



Discovering Our Spiritual Family in The New Testament

A Statistical Look At The Gospels

What was emphasized by Jesus and the apostles?

NUMBER OF TIMES THE FOUR GOSPELS MENTION:

MAN, WOMAN, PEOPLE	-	825
GOD, LORD	-	559
	-	236
	-	177
	-	175
PRAY, PRAYER	-	63
CHRIST	-	56
FORGIVE, FORGIVENESS	-	50
SAVE, SALVATION, SAVIOR	-	49
THE SABBATH	-	49
CHURCH, SYNAGOGUE	-	46
LAW, COMMANDMENTS	-	39
THE ESCHATOLOGICAL DAY	-	31
	-	26
	-	25
	-	23



ANCHOR TRUTHS

If God's Kingdom advances in this world, it will be at the expense of Satan's kingdom. By embracing Christ's Commission, we join in God's work of militantly expanding His Kingdom.

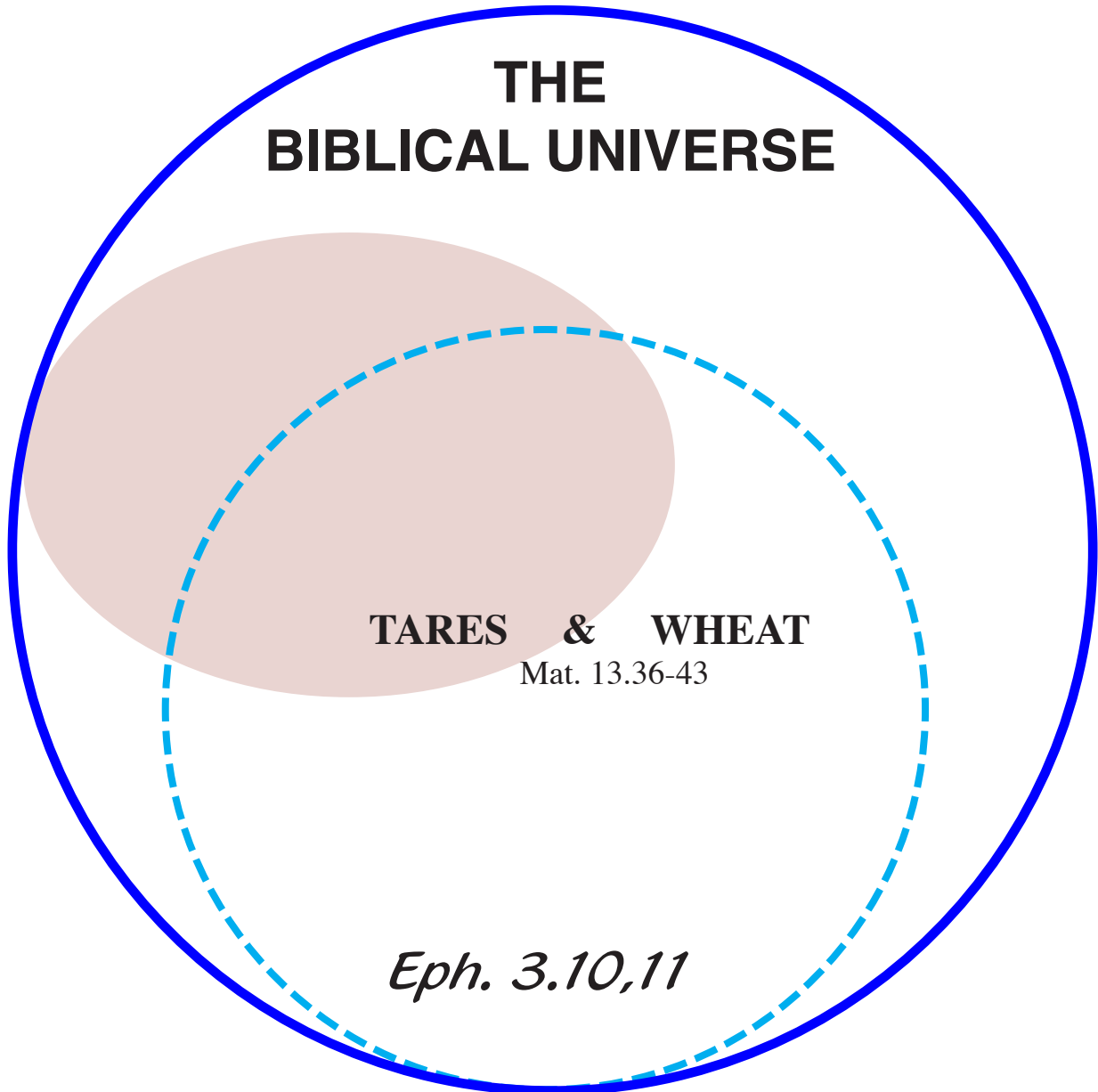


FOR DISCUSSION

Where is the Kingdom of God most fully realized? Why did God choose to accomplish His redemptive plan on a battlefield?

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

(God's sovereign rule over all things)





The Household of God

A BC to AD Series By Timothy Ministries

Principles of The Kingdom

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Matt. 4.17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Matt. 5.3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matt. 5.10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matt. 6.33 “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Matt. 7.21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

Matt. 12.28 “But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

Matt. 13.10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” 11 He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.”

Matt. 16.19 “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Luke 9.60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

Luke 12.32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”

Luke 18.17 “I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

John 3.3 In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

Forcefulness & The Kingdom

Matthew 11

7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?"

8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces.

9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

10 This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

11 I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John.

14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.

15 He who has ears, let him hear.

Luke 16

