

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT WITHIN YOU

Can a human being have God's dwelling place, which is heaven in their heart? We need to seriously consider this question for our own benefit, because understanding comes from the Lord. Many scholars have completely misunderstood a passage of Scripture from the gospel of Luke, taking it out of context to mean something different from what the Lord had clearly conveyed to a group of people standing in front of Him. This error has led to the creation a doctrine which does not align with the rest of Scripture. This study is a thoroughly examination of this passage of Scripture, to prove the fact that there has been some misunderstanding in the interpretation of this passage of Scripture, and the doctrine that has derived from it is not biblical. The misunderstanding of this Scripture does not stem from a translation error as some have been led to believe. The question is, will you be courageous enough to reject this doctrine after examining the facts? Are you willing to change your beliefs and start seeking the truth? The word of God will remain forever, but this age, (of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil), will soon pass away. We have all been given an equal opportunity to seek the truth.

The Lord has established firm principles which must always be adhere to when we study the Holy Scriptures. Scripture interprets itself and all Scripture on a particular topic must align with the other Scriptures on that topic. We cannot, and should not take Scripture out of context, because it only leads to error. The content of this passage of Scripture is one of a few which does not appear anywhere else in the Holy Scriptures. As a rule, and in such cases, we must let Scripture interpret itself. The Lord our God will not leave us in doubt if our hearts are set on seeking the truth. Hence, one of the reasons why the Lord our God has made His Holy Spirit available to guide us. Here is the passage of Scripture in question:

Luke 17:20-21 New King James Version

²⁰Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

The key to open this passage of Scripture is firmly rooted in the fact that the question was asked by the Pharisees. The Lord our God gave this answer to the Pharisees, "the Kingdom of God does not come by observation". In other words, we cannot see the Kingdom of God in the flesh, the physical eye. This is because the Kingdom of God is a spiritual entity, which will be made clear later in this study. Moreover, the Lord added to them, the Pharisees, that the

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Kingdom of God was within them, the Pharisees not everyone, but the Pharisees. Regardless of the version you read, what the Lord meant stays the same. The Lord was specific about what He said to the Pharisees, not to all.

Today, many have taken what the Lord said to the Pharisees to be stonewall truth for all, without a good understanding of the reasons why the Lord had made that statement to the Pharisees. There is no other passage in the entity of the Holy Scriptures that confirms the fact that the Kingdom of God is in or will be within a believer. Moreover, we cannot take one passage of Scripture to build a doctrine. However, if we did, we will be confused since some passages of Scripture might seem to contradict the others on the same topic, but if our understanding has been opened, we will realise that Scripture in fact interprets itself. All Scripture must be in context and should align to all other Scriptures relating to the same topic. If we closely examine this passage of Scripture, certain elements will enlighten our understanding as to what the Lord meant by this statement.

- The Lord Jesus Christ was addressing the Pharisees directly in responds to their question.
- We must understand that the Pharisees understood the meaning of the Kingdom of God to a certain extent, hence, the reason for their question.
- The Lord knew and understood the reasoning behind this question, and He answered them accordingly.
- Who were the Pharisees?

A good understanding of who the Pharisees were will put things in perspective and give us a clear indication of the reason why the Lord said to them that the Kingdom of God was within them. But what did the Lord mean by the phrase “within them”? In fact, the Lord was addressing the Pharisees who were in His company. Who were the Pharisees? Are there any Pharisees alive today? You will be astonished to realise that today, just as it was when the Lord walked the earth, there are many Pharisees who claim to understand the truth, but live according to their own righteousness and in error. These are some of the character traits of the Pharisees:

Matthew 3:7-12 New King James Version

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”⁸Therefore bear

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fruits worthy of repentance,⁹ and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹² His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

John the Baptist was not very complementary to the Pharisees and Sadducees, and he called them a "Brood of vipers". If that was what John the Baptist thought of the Pharisees and Sadducees, will you continue to believe that the Kingdom of God was within them, in their hearts? Remember what the Lord Jesus Christ said about the Pharisees, and this was after He had made the statement "the Kingdom of God is within them". This was very close to the end of the Lord's ministry here on earth. Would the Lord had said the Kingdom of God was in their hearts as many have been led to believe today? Yes, it is what we read in the Holy Scriptures, but we need to understand the intent of these words.

