

A SERIES ON WHAT JESUS BELIEVED AND TAUGHT—AND LIVED

first lesson

JESUS' GOSPEL AND OURS

What Jesus Really Taught. The Meaning of “the Rule of Heaven.”

- I. What Jesus Taught: “Reconsider your strategy for life in view of the fact that you can now live under the rule of the heavens, the invisible reality of God immediately accessible to you by trust.” (Matt 4:17; cf. Mark 1:15)
 - a. The language used here:
 - b. The grammar: “The perfect indicative generally expresses the present result of a past action.”
 - c. “is at hand” or “has drawn nigh” means “is now available to you,” not, “is about to be here and in force.”
 - d. The significance of “heaven.” “Kingdom of Heaven” and “Kingdom of God.”
 - e. Gospel passages to study: Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 5:20; 8:10–12; 10:7; 11:11–12, 18:1–4; 21:31, 43; 23:13; Mark 1:14–15; 9:1–7 (cf. 2 Peter 1:16–18); Luke 10:9–11; 11:20; 12:31–32; 16:16; 17:21; John 3:3, 5; 18:38
- II. What Jesus Did: *Announced* The Kingdom, *Taught* of Its Nature and *Manifested* Its Power in Action (his miracles)
Matt. 4:23; 8:1–34; 9:35; 13:1–52
- III. Bringing His Hearers the Life without Fear as They Trust the Rule of Heaven which He Announced.
Matt. 6:25–34; 10:27–31; Phil. 4:6–9; 2 Tim. 1:10; Heb. 2:14–15
- IV. Continued in the Ministry and Works of His Disciples
Acts 1:3; 8:12; 14:22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23, 31; Rom. 14:17
- V. But What about Our Gospel of Forgiveness and 1 Cor. 15:1–12
The Resurrection as the Clinching Witness to the Kingdom’s Non–Reality