13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.

15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.

16 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing [his way] into (ἐίς) it.

17 But (δε) It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.

The exegesis of Matthew 11.12 and Luke 16.16 is difficult and controversial. I understand the Matthew passage to mean that though people expected the coming of Elijah and the Messianic Kingdom to usher in peace and prosperity, the coming of the Kingdom actually involves a violent transition. Furthermore, that violence does not negate John's fulfillment of the Elijah prophecy, nor Jesus' messiahship. In Luke, Jesus names the means by which the Kingdom forcefully advances, namely the preaching of the Gospel, and declares that though diverse adversaries exercise force against the kingdom, they will be held accountable by the immutable law!

From the days of John the Baptist until now,

the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing

and forceful men (violators) attack (ἀρπάζω, cf. Joh 10.12) it.

And (καί) if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.

See Mat. 10.34-39 and Luke 18.17: The Kingdom of God enters violently into the human arena, but humans must enter the Kingdom "as a little child." See also Luke 11.20-22: One kingdom advances by plundering another.

Since that time [when John's ministry began],

the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached

and everyone is [re]acting forcefully against (ἐίς, cf. Luk 15.18,21) it.

But (δε) It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.



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CONTEMPORARY VISIONS OF THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God As Taught By Qumran And Jesus

Adapted From: *The Kingdom of God in the Qumran Literature* by B. T. Viviano

QUMRAN

JESUS

ORIGIN		
AGENT		
APPLICATION		
ARENA		
MEANS		
GEOGRAPHY		
SCOPE		
TIME		
ATTITUDE		



ANCHOR TRUTHS

Jesus Christ “has [already] made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father” (Rev. 1.6), and has given us the authority to do His kingdom work (Mat. 16.19; 28.18-20)!

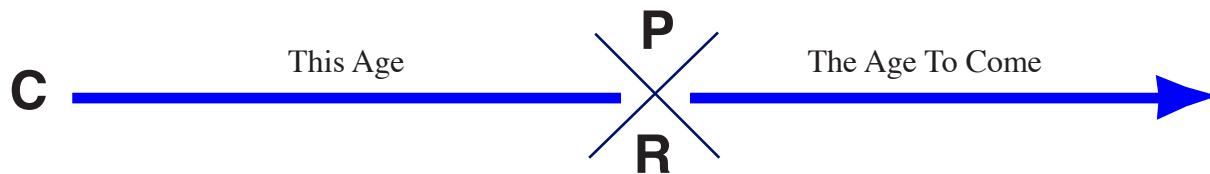


FOR DISCUSSION

In what sense is the Kingdom of God already, and in what sense is it not yet? In what sense is it coming right now?