Matthew 23:1-36 New King James Version

¹ Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, ² saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. ³ Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. ⁴ For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. ⁵ But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. ⁶ They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷ greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' ⁸ But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. ⁹ Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰ And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. ¹¹ But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

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¹³ *“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. ¹⁴ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.*

¹⁵ *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.*

¹⁶ *“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.’ ¹⁷ Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? ¹⁸ And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.’ ¹⁹ Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? ²⁰ Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. ²¹ He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. ²² And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.*

²³ *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ²⁴ Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!*

²⁵ *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. ²⁶ Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.*

²⁷ *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

²⁹ *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰ and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’*

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³¹ *“Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.*

³² *Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt. ³³ Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? ³⁴ Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, ³⁵ that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶ Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.*

What a sobering indictment against the Pharisees. If the Lord used a whole chapter of the Holy Scriptures to condemn the Scribes and Pharisees, would He had said to them the Kingdom of God in within them, or as we say today in their hearts, or in our hearts? The answer is certainly no. The Kingdom of God is about righteousness according to God’s standards, something which was far from the Pharisees then and is far from many of us today. Ironically, most of those who hold the believe that the Kingdom of God is in their hearts, do not understand the meaning of the word kingdom, and the phrase, “the Kingdom of God”.

To fully comprehend what the Lord meant when He was addressing the Pharisee which has been taken out of context to mean something completely different, we must first understand the meaning of the word kingdom, and the exact meaning of the phrase, “the Kingdom of God”. What is the meaning of the word Kingdom?

Cambridge dictionary defines the word kingdom as a country ruled by a king or queen. This is a simple and straight forward definition.

Marriam-Webster defines kingdom as a politically organised community or major territorial unit having a monarchical form of government headed by a king or queen. These two definitions and all the other definitions, point to the fact that a kingdom comprises of:

- King or queen
- People
- Territory
- Laws that govern the people

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If that is what constitutes a kingdom, it literally means all those who say they Kingdom of God is within them or in their hearts must have a very large heart, bigger than the earth which contains mountains, rivers, oceans, nations, trees, animals. people, and a king or queen dwelling in their hearts. This is what it means literally, which we all know it is not so. If anyone believes that the Kingdom of God is in their hearts, it is either they are being deceived or they are deceiving themselves because the Kingdom of God is a place, the dwelling place of God the Father.

The Pharisees understood more about the Kingdom of God than many of us today, but they were not waiting for the Kingdom of God by faith and in truth. They were eagerly waiting for the Kingdom of God for their personal gain. They knew the Scriptures, but the Lord had not opened their understanding and revealed the truth to any of them. Even the disciples did not understand the Holy Scripture either at that stage. Their understanding was opened to the Scriptures when they received the Holy Spirit. This passage of Scripture from the book of the prophet Isaiah could have been the prompt to the question the Pharisees asked the Lord:

Isaiah 2:2-4 New King James Version

² Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. ³ Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

The Pharisees were selective about what they believed. They were longing for the Kingdom of God to come because, they were under the perception that they will be ruling over the nation of Israel with the Messiah. From this passage of Scripture, you can clearly see all the components that constitute a kingdom present, and in this instant, it is addressing a period to come when the Lord would have established the Kingdom of God here on the earth. We are the generation to see it happen. However, the Pharisees did not notice the connection

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between this passage of Scripture and a corresponding passage in the book of the prophet Isaiah chapter nine:

Isaiah 9:6-7 New King James Version

⁶For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The Lord had to come first as a child to fulfil certain tasks God the Father had set before Him. The throne of King David is here on earth since King David was king over the house of Israel in Jerusalem. The Lord Jesus Christ will return and resurrect the throne of King David and from there, He will rule over the entire earth from Zion. This exposes the flaws of the belief that the Kingdom of God is in our hearts or within a believer or here now. What did the Lord say about the Kingdom of God? We must remember the fact that, throughout the Lord's ministry when He walked the earth, He concentrated on two specific topics, the law of faith and the Kingdom of God.

John 3:3-4 New King James Version

³Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

This is an interesting conversation between a Pharisee called Nicodemus who understood who the Lord was, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Nicodemus was looking at things from a physical perspective while the Lord was giving us astonishing spiritual understanding of the truth. From this passage of Scripture, it has been made clear to us that the Kingdom of God is a place that can be seen physically. However, to be able to see the Kingdom of God we must be born again. Many believe that they are born again now, but they cannot see the Kingdom of God, which means they are deceiving themselves. From the definition of the word kingdom, it is now clear that the Kingdom of God is a territory, the dwelling place of God the Father. Now, at this very moment, and as it has been forever, God the Father is King in heaven.

