

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)

Chps. 8-10 *The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)*

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

In Matthew 8-9 there is a strong emphasis on Christ’s Lordship authority in relation to His kingdom miracles performed over disease and demons. That theme of Jesus’ authority now continues on as we come to chapter 10. Chapter 10 marks the second major discourse of five that are given in the book.

Slide # 2

The 5 Discourses in Matthew

1. The Sermon on the Mount – Matt. 5-7

2. Commissioning of the Twelve – Matt. 10
3. Parables of the Kingdom - Matt. 13
4. Community Instructions - Matt. 18
5. Olivet Discourse (End Times) Matt. 24-25

As we move into chapter 10 also note this connection. There are what I term the two bookends summarizing Christ's Galilean ministry as seen in Matt. 4:23 and Matt. 9:35 which further ties to Christ's apostolic commissioning of the 12 disciples.

Slide # 3

Matthew 4:23 (NKJV)

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching** the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing** all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Matthew 9:35 (NKJV)

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching** the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing** every sickness and every disease among the people.

Jesus in 9:36-38 said the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few and therefore the disciples should pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out more laborers. In chapter 10 we now see the disciples (in part) were themselves to be the answer these prayers. They were to pray and now they are being sent.

What characterized Christ's ministry was now to be multiplied in and through the ministry of the disciples as they are given a specialized apostolic commission.

Matthew 10:1–6 (NKJV)

1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

This marks about midway point in Christ's earthly ministry so the 12 disciples had been following Christ for some time.

The word “disciple” means learner or follower – it is a learning follower. It is the idea of being a student. The word as used in the gospels can denote true devoted followers but is also used at times of mere curiosity followers who were not sincere. Context determines which is in view.

Slide # 4

John 8:31–32 (NKJV)

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are **My disciples indeed**.

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Before being appointed as apostles they first needed to just LEARN from Jesus. They were disciples before they became apostles. For about the first year and a half of Christ’s ministry the 12 disciples just watched Him. They interacted and observed but they did not have a “kingdom announcing” ministry like Christ.

That was now about to change.

As Jesus called His twelve disciples to Him the text says “***He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.***” Note this is the very same type of miracles that Jesus Himself had been doing as seen in the summary verses of Matt. 4:23 and 9:35.

This is what it meant to be an apostle as they are now named to be as seen in the next verse. They were empowered with a special calling to represent Christ in a very special and personal way. They were Christ’s unique ambassadors doing similar type miracles. In effect to be an apostle meant that they were uniquely an extension of Christ’s ministry.

They now too were proclaiming “The kingdom is as hand” with visible demonstrations that indeed it was being presented to Israel on the condition of repentance as noted earlier in Mt. 3:2 and 4:17.

Slide # 5

Matthew 10:7 (NKJV)

7 And as you go, preach, saying, ‘**The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**’

Note that the kingdom and miracles of healing go together in keeping with OT prophecy. When the Messiah God comes and ushers in the kingdom He will do so with miracles of healing.

Slide # 6

Isaiah 35:4–5 (NKJV)

4 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you.”

5 Then the **eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.**

It was no small thing to be an apostle. They were empowered to do special “kingdom miracles” that no one else other than the Messiah could do. And they could only do it because they were His special authoritative representatives.

Slide # 7

2 Corinthians 12:12 (NKJV)

12 **Truly the signs of an apostle** were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in **signs and wonders and mighty deeds.**

I share this because today various wild eyed charismatic teachers want to claim that they too are apostles in the same sense as Christ’s apostles. That is crazy talk. The true apostles’ ministry was very unique – in effect being an extension of Christ’s ministry.

Note the extent of their newfound apostolic ministry. Just like Christ they were given power over unclean spirits and over ALL kinds of sickness and ALL kinds of disease. Nothing could stop them. Their ministry at this point was very extensive – just as Christ’s was – which is indicative of the coming kingdom. Their ministry had a very specialized kingdom purpose at this point that was totally unique to this time period and context.