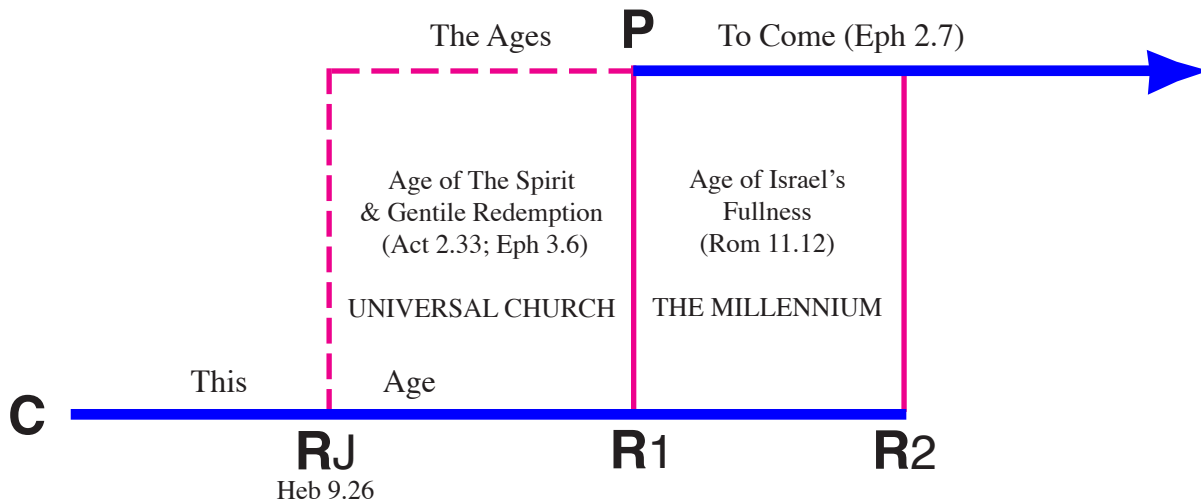
Rabbinical Eschatology

Adapted from George Eldon Ladd, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*



Apostolic Eschatology

Adapted from George Eldon Ladd, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*





The Household of God

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The Coming Kingdom

Discovering Our Spiritual Family in The New Testament

Vocabulary

Antanacsis (a figure of speech in which the same word is repeated in a different or even contradictory sense, e.g., Lk 9.60)

Eschatology

Ee Basileia Tou Theou

Hermeneutics

Parable

Parousia (Mat. 24.27)

Progressive Revelation

Qumran

Rabbinical

Repentance

Explain the sense in which the Kingdom “will come” in these passages:

Matt. 6.9,10 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Matt. 7.21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

