

THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ITS PROPHETIC ROOTS

- I. Defining The Kingdom: Reign or Realm
 - A. Some Options
 1. Mary Ann Tolbert
 - a. Aramaic *malkuth*: Verbal, Kingdom as Rule
 - b. Greek βασιλεία: Spatial, Kingdom as Place
 - c. Argues that Gospels follow Greek sense
 2. Joel Marcus
 - a. Deutero-Isaiah as background for NT use of Kingdom
 - b. Kingdom as Extension of God's Power
 3. A Suggestion
 - a. Kingdom as God's Strategic Interjection of Divine Rule
 - b. Human Tactical Response: absorb that rule and project it
 - B. Four Phases in Gospel Presentation (George Ladd)
 1. Abstract Rule or Reign (Lk 19:12,15; 23:42; also John 18:36)
 2. Future Apocalyptic Order or Age To Come (Mk 9:47; 10:23-25; 14:25; Mt 8:11=Lk 13:28)
 3. Something Present (Mk 10:15; Mt 6:33=Lk 12:31; Lk 17:21)
 4. Present Realm (Mt 11:11=Lk 16:16; Mt 21:31; 23:13)
 5. A Question of Centrality: What is the central Focus, reign or realm?
 - C. Options
 1. Imminent Reign. Eschatological View. Albert Schweitzer as proponent. Kingdom as world transforming, divine act on horizon.
 2. Spatial Realm. Tolbert as proponent. Kingdom as sphere of redemption brought into history.
 3. Abstract Reign
 - a. Rabbinic View
 - (1) Kingdom as God's Acting Sovereignty
 - (2) Sovereignty manifested on earth in Israel
 - (3) Israel experiences this sovereignty by obeying the Law
 - b. Jewish Apocalyptic View
 - (1) Kingdom as God's Rule
 - (2) Qumran: Kingdom exists when humans respond (submit) to God's rule.
 - c. New Testament
 - (1) Present Fulfillment/Future Consummation
 - (2) Revelation. Kingdom as reign. See 12:10.
 - (3) Paul. Kingdom as reign. 1 Cor 15:24ff; 15:28.
 - (4) Acts. 1:6. Kingdom as sovereign reign.
 4. The Synoptic Gospel Presentation
 - a. Eschatological Event: Lk 1:32-33
 - b. Present Reality: Mt 6:33=Lk 12:31; Mk 10:15; Lk 18:17; Mt 18:3. A Present Reign.

- c. Connections to Judaism
 - d. The Uniqueness of Jesus: Immediate Presence of God's Future Reign in His Activity. See Mt 12:28=Lk 11:20
 - e. We respond to God's act by discipleship acting.
- II. A Kingdom Rooted in Deutero-Isaiah
- A. Mark and The Wilderness Imagery. Connections with Isaiah (40). God's saving actions begin in wilderness.
 - B. The Way Of The Lord
 - 1. ὁδός, way: Cf. Mark 8:27; 9:33-34; 10:17, 32, 46, and 52
 - 2. βασιλεία, kingdom
 - C. A New Way
 - 1. Seeing God's Way Through the Cross
 - 2. Connection of Jesus' Suffering to Isaiah's Suffering Servant: 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12.
 - D. A New Response: Follow Jesus' Cross way because the Cross way is God's way.