



Topic: Kingdom of Heaven. Kingdom of God. Bible Scriptures: Matthew 13:31-32, Deuteronomy 7:6-8, Acts 1:1-3, Luke 24:33, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 13:44-49 and Revelation 22:17.

## The Mustard Seed

God's great mission is to redeem, renew and establish His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. His perfect eternal kingdom is one of peace, justice, equality and respect. The King and His kingdom are key themes in both the Old and New Testament.

God's right to rule and reign is established where His will is done. Jesus in His earthly mission brings the kingdom of heaven to earth. As King He is the embodiment of it. In love He breaks through fear, bringing healing. In power He demonstrates it and in truth He proclaims it.

Jesus spoke of many parables regarding the kingdom. Today let us look at the kingdom as a mustard seed. This particular parable is included in three of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. Turn with me to Matthew's account.

### **Matthew 13:31-32**

In its beginnings the mustard seed is the least of seeds in size and stature. Yet when its destiny is fulfilled it becomes great in size and strength.

The Kingdom of Heaven, being a reality on earth started from the least of tribes. God chose a people who were small in stature and number to reveal Himself to the world. These were the Ancient Israelites. However they chose to build their own kingdoms, instead of living in the reality of His.

To Ancient Israel He said in **Deuteronomy 7:6-8**

God does everything out of love. He loves all people equally. In ancient times to reveal His love, God made a covenant promise to the forefathers of the tribes of Ancient Israel. He said to Abraham and to his descendants that He would make them a great nation. A blessing to all people, so that the world may know Him.

Ancient Israel's destiny was to be a holy people. To be a light amongst the nations and as a result reveal God's great love, truth and power to all people.

Jesus fulfils the destiny of Ancient Israel. He is the glory of Israel and the light of the world, revealing the love of the Father and what His kingdom looks like on earth.

In Jesus' earthly ministry the Kingdom of Heaven had come on earth. God the Creator of heaven and earth and all things good became human. He was of the seed of the Holy Spirit, and came from heaven into our world, born as a baby. He was from one of the twelve tribes of Ancient Israel.



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Jesus took on the form of a servant and began His ministry declaring the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. The establishment of God's right to rule and reign on earth sets the captives free, bringing healing and transformation. This is the heart of the Father.

Luke reveals to us in the book of Acts that God's kingdom was the central topic of discussion between Christ and His apostles during the 40 days between His resurrection and ascension.

### **Acts 1:1-3**

The realisation of the kingdom on earth started with Jesus. He imparted everything into the 11 disciples.

### **Luke 24:33**

They are His witnesses to proclaim three key points. 1: It was necessary for Jesus to suffer and rise from the dead. 2: Why? So that people can change their thinking and open up their hearts to receive deliverance from all offences against God and each other, and 3: Receive Jesus as their Saviour and King.

To receive the King is the only pathway of entry. Salvation is only available through receiving Jesus Christ. Apart from Jesus it is impossible to enter into His kingdom. Reject the king and reject His kingdom. For the two are one.

Upon entry into God's kingdom, having said yes to Jesus, the ruling and reigning within the heart and mind begins. That is the daily journey of letting God's kingdom take root and go deep into our spirit, intellect, emotion, and ultimately will.

In the surrender of self-will to that of the Father's will, His power and authority becomes established in the hearts and minds of every disciple.

After His death, resurrection and ascension Jesus commissioned those who received Him as King and sent them out into the community to make disciples.

### **Matthew 28:18-20**

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*The goal was not the cross but the crown of victory.  
Victory over evil, death and self.*

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The power and authority of Jesus Christ in His Spirit is a surging, rushing, relentless river of new life. After Jesus' ascension 120 gathered according to His instructions. Then it happened.



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The outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost gave birth to the church as the body of the resurrected Christ. Empowering and mobilising the church to announce to all people and the principalities and powers that the Kingdom of God has come in Jesus.

By His Spirit through His disciples, Jesus' mission continued and rapidly grew. After one sermon by the Apostle Peter 3,000 Jews entered into God's kingdom.

Journeying through the book of Acts we see how the word of the Lord spread throughout Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Salvation is for all people.

### **Acts 13:44-49**

So the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed. The word that has been translated as 'took' is very interesting. It means to lay hold of in order to use, claim and name as one's own. The Kingdom of Heaven or the Kingdom of God requires participation. The action is to lay hold of it and take responsibility for it as if it's one's own.

God the Father gave the kingdom to God the Son, who in turn gives it to all who are willing to receive His right to rule and reign. In receiving the King we lay hold of God's right to rule and reign in our lives.

The mustard seed when planted germinates and grows to its future purpose.

In all three accounts of this parable included in the Bible the primary action is the growth. This growth has an eternal purpose.

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*For such is God's kingdom, a place of purpose, growth, fulfilment  
and the realisation of eternal destiny.*

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Jesus explains the purpose of this extraordinary growth is so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches or as in Mark's account, nest under its shade.

To nest is to dwell. To dwell is a beautiful picture of what the Kingdom of God looks like here on earth. Living from a place of perfect peace, justice, equality and respect in amongst this world of chaos, injustice, inequality and shame.

Time is short. We herald in His kingdom, being established in His truth, rooted in His love and transformed in His power. We are part of a movement far greater than ourselves. God's universal history is what gives meaning to our lives. We have a place in God's eternal love story.



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Remember Jesus said the purpose of the growth of the kingdom is so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches. All people, all tribes, all nations who are willing can dwell in His kingdom. Find rest and shade on this earth. Free from all offences, judgment and ultimately eternal death.

In the final chapter recorded in the Bible, the church in oneness with the Holy Spirit, invites all who are thirsty to come.

### **Revelation 22:17**

Together by His Spirit let us the universal church throughout the world take hold of His kingdom. Letting Him establish His right to rule and reign in our hearts and minds. As this is the heart of our Father, the mission of our King and Saviour, the work of the Holy Spirit, in which every disciple participates. Anyone who is thirsty come!