Matt. 13.40-43 “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the

fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

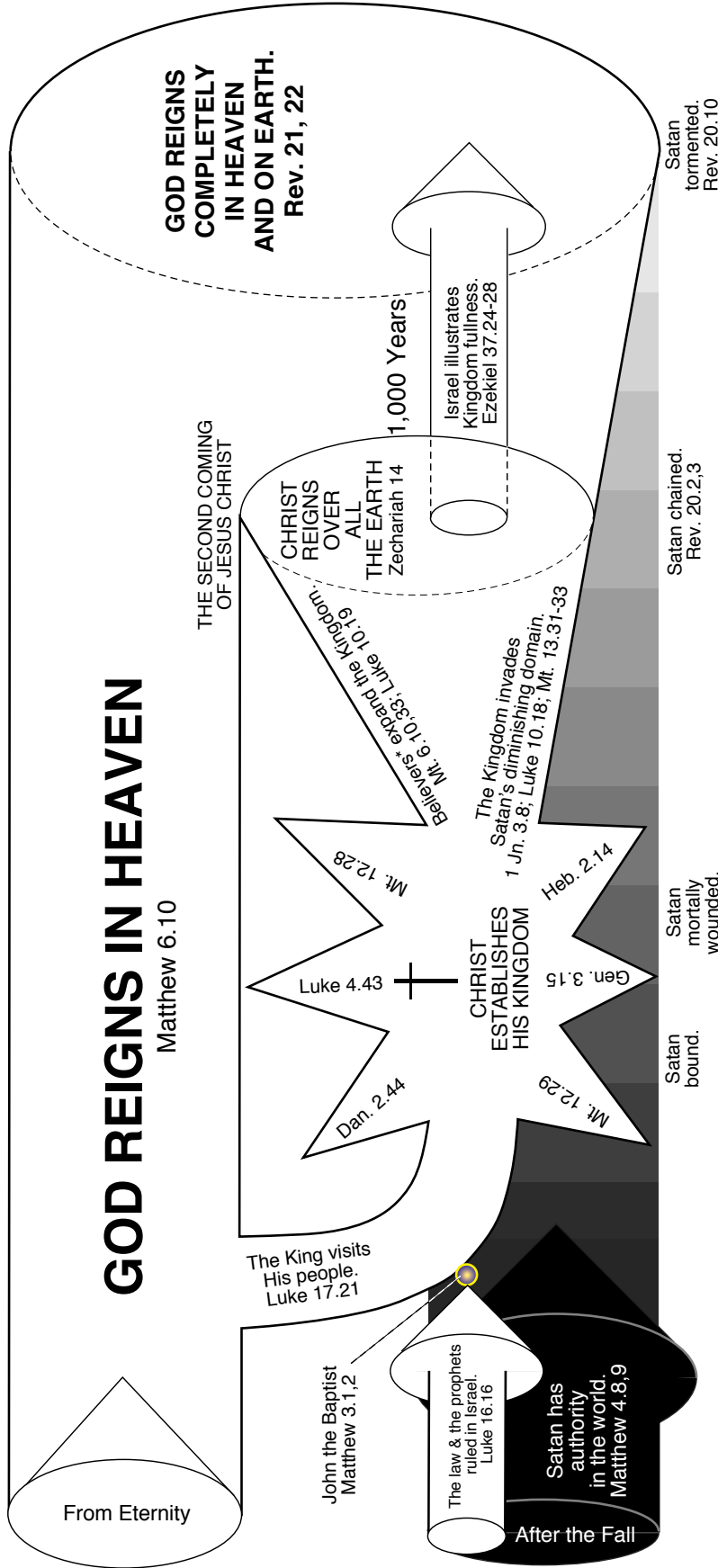
Acts 14.21,22 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.

1Cor. 6.9,10 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

James 2.5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

God's Cosmic Agenda: Expanding The Kingdom

Mark 1.15; Matthew 4.17



*BELIEVERS:

- Are the citizens of the Kingdom - Colossians 1.13.
- See and enter the Kingdom by the Holy Spirit - John 3.3,5.
- Are priests in the Kingdom - Revelation 1.6.
- Produce fruit for the Kingdom when they heed the gospel - Luke 8.10-15.
- Proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom - Acts 8.12; 19.8; 20.25; 28.23-31.
- Enter the Kingdom through many hardships - Acts 14.22.
- Pray and labor for the expansion of the Kingdom - Matthew 6.10, 33.
- Are heirs of the coming Kingdom - Luke 13.29; 21.25-31.

Chart Summary

The Kingdom of God is His rule among His subjects, that produces "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 14.17). God has always ruled in heaven, but after the Fall, Satan usurped authority over humanity. The world became the battleground between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan. The Law and the Prophets contended for God's sovereignty in Israel up until the time of John the Baptist, but then the Heavenly King Himself visited Earth. In the person of Jesus Christ, God mortally wounded Satan, and firmly established His own Kingdom among mankind through the crucifixion and resurrection. Since that time, God's human subjects have been expanding His Kingdom by the power of the gospel, and diminishing Satan's authority in the world. When Christ returns, He will rule politically over all the earth, and after quelling a final rebellion at the end of the Millennium, His sovereignty over the universe will never be questioned again.



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What Are The Full Implications of the Gospels' Commissioning Passages?

John 20.21,22

- “Receive”: The command to enter a volitional relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- The implication of receiving the Holy Spirit: Mission into a hostile environment.

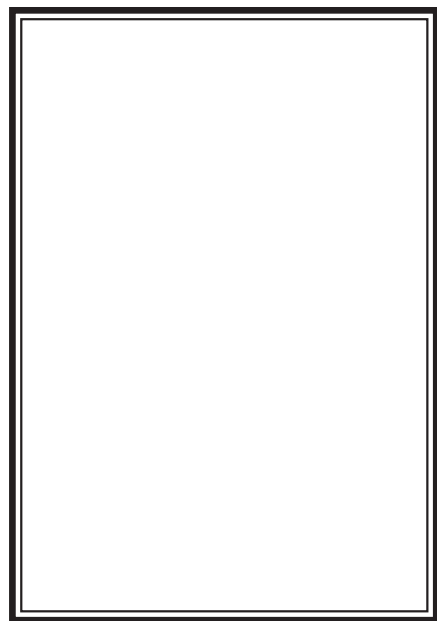
Mark 16.15-18 (Cf. Luke 24.46-48)

- Re-emphasis of the supernatural element.
- The command to preach the Good News: Is our message complete?