On behalf of Christ as His special apostolic ambassadors they were presenting the kingdom as being at hand with the kingdom evidence of miracles. Truly this was kingdom stuff. However, as we go along, we find that Israel rejected Jesus as their Messiah and the kingdom offer was withdrawn and delayed.

We are no longer at this time in the Church Age proclaiming “the kingdom is at hand” because the kingdom right now is not being offered and is not imminently at hand. Right now, we are proclaiming “***the gospel of Christ***” and not the gospel of the kingdom as being at hand.

What is imminent now is the coming of Christ for His Church in the event called the RAPTURE. Philippians 4:5 says, “The Lord is at hand.” James 5:8 says, “...the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

Titus 2:13 (NKJV)

13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

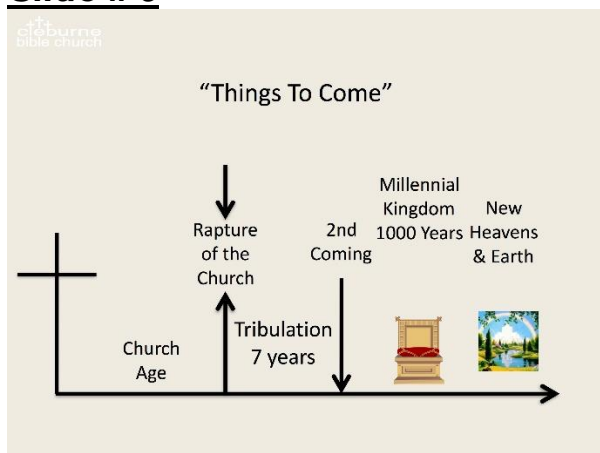
However, once the church is raptured then the “***gospel of the kingdom***” will again go forth to the ends of the earth as it will then again be on the horizon. This is the context of Matthew 24 – which is a Tribulation context.

Slide # 8

Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)

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.

Slide # 9



A key thing to note in Matthew 10:1 is that Christ had the AUTHORITY to delegate this kind of power. This shows His greatness as only God can do this.

This was without a precedent in Jewish history. Not even Moses or Elijah had given miraculous powers to their disciples. Elijah had been allowed to transmit his powers to Elisha, but only when he himself was removed from the earth. - ***Alfred Plummer***

Other men had performed miracles, but no other man ever conferred the power on others. – **William MacDonald**

Actually, the word “translated” as “power” here in verse 1 in the NKJV is the Greek word “**exousia**” meaning AUTHORITY instead of “**dunamis**” which would mean power. So, this is Christ having the AUTHORITY to impart AUTHORITY to do the supernatural. Only God has this kind of AUTHORITY.

It emphasizes Christ giving them the right to do it – not merely the power. Again, only God can give this kind of authority resulting in this kind of power. This once again HIGHLIGHTS the Lordship AUTHORITY of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Along with the supernatural powers given to them in verse 1 came this special title of “apostle”. The word apostle means “sent one”. It is used in a general sense in the NT and in a technical sense (cf. Lk. 6:13).

Slide 10

Apostle

General Sense: “messengers of the churches” – 2 Cor. 8:23

Technical Sense: “apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ” – Jude 17

The apostles of Christ had the highest position in the Church. They were special representatives with special powers who gave us the New Testament which was authenticated with supernatural apostolic signs.

Slide # 11

THE APOSTLES WERE SPECIAL...

1. The Church was founded upon them (Eph. 2:19-20, 3:1-6).
2. Eyewitness of the risen Lord (Acts 1:22, 1 Cor. 9:1, 15:7-8, Gal. 1:11-12).

3. Personally chosen and commissioned by Christ (Lk. 6:13, Acts 9:1-6, 15-16, Gal. 1:1).
4. Authenticated by unique miracles (2 Cor. 12:11-12).
5. Spoke for Christ with absolute authority (1 Cor. 14:29-33, Jude 17).
6. All N.T. truth was communicated through them (Jn. 16:13, 17:20, Heb. 2:3-4).
7. The 12 have an eternal place of special honor (Rev. 21:14).

