

# The Kingdom of Heaven – Part 1

By R. E. Davey - From the Book: Kingdom of Heaven is Like – 1954

*After reading the below remarks, we must ask ourselves if we have given the gospel the proper place in our lives and if not, why not. God's work awaits us.*

The kingdom was emphasized very early in Christ's ministry. John the Baptist prepared the way, "In those days came John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 3:28. With the same emphasis Christ introduced his ministry, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" Matthew 4:16. As a model for the prayers of his disciples, Christ placed emphasis on the coming kingdom that was to make possible the will of God prevailing "on earth as in heaven."

**In the very beginning of the restoration movement, the building of the kingdom was again placed as the keystone of the arch, the things about which Christ's followers were to be primarily concerned.** The kingdom of God on earth was identified by the word "Zion." Shortly before the church became an organized fact, **God said repeatedly, "Keep my commandments and seek to bring forth and establish Zion."** See Doctrine and Covenants 6, 10, 11 and 12. **Those who are converted and give the gospel its proper place in their lives shall be transformed into the kind and quality of people whom God can use in the building of His Kingdom.**

Latter-day revelation adds detail to this meaning: "*But firstly, let my army become very great, and let it be sanctified before me, that it may become fair as the sun, and clear as the moon, and that her banners may be terrible unto all nations; that the kingdoms of this world may be constrained to acknowledge that the kingdom of Zion is in very deed the kingdom of our God and his Christ;*" D&C 102:9a-b

## The Kingdom of Heaven - Part 2

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*Like Alma, Brother Davey reminds us that we need to become a changed people. Individually, we must ask the question: "Have I experienced a mighty change in my heart?"*

Christ, when addressing his disciples, said, "Therefore seek ye to bring forth the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" Luke 12:34-35.

**The immediate purpose of the church and gospel was to so change the lives of people – their attitudes, motives, desires and ideals – that they would be brought into proper relationships spiritually, socially and economically and so produce a new society, a godly society. The kingdom of God, making possible the will of God in all things, would be created on earth as it now is in heaven.**

His kingdom "Zion" was not to develop out of human or worldly approach, but from a divine one. This is illustrated by Apostle Paul's statement to the Roman saints: "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

**This kingdom of God "which is yet to come" is undoubtedly a concrete, definite reality – an actual society composed of human beings who have become transformed from ordinary men of the Earth into the sons of God by the transforming power of the gospel. Such a society can be built only by people who have experienced the "washing of regeneration", by people who have obeyed from the heart... The prime task of the church is to "seek to bring forth the kingdom of God" by changing people.**



## The Kingdom of Heaven - Part 3

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*The question must be asked after reading the below remarks from R.E Davey: Will I be among the good gathered into vessels? Are you prepared to be a part of Zion and shine forth as the sun? Time is short we must be about our Father's work.*

Christ once spoke of the Kingdom of God as a net that gathered of every kind with the bad cast away, but the good "gathered" in vessels. Just before this he said that all those in the kingdom who did wickedly or offended were to be plucked out and the good gathered in. "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun, in the Kingdom of their Father." This referred to the kingdom that was to be, it's purpose as a witness and ensign that people could see.

The gathering of the elect was designated to be "one place upon the face of the land." For only by so doing could there be a concentration of the right kind of people in one unit so as to build this new society. **In this tremendous ideal of "Zion" is found the real and only genuine answer to the needs of the world. No wonder Christ emphasized, "Seek ye first to build up the Kingdom of God." And taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." No wonder the restored gospel put "Zion", the building of the Kingdom of God on earth, in such a place of pre-eminence.**

What is the Kingdom? It is a Christian social order wherein the teachings of Christ find concrete expression in practical social living--the realization of the dream of the ages. **The word of God says it shall be. How marvelous is our opportunity to become labors together with God in the building of his Kingdom!**