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John 3:5-9 New King James Version

⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

In this passage of Scripture, the Lord gave us even more details about the Kingdom of God implying, it is not only a place we can see, but also a place we can enter. The conditions for entry into the Kingdom of God are:

- You must be born of water, which is water baptism.
- You must be born of the Spirit to become a spirit being like God.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the only one who has been born of the Spirit. Hence, the reason why He can enter heaven. To be born of the Spirit of God will come for the rest of mankind at the appointed time of the resurrection of the dead which will be on the last day of this age. This therefore means everyone claiming to be born again now is being deceived, since they cannot neither see nor can they enter the Kingdom of God, and most importantly, they are not spirit beings. It is obvious that the Kingdom of God is a place we can both see and enter, which means it cannot be within us, or in our hearts.

Moreover, if we go back to the statement the Lord made to the Pharisees about the Kingdom of God, at that time, the Holy Spirit had not been made available to men, so we cannot even suggest the Lord was saying to the Pharisees, if you have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you it means the Kingdom of God is within you or in the midst of you, in your heart or in your midst because, the Kingdom of God is a place we can both see and enter, if we have been born of the Spirit.

The Spirit of God, which is also the Holy Spirit, is given to believers as a reward for our obedience to repent from an evil way of life, which is the disobedience of God's laws and commandments and to start living a righteous way of life in obedience and faith towards God, is not the Kingdom of God within the believer. The Spirit of God in a believer, empowers the believer to do the will of God. It is also a seal to prove that the believer belongs to the Lord.

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It is the Spirit of God that will change the believer in an instant at the appointed time of resurrection when the Lord calls. We must acknowledge the fact that, it is the Spirit of God dwelling in us and not God Himself. There is a big difference between the two. Now, we all have the spirit of Satan, (the spirit of death), dwelling in us, even those who believe in the Lord who have repented of their sins, and have the Spirit of God dwelling in them, because we are all appointed to die at least once. It is not Satan but his spirit, just as it is not God, but the Spirit of God.

Ephesians 2:19-22 New King James Version

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

When we repent, we become the dwelling place of God in the Spirit. If it was God Himself dwelling in us, a believer will not be able to transgress any of God's laws and commandments. Absolutely not, but as things stand, even the most dedicated believer of the Lord transgresses God's laws and commandments. The Spirit of God in the believer is the access we have been given to God the Father.

Ephesians 2:14-18 New King James Version

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

The Lord Jesus Christ has paid in full for the sins of all mankind. Because of the Lord's sacrifice, we have now been given access to God the Father through His Spirit that dwell in us, but we have not been given the ability to see and enter the Kingdom of God. This therefore means the Kingdom of God is not within or in the midst of a believer.

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What did the Lord mean when He said to the Pharisees, “the Kingdom of God is within you”? First, we must examine what the Lord said to His disciples immediately after He had answered the Pharisees.

Luke 17:22-37 New King James Version

²² Then He said to the disciples, “The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. ²³ And they will say to you, ‘Look here!’ or ‘Look there!’ Do not go after them or follow them. ²⁴ For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. ²⁵ But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

²⁶ And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

³¹ “In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. ³² Remember Lot’s wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. ³⁴ I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. ³⁶ Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.” ³⁷ And they answered and said to Him, “Where, Lord?” So He said to them, “Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.”

A close examination of this passage of Scripture reveals that, this was the first part of the discussion the Lord had with His disciples in private on mount Olive when they questioned Him about His coming. The disciples wanted more understanding on what the Lord had said earlier. We must notice something very important here too. They did not ask about His second coming; they asked about the signs of His coming and of the end of age which is very specific.

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Matthew 24:2-31 New King James Version

² And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." ³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.

⁹ "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

¹⁵ "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶ "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

²³ "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶ "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is

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in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸ For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

And in verses thirty-six through to forty-one, the Lord gave the same comparison of the days of the return of the Son of man to the days of Noah, just before the flood.

Matthew 24:36-41 New King James Version

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. ³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

It is fascinating when you can see what happened on that day when the Pharisees asked the Lord when the Kingdom of God would come. The Lord gave them a correct answer which we would discuss shortly, but away from the Pharisees, the Lord explained to His disciples what we, the Lord’s disciples today, should expect before His return to establish the Kingdom of God here on the earth. This refutes the doctrine of the Kingdom of God being in the hearts of the believer or within the believer to be wrong. Today, we cannot say the answer the Lord gave the Pharisees and the explanation to His disciples are not connected. They are connected because it was on the same day and about the same topic. If we continue to believe in the fact that the Kingdom of God is within the hearts of the believer, it is basically because we are rejecting the truth so we can follow the imagination of our foolish hearts, it is that simple.