Anyone that today claims to be an apostle of Christ in the technical sense of the word is a false teacher and a LIAR.

Even in the early church people falsely claiming to be an apostle was a problem. Christ gave this message to John, the last living real apostle of Christ, who relayed this to the church at Ephesus towards the end of his life.

Slide # 12

Revelation 2:2 (NKJV)

2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you **cannot bear those who are evil.** And you have **tested** those who **say they are apostles and are not,** and have found them **liars;**

People that falsely claim to be apostles need to be called out for the liars they are, and Christ approves of this message!

Christ chose 12 special disciples who learned from Him personally and then He further empowered them to do "kingdom miracles" in His name and with that power came the title of "apostle" designating them as Christ's very special authoritative representatives. And then the 12 are named.

Slide # 13

CHART OF APOSTLES

	Matthew 10:2-4	Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:14-16	Acts 1:12-18
1st Group	Simon (Peter) Andrew (Peter's brother) James (son of Zebedee) John (James' brother)	Simon (Peter) James (son of Zebedee) John (James' brother) Andrew	Simon (Peter) Andrew (Peter's brother) James John	Peter John James Andrew
2nd Group	Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip

	Bartholomew Thomas Matthew (tax gatherer)	Bartholomew Matthew Thomas	Bartholomew Matthew Thomas	Thomas Bartholomew Matthew
3rd Group	James (son of Alphaeus) Thaddaeus Simon (the Cananean) Judas (Iscariot)	James (son of Alphaeus) Thaddaeus Simon (the Cananean) Judas (Iscariot)	James (son of Alphaeus) Simon (the zealot) Judas (son of James) Judas (Iscariot)	James (son of Alphaeus) Simon (the zealot) Judas (son of James)

The lists uniformly always name Peter first and Judas Iscariot as last. And there are consistently three groupings of four although the names are not always in uniform order. And it seems that they may be named in pairs – perhaps because as it says in Mark 6:7 they were sent out “two by two”.

The text says, “**first, Simon, who is called Peter**”. Peter is always named first in all 4 listings that we have in the Scripture. The word FIRST here we believe emphasizes his prominence among the apostles. Peter was a leader of leaders. The word “first” here denotes him as “first among equals”.

In Matthew 10:2 the first does not refer to the order of selection, because Jesus called Andrew, Peter’s brother, before He called Peter (John 1:40-42). In this context, protos (first) indicates foremost in rank. The apostles were equal in their divine commission, authority, and power; and one day they will sit on equal thrones as they judge the twelve tribes of Israel (Matt. 19:28). But in terms of function, Peter was the first, the foremost member of the twelve. ... No group can function properly without a leader, and Peter was the leading member of the twelve from the beginning. – **John MacArthur**

Peter is called “the apostle with the foot shaped mouth”. No one is rebuked by the Lord more than Peter (perhaps because he was always talking). But Peter also had the great confession, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Mt. 16:16). But then he turned right around and rebuked the Lord for talking about getting killed only to hear Jesus say, “Get behind Me, Satan!” (Mt. 16:23). Peter sincerely said he was willing to die for Christ and whipped out his sword to prove it – but then he also denied the Lord and was restored in the resurrection.

Peter had a good heart and he had passion – its just that his mouth got him in trouble.

And so, the Lord went to work on him and in the end used him greatly. John MacArthur wrote a book about the apostles titled “Twelve Ordinary Men” and that is what they were. God took 12 ordinary men and used them in an extraordinary way. God specializes in this.

Andrew was Peter’s brother, and he was more of a quiet figure. But it was he who brought Peter to Jesus (cf. Jn. 1:35-42). Both Peter and Andrew were fisherman by trade in terms of background.

After naming Peter and his brother Andrew, **James** the son of Zebedee and his brother **John** are named.

