### The Kingdom of God

- Definition of the kingdom
- Present or future?
- The kingdom and salvation

### Definition of the Kingdom

- What is the kingdom of God?

### Definition of the Kingdom

- Expectations of the kingdom in Judaism:
  - Rabbinic Judaism: keep the law.
  - Zealots: purify the nation through revolution.
  - Qumran: withdraw and purify yourselves.
  - A nationalistic kingdom.
  - Response to Jesus was the key (Mk. 10:17-27).
- Jesus’ message was different:
  - Universalize the kingdom beyond Israel.
  - The presence of the kingdom in his ministry.

### Present or Future?

- The kingdom is both present and future.
  - “Already” and “not yet” (inaugurated eschatology).
  - See Mark 10:17-27.
  - Matera: The disciples lived with eschatological reservation.
- The NT assumes eschatological dualism.
  - Present age and age to come.
  - Separated by the Day of the Lord.

- Judaism expected a single event, the Day of the Lord, to end this age and begin the age to come.
Day of the Lord

Present or Future?

- Kingdom of God = reign of God; the government of the age to come.

This age

Kingdom of God

Day of the Lord

Present or Future?

- The kingdom of God broke into history in Jesus’ ministry.
- The age to come had dawned without doing away with the present age.

This age

Kingdom of God

Jesus

Present or Future?

- Jesus’ resurrection marked the beginning of the end.
- His parousia will bring in the age to come in its fullness.

This age

Kingdom of God

Resurrection Parousia

Present or Future?

- The powers of the age to come have broken in.
- But for now, we live “between the times.”
- We live with the “already” and “not yet.”

This age

Kingdom of God

Resurrection Parousia

Present or Future?

- When does the kingdom come in power?
  - Mark 9:1; 13:30.
  - Jesus’ imminent return?
  - Transfiguration?
  - Resurrection and Pentecost?
  - The “delay of the parousia.”
  - We can’t know the time, so we must be vigilant (Mark 13:32-37).
  - What do you think?

This age

Kingdom of God

Already Not yet

Resurrection Parousia

D-Day V-Day
The Kingdom and Salvation

• How does the kingdom relate to salvation?
  – See Mark 10:17-27.

The Kingdom and Salvation

• What does salvation in the Synoptics consist of?
  – Primarily eschatological (entering into the life of the age to come).
  – Immortality, fellowship with God, spared from God’s wrath.
  – Forgiveness of sins.
  – Can be experienced partly in the present.
  – Wholeness.

The Kingdom and Salvation

• What response does the kingdom call for?
  – Repentance and faith (Mark 1:15).
  – Discipleship to Christ (Mark 10:21).
  – An absolute commitment (Mark 8:35).
  – Receive it like a child (Mark 10:15).
  – Submission to reign of God as present in Jesus.

• How does the kingdom challenge our usual understanding of salvation?