



**THE KINGDOM
HAS COME;
THE KINGDOM
IS COMING**

HEAVEN

MIDDLE SCHOOL LESSONS

Middle School Spanish - 6th - 8th Grades (11-14)

“Your life doesn’t begin when you graduate high school or college or even when you get a job. Your life has already begun: you’re living it now!”

The same is true of us and our eternal life: it has already begun in one sense, and it remains to be manifested completely in another.

THE MEANING OF (ETERNAL) LIFE

Eternity means “without beginning or end”

Only God has neither beginning nor ending.

“Eternal life” is life lived outside of the Fall in God’s eternal presence.

It’s life without limits, without end.

ETERNAL LIFE STARTS NOW

“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

John 17:3

Eternal life starts with knowing God.

If we are in Christ then we are (spiritually) already living in eternity, though we are not experiencing it in fullness or perfection (without distraction).

THE KINGDOM IS AT HAND

“From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’”

Matthew 4:17

But the Kingdom hadn’t come yet because if it had, how would Jesus have been crucified?

“My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

John 18:36

CLOSE TO THE KING

The Kingdom of God hadn’t come to earth in its full authority, power, or presence, but it had come in one major respect: its King came to earth.

The Kingdom was near because Jesus was near.

We are near to the Kingdom only as much as we are near to Jesus.

CONQUERING THE HEART

We are near to the Kingdom by being near to Jesus: if we belong to Jesus, we belong to His Kingdom.

“My kingdom is not of this world.” — His Kingdom was not physically manifest.

His Kingdom had not come physically, but it had come to hearts of those who surrendered to Him, submitting to Him as Lord.

His Kingdom is the domain of faithful hearts.

FLAGS & THRONES

Our “heart” is now an extension of the Kingdom of God.

God’s Spirit is within us

His flag alone must fly from the castles of our hearts.

He alone must sit upon the throne of our heart.

No other love or allegiance can be placed above Jesus and His Kingdom.

PREEMINENCE OF JESUS

Any love or allegiance that would compete with Jesus and His Kingdom for preeminence must be stopped.

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.”

Luke 14:26-27

Jesus will have His place all to Himself; it is the same for His Kingdom.

THE KINGDOM THAT LASTS

No other kingdom, no other country, will last.

Only Christ’s Kingdom will stand at the end, and His Kingdom is “not of this world,” meaning that it is not physically here yet.

In Revelation 21, His Kingdom is seen descending from the sky after creation is restored and all of the kingdoms of Earth have been leveled.

Until then, His kingdom remains within our hearts.

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

We have dual citizenship.

Our eternal life has begun, which means that our citizenship in Christ’s Kingdom has also begun, even though that Kingdom has not yet arrived upon Earth.

We live are to live now in light of eternity, just like I told my students.

We shouldn’t wait for Heaven to arrive before we live like citizens of that Kingdom.

PHILIPPIANS 3:12–21

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

15 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

17 Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. 18 For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

EARTHLY VS. HEAVENLY

“Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.”

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

Colossians 3:1-4

THE KING IS COMING...

Jesus is coming again; this time to establish a physical kingdom.

But what should we do in the meantime?

Paul describe it as “eager awaiting,” but what does that mean?

We should be so “eager” to live in the Coming-Kingdom that we set about the King’s work now.

...WE MUST BE GOING

The Great Commission still stands: we must go and do the work of the King.

He has said that He is coming to restore the world.

That, then, is our gospel message, but it is also our mission because we are to live now as citizens of His Kingdom, already under the authority of Heaven, bound to live out His Kingdom-will.

NOW & NOT YET

Now: We are living spiritually as citizens of Heaven; our hearts are extensions of Christ's Kingdom. We must live now for eternity, doing the work of Jesus.

Not Yet: We will live forever with Jesus in His Kingdom of Heaven once it is made physically manifest upon the Earth. We will live as glorified citizens under our Glorious King.

Eternal life has already begun; we should already be living out our heavenly life in the light of His Coming-Kingdom.