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Why did the Lord say the Kingdom of God was within, or in the midst of the Pharisees? We must let Scripture give us the answer to that question. A king is a direct representative of his kingdom. The Lord even mentioned it when He said to His disciples, they will desire to see one of the days of the Son of man. The Son of man is the King God the Father has appointed over earth. From Scripture, we have been given two distinct occasions which directly refers to what the Lord said to the Pharisees.

Exodus 3:1-6 New King James Version

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

⁴ So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." ⁶ Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

On this occasion, where the Lord our God was, that area became holy, and Moses could not draw close to it. If he did, he would have perished. Joshua had a similar experience when he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in front of him with His sword drawn.

Joshua 5:13-15 New King James Version

¹³ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

¹⁴ So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" ¹⁵ Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

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This commander could be no other but the Lord Jesus Christ. Both Joshua and Moses were told to take off their sandal because where they were standing had become holy ground. The ground became holy in the presence of the Lord. When the Lord walked the earth, He had given up all His power and glory to become a man for very good reasons. Only a man could save mankind, a Son of God like Adam. Only a direct creation of God could save mankind from sin. The Lord Jesus Christ is the King God the Father has set on His holy mount of Zion.

Psalm 2:4-8 New King James Version

⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. ⁵Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶“Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” ⁷“I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

From the passage of Scripture, and that which we saw earlier in this study from the book of the prophet Isaiah, which was a prophecy informing us that the Lord will be given to us as a child, and at the appointed time the government of the world will be on His shoulders. That prophecy was fulfilled when the three wise men came from the East to Jerusalem to worship the Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12 New King James Version

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ⁶‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

⁷Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the

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young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

From the moment the Lord was born, He was already ordained the King of Israel. It was not at the beginning of His ministry, neither was it from when He was baptised. The Lord was the blessing God had promised His friend Abraham, and the Seed who shall seat on the throne of David the King. The was an interesting exchange between the Lord and Pilate during the Lord's trail just before He was crucified

John 18:33-38 New King James Version

³³ Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered him, “Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?”

³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” ³⁸ Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.

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The Lord's Kingdom is not of this world. The Lord's Kingdom is from heaven, a kingdom of righteousness which the Lord will come and establish over the entire earth. This is the meaning of the Kingdom of God. The Lord Jesus Christ is a direct representative of the Kingdom of God, since He is the King and at the appointed time, the Lord will return to the earth and establish the Kingdom of God here on earth. This was the root of the question the Pharisees were curious to find out. When will the Kingdom of God be established on earth? The Lord gave them the correct answer to their question. The Lord, a direct representative of the Kingdom of God, the King, was present, standing in the midst, within a group of Pharisees who asked Him the question.

In other words, the Lord Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, in heaven and on earth, who has promised to return and establish the Kingdom of God here on the earth at the appointed time, was asked when He was going to establish the Kingdom of God on earth by a group of Pharisees. The Lord did not give them the answer they were expecting because their hearts were not seeking in truth, to know when the Lord will establish the Kingdom of God on the earth. Their question was for their own gain. Their thought was, they will rule over Israel with the Lord. The Lord gave them an unexpected answer which is correct. The Lord was standing there amongst them. The Kingdom of God, the Lord, was standing there amongst this group of Pharisees. After the Lord was resurrection, the disciples also asked when the Lord was going to establish the Kingdom of God upon the earth:

Acts 1:4-8 New King James Version

⁴And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; ⁵for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

This passage of Scripture addresses the fact that even after the Lord had been crucified, He did not say to His disciples who asked Him the same question, He did not say to them that the

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Kingdom of God was within them, in their hearts, or even in their midst. The Lord was there with them. Instead, the Lord commissioned them to go and preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is a place we can see and eventually enter at the appointed time of resurrection, when all those who have qualified will be changed at the blast of last trumpet which has been well documented for us in the book of Revelation. According to the Holy Scriptures, the Lord will return to the earth to establish the government of God, God's laws and commandments on the earth.

Revelation 20:1-6 New King James Version

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

This is the appointed time the Lord our God has set for the Kingdom of God to be established here on the earth. The King, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Saints will rule here on the earth for a thousand as appointed. This is what the Lord our God has proposed, and it will come to pass at it has been documented for us. If you are under the illusion that the Kingdom of God is in your heart, within the believer, it should now be very clear to you that you are being deceived, or you are deceiving yourselves. Believers of the truth do not have mountains, rivers, houses, cars, cities, airports, people, trees, in other words, the earth in their hearts.