These brothers too were fisherman who worked with their father Zebedee. James became the first apostolic martyr as seen in Acts 12:2. Jesus gave James and John the nickname “Sons of Thunder” (Mk. 3:17). They evidently had motorcycles! 😊 But seriously, this evidently speaks of their aggressive nature (cf. Lk. 9:54-56).

John went on to write 5 books in the NT (the gospel of John, 1, 2, and 3rd John, and the book of Revelation). And with his great emphasis on LOVE he became known “the apostle of love”. Even so John’s style is to write in black and white. For example John says, “we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments” (1 Jn. 2:3); and again, “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.” (1 Jn. 3:14)

From reading John, one might think that righteousness comes so easily and naturally to the Christian that every failure would be enough to shatter our assurance completely. That is why when I read heavy doses of John, I sometimes have to turn to Paul’s epistles just to find some breathing space. Of course, both Paul’s and John’s epistles are inspired Scripture, and both emphases are necessary. The exceptions dealt with by Paul don’t nullify the truths stated so definitively by John. And the relentlessly unequivocal statements of John don’t rule out the careful qualifications given by Paul. Both are necessary aspects of God’s revealed truth.

– **John MacArthur**

Next we have named as apostles...

3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

It was Philip that brought Nathanael to Jesus (cf. Jn. 1:43-46). Furthermore many think that another name for Nathanael is Bartholomew. When the apostles are listed Philip and Bartholomew are always linked together and because of this some think they were either close friends or perhaps related. It was Bartholomew, otherwise known as Nathanael that Jesus paid tribute to in John 1:47.

Slide # 14

John 1:47 (NKJV)

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, **“Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”**

Thomas is also called “Didymus” which means “Twin” (cf. Jn. 11:16; 21:2). He is often called “**Doubting Thomas**” because he refused to believe in the resurrected Christ without being able to personally see him. However, upon seeing Jesus he made the climactic confession of faith in the gospel of John as seen in John 20:28.

Slide # 15

John 20:28 (NKJV)

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, **“My Lord and my God!”**

“Let those who question the deity of Christ meet Thomas.” (John MacArthur)

Matthew the tax collector (by background) is only labeled this way in the gospel of Matthew – written by Matthew. That shows humility and emphasizes the great grace he experienced in salvation – being brought from the most despised position in Jewish thinking to the most honored position as an apostle.

James the son of Alphaeus is mentioned only in the lists of the apostles. Isn't it great that God also chooses “nobodies” whom are basically unknown and yet also have an important purpose in the calling of God.

Labbaeus was chosen whose surname (family name) was Thaddaeus. Labbaeus it appears actually went by three names; Labbaeus, Thaddaeus, and Judas (not Iscariot) (cf. Lk. 6:16; Jn. 14:22; Acts 1:13). The word Thaddaeus means beloved. It is surmised that he may have been called “Judas the beloved” to distinguish him from Judas the betrayer.

And then there was...

4 Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

Simon the Cananite is rendered in the older manuscripts as “Simon the Cananean” which is the Aramaic form of the word “Zealot” (cf. Acts 1:13).

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Luke 6:15 (NKJV)

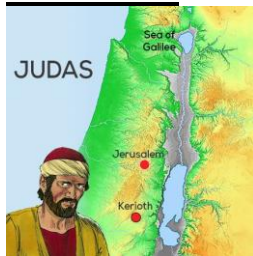
15 Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and **Simon called the Zealot;**

It is thought that prior to his conversion this Simon belonged the militant sect called “the Zealots”. In a militant way they sought to free Judaism from Rome. They were fanatic about it and willing to die for it. They lynched people whom they considered traitors. Prior to his conversion a Zealot like Simon would have sought the death of a Jewish tax collector like Matthew.

Think about this. What a motley crew. In terms of background Jesus chose as His apostles’ ordinary fisherman, a despised tax collector, and a passionate Zealot. Only the Lord could take this mix and make them into an apostolic band that became so united in Christ they were all willing to die for Jesus. Jesus Himself was their bond! Their unity was found in Jesus. He changed their lives.

