Why does it matter?
- j. Because the kingdom is far off waiting for you to approach it - it is near you - near to the broken, the captives, the mourning
- k. What kind of king is Jesus?
- l. One who comes near us and brings the kingdom to us.

### The Landing

It wasn't quite a month ago that this concept of the Kingdom played out on the world stage as 12 soccer players and their coach were trapped in a cave in Thailand.

Imagine the rescuers finding the team, knowing how they got into the mess, and then ... simply ... yelling encouraging things to them.

The world would have gone crazy! And yet sometimes we want a king like that.

See us but stay far from us. Leave us in the mess but tell us it'll be okay.

Kingdom come is only possible because the King came.

**The kingdom is here because the King came near.**

Not just to say something to us, but to do something for us.

And that's the good news that Jesus was anointed to bring!

Pray.