Matthew 28.19, 20

Two commands:

- “Make Disciples”: a simple definition (Matthew 10.24).
- “Lo” or “See!”: the command to grasp an essential prom-



THE GREAT COMMISSION

...consists of four imperatives (commands) recorded respectively in: Matthew 28.19; 28.20; Mark 16.15 and John 20.22. Can you pick the right four out of the list below?

Baptize

Preach

Disciple

Receive

Evangelize

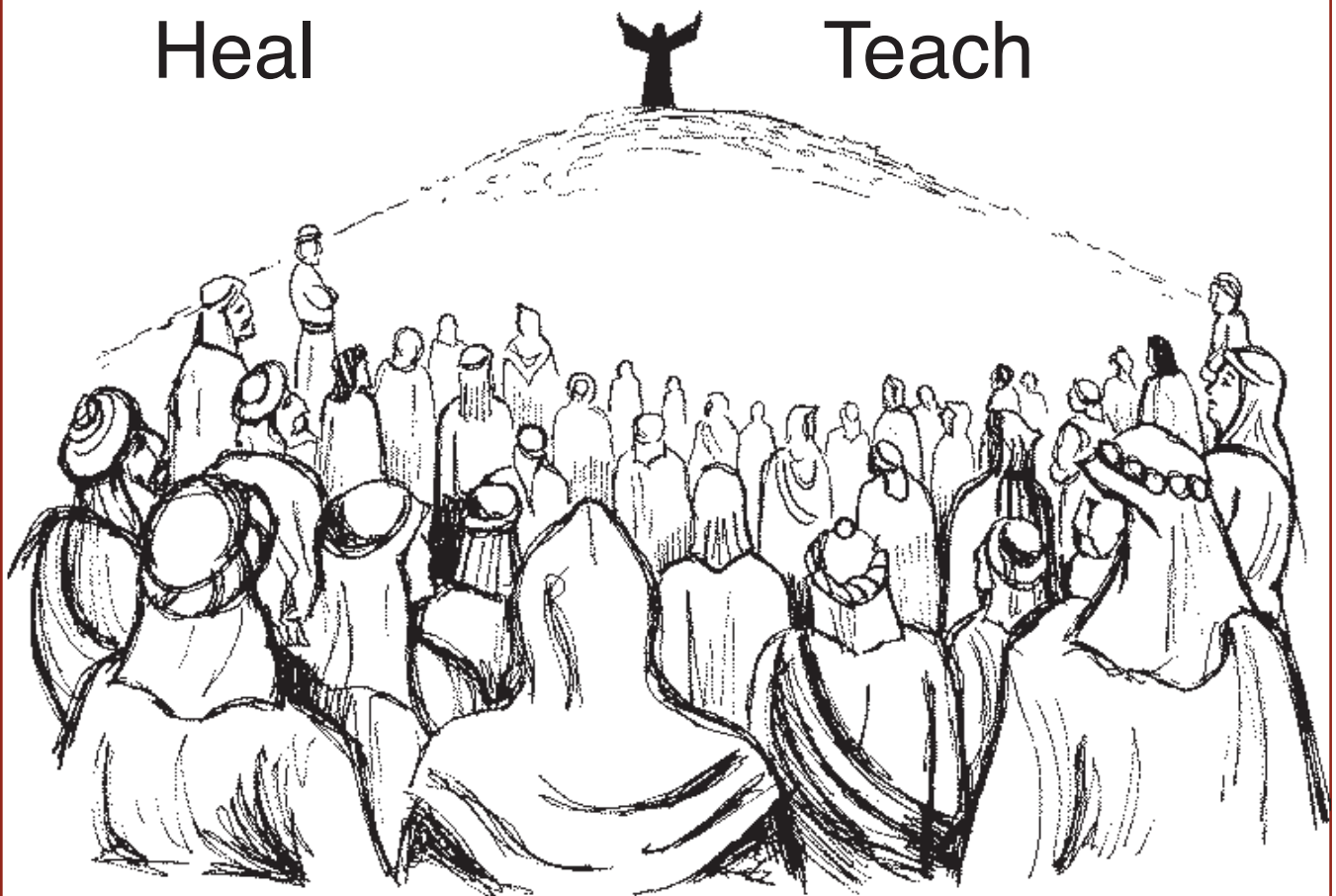
See

Go

Take Offering

Heal

Teach





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Mark & The Principle of Faith