And finally, there was “Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.” What an amazing thing – Judas too was called an apostle. Most believe that Iscariot means “man of Kerioth” which was a town in Judah making Judas Iscariot the only apostle to hail from the region of Judah (cf. Jn. 6:71; 13:26). The rest of the disciples were Galileans.

Slide # 17

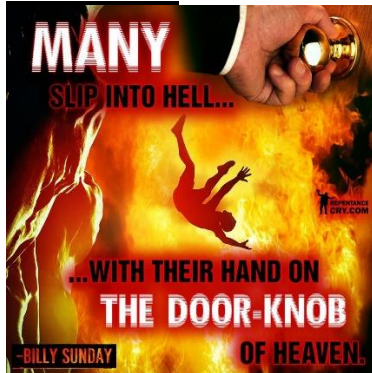


Amazingly, Judas Iscariot (the betrayer) also received authority to perform miracles. Judas not only saw Christ perform unparalleled miracles but he also did kingdom miracles himself.

Yet, in spite of it all his heart remained unchanged. He is called “the son of perdition” (Jn. 17:12) which literally means “son of destruction”. In John 6:70, speaking of Judas, Jesus said to His disciples “and one of you is a devil”. Jesus said it would have been better for him never to have been born (cf. Mt. 26:24; Mk. 14:21).

This serves to remind us that no matter how close to the things of God; no matter how close to miracles and the power of God; yet that does not necessarily result in conversion. Hebrews 6 and 10 both warn about those who are intimately in contact with the things of God and yet do not enter in.

Slide # 18



Jesus said that if people are not converted by the Word of God neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead (cf. Lk. 16:31).

Judas had every opportunity, but his heart remained hard. Oh, he played the part of the hypocrite very well. All the time he was really in the movement for what he could get out of it. He liked the popularity. He liked the kingdom talk. But he never really loved Jesus for being Jesus. And when Jesus started talking about dying instead of the kingdom Judas sought to get out of it what he could for SELF. If the “kingdom movement was over” he figured he might as well salvage a few shekels out of his position and then move on. The LORD of Judas was SELF and not Jesus!

Judas was a first-hand witness of Jesus life and miracles. He himself did kingdom miracles. He heard all the warnings, he knew the message well, and yet he is an example of who went to hell with his hand on the door knob of heaven – so to speak. So close and yet so far!

There are Judases in every age – people who seem to be true disciples and close followers of Christ but who turn against Him for sinister and selfish reasons. – **John MacArthur**

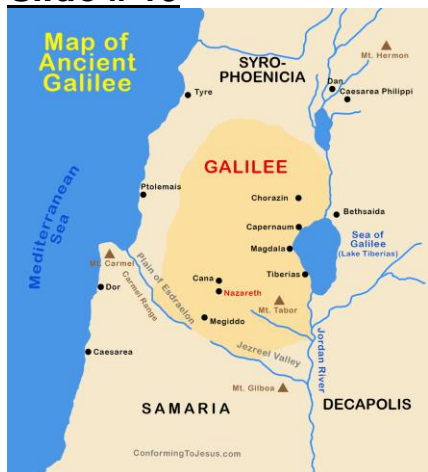
5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.

6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

These 12 now named as apostles were to go forth proclaiming the kingdom as being at hand and doing kingdom miracles, but they were not to go **“into the way of the Gentiles”** or to **“enter a city of the Samaritans.”** They were not to head up north to the Gentile area of Tyre and Sidon, nor north to the Decapolis, or south into the territory of Samaria which involved the mixed race of the Samaritans (cf. 2 Kg. 17:24-28; Jn. 4).

The gospels record three Galilean tours in Jesus’ earthly ministry (cf. Mt. 4:18-20; Matt. 8-11; Matt. 14). In view here is the second tour in which with help from the 12 apostles an in depth canvassing of the entire territory is in view. They were about to saturate Galilee with the KINGDOM message.

