



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -
GRAND THEMES 13 – KINGDOM
V

A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, and the bottom-right corner is a vertical bar extending upwards. The rest of the frame is implied by the corners.

WELCOME TO “GRAND THEMES”

Each week we will trace a major theme through the
whole Bible.



Coming of the Kingdom



Theme gallery



<p>TEMPLE</p>	<p>COVENANT</p>	<p>COVENANT</p>	<p>COVENANT</p>	<p>COVENANT</p>	<p>EXODUS</p>

Theme gallery



L&D



KINGDOM
OT



KINGDOM
NT



KINGDOM
PARABLES



COMING
OF THE
KINGDOM



COMING
SOON

Coming of the Kingdom

Once, on being 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, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.” (Lk 17:20-21)

- What do we learn from the verse?
- Not directly observable?



COMING
SOON

Coming of the Kingdom

Then he said to his disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. People will tell you, ‘There he is!’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running off after them. For the Son of Man in his day will be like the **lightning**, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. But first he must **suffer** many things and be **rejected** by this generation. (Lk 17:22-25)

- What time frame is Jesus talking about?
- What else from the verse?



COMING
SOON

Coming of the Kingdom

Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all....(Lk 17:26-27)

It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife! (Lk 17:30-32)

- Suddenness. Life is going on as normal and then..
- What's coming? Good or bad?
- Noah and Lot (Lk 17:28-29). Examples of what?



COMING
SOON

Coming of the Kingdom

And so...

- Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.” (Lk 17:33-35)



**KEEP
CALM
AND
SET
CONTEXT**

Context - Historical



- Cultural/historical context:
- Where are we in terms of Jesus' ministry
- Anything not "gelling" for you?
- Who is Jesus' audience here?
- What events are coming at that time?
- Jesus' death and apparent victory of Rome/Religious establishment.
- Destruction of Jerusalem, temple, sacrificial system in AD70. Not far away.

A black and white image of a chair in a spotlight. The text "COMING SOON" is written in large, bold, white capital letters above the chair. The chair is a simple, modern design with a dark frame and light-colored upholstery. The spotlight is a bright, vertical beam of light that illuminates the chair and the text.

COMING
SOON

‘Coming’ = Judgment

- There are many “comings” in the Bible. More than just two!
- “Coming” is the language of judgment.
- See, the LORD is **coming with fire**, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For with fire and with his sword the LORD will execute judgment on all people and many will be those slain by the LORD. (Isa 66:15)
- I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will **come to his temple**; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. (Mal 3:1)
- Don’t forget, these passages were warnings to the original hearers.

Arch of Titus - Rome

- Titus in 4-horse chariot + goddess Roma
- Relief of events of destruction of the temple
- Arch of Titus in Rome.



Matthew 24

- Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” (Mt 24:1-2)
- And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— **then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.** Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. (Mt 24:14-21)
- Flee! Get out of town!.... Don’t stay around for the siege.
- Daniel 9:27 – abomination that causes desolation = desecration of the temple = end of sacrificial system.



Destruction of Jerusalem (70 AD)

- As he approached **Jerusalem** and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your **enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side**. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will **not leave one stone on another**, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.” (Lk 19:41-44)
- When you see Jerusalem being **surrounded by armies**, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea **flee** to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. (Lk 21:20)
- The Siege of Jerusalem of 70 CE was the decisive event of the First Jewish-Roman War (66–73 CE), in which the Roman army led by future emperor Titus besieged Jerusalem, the centre of Jewish rebel resistance in the Roman Province of Judaea. Following a five-month siege, the Romans destroyed the city and the Second Jewish temple.



Sheep and goats

- When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.
- Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your **inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world**. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’(Mt 25:31-40)
- What are you getting from this verse about the kingdom?
- Inheritance to be received, like Eden,
- Jesus seems focussed on acts of mercy shown to others. How does this fit in with your concept of how Jesus will judge?



Reflection



- What you have you learnt about “Kingdom” from this lesson?
- How do you understand “coming” now?
- Do you have any personal practical takeaways from this lesson?



NEXT TIME...ORDER &
CHAOS