Discovering Our Spiritual Family in The New Testament

Mark 2.3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Mark 4.35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

Mark 4.39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

Mark 4.41 They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Mark 6.4 Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor.” 5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 And he was amazed at their lack of faith.



ANCHOR TRUTHS

As a free gift, God gives us faith through which we are saved (Eph. 2.8), empowered (Eph. 1.19) and overcome the world (1 John 5.4).



FOR DISCUSSION

How do we attain the faith-without-doubt that “moves mountains”? (See James 1.5-7.)

Mark 9.17 A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit... 18 ...I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

Mark 9.19 “O unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”... 21 Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood,” he answered. 22 “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

Mark 9.23 “‘If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.”

Mark 9.24 Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

Mark 10.51 “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” 52 “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Mark 11.22 “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. 23 “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ **and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen**, it will be done for him. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”



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Circle the number at the left of each statement you agree with. Add the total of all numbers you circle.

- 5 God intervenes in answer to specific prayers.
- 7 There is only one God, and the only revelation He gives is that of nature.
- 8 God has a distinct personality and feels emotions.
- 10 All religions are good and are ultimately the same.
- 12 God rules over all creation and will one day judge mankind.
- 13 God created the universe to run on natural laws, and then left it alone.
- 15 God personally and supernaturally reveals Himself to people.
- 17 It is impossible to know for sure that God exists.
- 20 The earth itself is a living goddess.
- 22 Only the laws of physics are eternal.
- 25 The Creator never intervenes supernaturally, but always allows nature to take its course.
- 30 God so permeates the universe that the material world is essentially the body of God.
- 33 God probably does not exist but we can't prove it.
- 35 A personal God exists, but He leaves us to work out our own destiny in cooperation with natural laws.
- 40 Spiritual entities may exist, but it is foolish to feel certainty that they do.
- 43 Though we may not understand it yet, there is a non-supernatural explanation for everything including the origin of matter.
- 45 God and religion are creations of man, nothing more.
- 50 All living things have spiritual life and are just as significant as humans.
- 55 God has never demonstrated His existence, so He obviously doesn't care whether we're religious or not.
- 90 Science has adequately proven that mankind evolved by pure chance and natural selection without God.

_____ Total

See next page for scoring...



ANCHOR TRUTHS

Everyone has a worldview whether or not they are conscious of it. Anyone concerned about truth or personal destiny must identify and weigh *the origin* of their personal worldview.

Scoring

- 25-40.....Theist
- 45-80.....Deist
- 90-110.....Pantheist
- 120-165.....Agnostic
- Above 165Atheist

How Your World-View Will Influence Your Response to Evidence for the Supernatural

Theism

The theist believes in the existence of personal, spiritual entities including a Creator, angels and demons. Theistic responses to evidence of theophanies, miracles or demonization will range from cautious to accepting (and sometimes gullible).

Deism

The deist believes in the existence of a Creator, but will be skeptical of evidence for human interaction with divine or other spiritual entities.

Pantheism

The pantheist may believe in many gods or in one all-encompassing god. Pantheistic responses to evidence for the interaction of spiritual entities with mankind will range from cautious to gullible. The pantheist will be skeptical of any supernatural manifestations or revelations that support religious exclusiveness or intolerance.

Agnosticism

The agnostic is convinced that certainty about the existence of spiritual entities is beyond human reach. Agnostics will remain skeptical of all evidence for the supernatural and will disdain supernatural manifestations or revelations that support religious exclusiveness or intolerance.

Atheism

The atheist is convinced that there is a natural, scientific explanation for everything, even if the explanation is still beyond our understanding. Atheists reject all evidence for the supernatural as being misunderstood or misinterpreted.