Slide # 19



But note they were not to go to the Gentiles at all but rather limit their “kingdom ministry” to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The idea of **“lost sheep”** ties back to 9:36 where Jesus looked with compassion on the multitudes because they were distressed and downcast **“like sheep having no shepherd.”** They had not faithful spiritual leaders to guide them into the truth!

The intentional concern at this point was the lost in Israel and not the Gentiles. Likewise in Matt. 15:24 Jesus said, **“I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”** This has troubled some people. Why concern only for the Jews and not also for the Gentiles?

This restriction of the ministry of the twelve apostles to Israel has caused a great deal of trouble to many students of the Bible, specifically those who fail to hold to the dispensational viewpoint of Bible interpretation. – **Stanley Toussaint**

Dispensationalists believe in a distinction between God’s program for Israel and God’s program for the Church. Many theologians see just one people of God through the ages and therefore call the church “spiritual Israel”. However, that really is not accurate. The Bible makes these clear distinctions.

Slide # 20

Three Biblical Categories of People

Jews (descendants of Abraham through Jacob)

Gentiles (non-Jewish people)

Church (Believers in Christ of both Jew and Gentile background)

1 Corinthians 10:32 (NKJV)

32 Give no offense, either to the **Jews** or to the **Greeks** [Gentiles] or to the **church of God,**

God is a God of order and plan. A person can think whatever they want to think but, in the end, God is God and being God He can do whatever He pleases – and He does. God didn’t ask anybody’s permission on whether He should choose Israel – He didn’t even invite our input. He just did it according to His own good pleasure. The age-old question is: Why did God choose Israel? And the age-old answer is: Because He wanted to.

Lesson number one: This is God’s world. He is in charge, and He has a plan of His own devising for His own glory. We have no say in the matter. And it doesn’t even matter whether it makes sense to our 3-pound brains. The challenge for us is to align with God’s thinking – with His program – not to get Him to align with our thinking! That by the way is called REPENTANCE – which means to have a change of mind in which we align our thinking with God’s thinking.

Slide # 21

Psalm 33:10–11 (NKJV)

10 The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.

11 The **counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.**

So here is God's plan as He has revealed it to us in the Holy Scriptures. There is ONE God-chosen nation in the world – and that is Israel. Through the Jews we were given the Scriptures. God gave the covenants (involving relationship) to Israel. The Messiah is Jewish. Jesus said, “**salvation is of the Jews.**” (Jn. 4:22). And the kingdom comes through the Jews. This is God's plan!

Remember the context here. Jesus and His apostles are on the scene presenting the KINGDOM to Israel on the condition of repentance. This is prior to the Church Age. It was a time of kingdom presentation, but since Israel rejected her Messiah, the kingdom offer was temporarily withdrawn and is now on hold.

Because Israel rejected her Messiah, God has temporarily set Israel aside and is now doing a brand-new thing called the Church in which He is building a forever family of believers consisting of both Jew and Gentile.

But the context here in Matthew 10 is KINGDOM oriented. The kingdom at this point was “**at hand**” in the sense of being offered to Israel.

The Messiah is Jewish. He is the Jews Messiah meaning the special coming One Who would be their Deliverer and Ruler. The Messiah is not coming to Omaha to set up His kingdom. He is coming to Jerusalem. He is coming with reference to Israel.

Slide # 22**Luke 1:31–33 (NKJV)**

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will **give Him the throne of His father David.**

33 And **He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.**”

The kingdom comes through this special descendant of David – Who we know to be Jesus Christ. It is He Who will occupy the throne of David in Jerusalem (cf. Acts 1:6). But what about this statement: “**He will reign over the house of Jacob forever**”. What about the rest of us? What about the Gentiles? Are they completely left out?

The answer is “NO!” God’s plan all along is that Israel be His channel of blessing for the entire world.

Slide # 23

Genesis 12:3 (NKJV)

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**”

As Gentiles accept the Jewish Messiah as Lord and Savior they too have a place of blessing in the kingdom.

