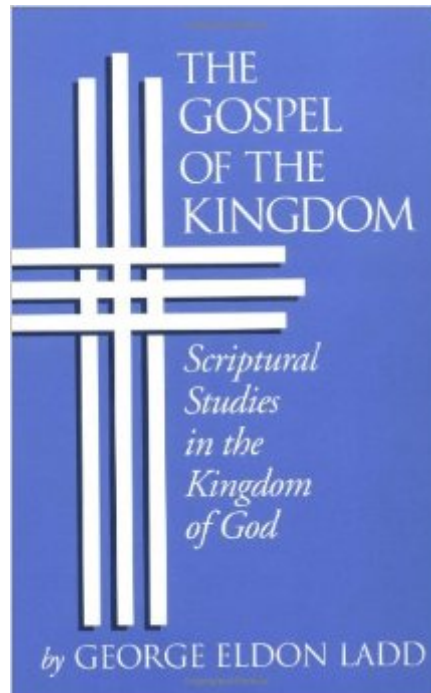


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Gospel Of The Kingdom: Scriptural Studies In The Kingdom Of God



Synopsis

Ladd, whose work has included much technical study of the doctrine of the kingdom, here presents a practical and devotional scriptural study of the many aspects of the kingdom, based on the parables, the Sermon on the Mount, and other key passages.

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Customer Reviews

The Gospel of the Kingdom is a terrific book which every Christian should read. A curious fact is that it was written in 1959, well ahead of its time. We are subjected to various views of the Kingdom of God and how it relates to the Church, Israel and the end times. There is much confusion as to what the Kingdom is, and when and where will it be. Ladd answers these critical questions. The chapters deal with 1. What is the Kingdom of God. 2. The Kingdom is tomorrow 3. The Kingdom is today. In addition he gives a good exposition of how to understand the parables of Kingdom and an excellent section on how to understand the Sermon on the Mount. He takes the difficult passages of Jesus' sermon and answers the questions what does Jesus mean that one should "cut off your hand" or "gouge out your eye" if necessary to enter the Kingdom. It is a practical book as well which calls Christians to commit all to the advancement of the Kingdom of God and the role that God wants all of us to play in its institution. It is easy to read and extremely informative. I could not recommend it more highly.

In the Gospel of Mark - perhaps the earliest Gospel - the first words of Jesus reported are the following: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand." The concept of the Kingdom of

God (or the "Kingdom of Heaven," Matthew's circumlocution) is central to the New Testament. But if you asked the average Christian what the central teachings of the New Testament are, I wonder if "the Kingdom of God" would be one of the responses. One of the most important Evangelical writers on this topic was the late George Eldon Ladd, long-time professor of New Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary. Perhaps more than any writer, it was Ladd who was instrumental in moving evangelical Protestantism in the US away from dispensationalism to historic premillennialism. This little work contains a number of addresses that Ladd gave in the late 1950s on the Kingdom of God in the Bible. He discusses the Kingdom in terms of the parables, the millennium, Israel, and the Church, among other topics. I was particularly impressed with the discussion of the demands of the Kingdom on the life of the believer. It is quite a contrast from much of the touchy-feely Christianity that gets preached today.

Ladd's work on the Kingdom is so important because it sets out a Biblical framework for understanding a reality that was at the heart of Jesus' life and teaching: the Kingdom of God. He does here with great brevity what he does more thoroughly in his *Theol. of the NT*. This little book will get your heart pumping with excitement about the glorious Kingdom which has come and yet is still to come! But beware! This book has HUGE practical implications...the ideas should inspire love for and active obedience to Jesus, not simply more esoteric knowledge.

The phrase "Kingdom of God" or "Kingdom of Heaven" is in the gospels some 84 times; compared to the word "cross", which only appears 17 times, and "gospel" or "good news", which only appears 23 times. The Kingdom of God was the central message of Jesus. This book brings the message to life through its examination of the topic, and--even though it's a theology book--presents the material in a very clear, readable way. I can honestly say that this book has brought a fresh understanding of God's will and purposes to my Christian walk. Of all the Christian books I've read, this one definitely makes my top 10 list.

This book is an easy read and gives a great overview of the Kingdom of God. Terms like Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven, and Gospel of the Kingdom have been interpreted differently by many different theologians, but Dr. Ladd unifies these terms and gives a wonderful explanation of what it meant back in the time of Christ and what the ramifications are today. While he is a little more literal in his interpretation than I might be (today he probably would fall into a progressive dispensationalist framework), the book overall is a wonderful summary of what it means to be part of the kingdom of

God. The chapter on kingdom righteousness was both informative and exhortational. His breakdown of Matthew 5-8, although short, was direct and really helped me to understand what Christ was saying in a way that much longer books haven't. The last chapter on "When will the kingdom come in fullness?" is a great challenge to evangelism. Overall, I'd give this book a 4 out of 5. The only detractors are a) he's a little too literal and b) some of his statements aren't explained and proven to the extent that I'd like. But those are both just personal preferences. Great book - a great primer on the kingdom of God.

Though short for its subject matter, George Eldon Ladd's book goes a long way toward helping Christians focus on what really matters. Very readable and filled with Scripture, Ladd reminds us that Christ came preaching "the gospel of the Kingdom." The apostles continued to do the same. Why is it we almost never hear preaching on the Kingdom these days? Rather, we just try to get people "saved" with little mention of the Kingdom that, while future in its fullness, is "tasted" in the present age. The final chapter uses as its primary text Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come." As Ladd so ably demonstrates as he exegetes this passage, here we find our message, our mission, and our motive. Now, that will preach!

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