

The Secret of the Kingdom

Evidence that the Kingdom is Future

The Great Reversal:

Isa 61:1-3 -The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

Mark 10:31 - But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Luke 6:21 - Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

The Messianic Banquet:

Matt 8:11-12 - I say to you that many *will come* from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Luke 14:15 - When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed are those who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

Luke 22:28-30 - You are those who have stood by me in my trials. 29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Future entrance into the kingdom:

Matt 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matt 18:3 - "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Future Coming of the Son of Man:

Mark 14:62 - "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

The Age to Come:

Matt 12:32 - Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Luke 18:29-30 - "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God 30 will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."

Watchfulness for what is Coming in the Future:

Matt 25:13 - "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

Evidence that the Kingdom was Present:

Jesus Declared that Isaiah 61 was Fulfilled in their Hearing:

Luke 4:18, 21 - "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor."... "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Matt 11:2-6 - When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

The Kingdom doesn't come in Ways that are Obviously Observable:

Luke 17:20-21 - Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, 21 nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."

The Holy War has Already Begun:

Luke 13:15-16 - The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? 16 Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

Luke 11:20 - If I drive out demons by the finger (Spirit) of God, then the kingdom of God has come (present tense) upon you.

The Great Reversal has Already Begun:

Matthew 11:5-6 - 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

The Great Banquet has Already Begun.

Matt 9:10-11 - While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

The great future event was already a present reality!