Slide # 24

Isaiah 49:6 (NKJV)

6 Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will **also** give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

This verse shows that yes God through His Servant the Messiah is ultimately going to restore Israel, but He is **ALSO** going to be a light to the Gentiles – which includes us in the Church Age Who are Gentile by background.

But the overall point is this: The blessings of the kingdom come to the world in conjunction with Israel accepting her Messiah. The kingdom will not come until Israel accepts Jesus as her Messiah. This is why the emphasis was on Israel at this point. The kingdom was being offered. Yes, God wants to bless the entire world through the Messiah with kingdom blessings – but it is conditioned upon Israel accepting Jesus as her Messiah.

Slide # 25

Acts 3:19–21 (NKJV)

19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing may come** [kingdom restoration] from the presence of the Lord,

20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

21 whom heaven must receive until **the times of restoration of all things**, [kingdom restoration] which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

What Peter is saying is that kingdom restoration will not come until there is national repentance in Israel.

Jesus told Israel, “**you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD.’**” (Mt. 23:39).

Slide # 26

Romans 11:12 (NKJV)

12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, **how much more their fullness!**

Upon the Jews rebellion as seen in the rejection of Jesus as their Messiah, God has turned His attention to the world of the Gentiles for the time being in the Church Age. This has resulted in many Gentile’s coming to Christ and being spiritually blessed. Israel’s loss has turned out to be the Gentile’s gain.

If that is true, how much more blessed will the world be when Israel is restored. God’s intention is that Israel be a channel of blessing to the world (cf. Gen. 12:3) and so, the conversion of Israel will result in even greater blessings to the world when the kingdom is ushered in.

So, in the plan of God the kingdom comes through Israel. And for this reason, at this point in His ministry when the kingdom was being offered the emphasis was singularly on Israel – to see what their response would be.

Of course, God knowing all things knew what their response would be – but it was indeed a legitimate offer.

God wants to bless the entire world but invariably He does that through and in conjunction with Israel. They are uniquely His covenant people through whom God’s covenant blessings to the world are administered.

The Scriptures are Jewish, the Messiah is Jewish, salvation is of the Jews. And the kingdom also comes through the Jews.

The gospel goes first to the Jew and then to the Gentile. This is the order of God's program (cf. Rom. 1:16; Acts 1:8). And who are we to argue? We believers who are Gentile by background are "**grafted in**". As one Gentile believer was known to sign off in his correspondence, "**Grafted in but Grateful!**"

It's God's world. Salvation is according to God's plan. The kingdom is according to God's plan. Apostolic calling is according to God's plan. 1 Cor. 12:18 says, "**God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.**" God is in charge of the whole entire plan of which the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ is centerpiece of it all.

Have you seen the truth of Jesus Christ? Have you adjusted your thinking to God's truth concerning His Son? It all comes down to Jesus! He is the promised Messiah Who ultimately will bring in the kingdom. He is the Savior of all Who believe in Him. He died for all our sins. He arose again as Lord over all! This is the gospel of Jesus Christ! And all who believe it will one day share in His kingdom.

Lost sheep need to be found! Jesus the good Shepherd came to seek and to save the lost (Lk. 19:10). Jesus said, "**I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.**" (Jn. 10:11). Jesus said those who BELIEVE in Him are His sheep (cf. Jn. 10:25-26). In John 10:27-28 Jesus said, "**My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life...**".

Have you heard His voice? The Bible says that the Holy Spirit says, "**Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts**" (Heb. 3:7-8). If you hear the voice of Christ calling you through the truth of the Scripture respond in faith today. The Bible says, "**behold, now is the day of salvation.**" (2 Cor. 6:2).

God's promise in Romans 10:13 is that whoever in faith calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Have you called? He is waiting! Do it today! Time is of the essence and eternity is on the line. In faith from your heart call of Jesus to be your Savior and Lord! Respond to His voice and He will give you eternal life!

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved! (Acts 16:31).