

The Kingdom—Near, Here, Within

Matthew 4:12-17

Pew Bible Page 1500

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

—Matthew 4:17

For Jesus, the kingdom wasn’t something we build or advance or expand. It was something we see and enter and receive. **To see it**, we need to repent and acknowledge how blind we have been, becoming teachable and “young” again, like children. **To enter it**, we need to become a part of it, and **To receive it**, we let it become a part of us. —*Brian McClaren*

SEE IT....

1. Near in **Opportunity**

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

—Matthew 4:17

Two New Testament (Greek) words used for time

- **ΧΡΟΝΟΣ Chronos, chronometer, clock, calendar time.**
- **ΚΑΙΡΟΣ Kairos, season, opportune time, God’s appointments**

“He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.” —Acts 1:7

(KJV) “times, seasons” (NLT) “times dates”

Luke 10:9, 11 _____

ENTER IT...

2. Here and now—a **Present** Reality

We pray, *“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*

—Matthew 6:10

“But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.”

—Luke 11:20

“The time has come,” [Jesus] he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

—Mark 1:15

The Time in History for completion, consummation of the Kingdom, is near.

Luke 21:31_____

The Kingdom is here, now, a Present Reality that we can enter.

Matthew 3:2_____

Repentance is the door step to faith.

John 14:6_____

Matthew 3:2_____

“Since the things of God are ‘spiritually discerned.’ A proper understanding of scripture is often more the result of an individual’s spiritual condition than his or her intellectual ability.”
—Wayne Grudem (*Christian Beliefs*)

RECEIVE IT...

3. Within—the Kingdom enters believers.

“Nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.”
—Luke 17:21

The Kingdom of God is about a relationship with the King

Mark 12:34_____

A love for God within, not external obedience to laws/rules.

Ezekiel 36:26_____

The Kingdom of God comes to believers via God’s Holy Spirit.

John 14:16-17, “...But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”

Colossians 1:27, “...Christ in you, the hope of glory.”