

The Kingdom of God: *Why did God send Jesus when He did?*

⁴ **When the right time came** [“the fullness of time” (ESV)], **God sent his Son**, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. ⁶ And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷ Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir. (Gal 4:4–7 NLT-SE)

- Why did Jesus come to earth when he came?

• Contemporary thought is all over the board...

- **Predestination...** Jesus was going to come at a predetermined time spoken of in specific prophecies (“Daniel’s Seventy Weeks” in Dan. 9:24-27), and irregardless of what was going on in the world at the time. ²⁷...*truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,* ²⁸ *to do whatever your hand and your plan **had predestined to take place.*** (Acts 4:27–28 ESV)
- **Jewish hunger...** He came in response to the anticipation of the Jews. Roman rule made them hungry for the Messiah.
- **Roman Empire...** The vast Roman Empire themselves were part of the answer, opening the door for Jesus to come:
 - For the first time in history, the **entire Mediterranean world was unified under Roman rule.**
 - The Romans had constructed the famous Roman **roads** (“All roads lead to Rome”), this along with modern **shipping** channels, would allow messengers to travel safely with news and ideas, as Paul and the first missionaries would do.
 - Jesus was born in the time of Pax Romana, “Roman **peace**,” allowing Jews in cities like Jerusalem to practice their beliefs and customs publicly as long as there was no trouble and they paid their taxes.
 - Then there was **language**. Even though the whole region was under Roman rule, the unifying language was Greek. This allowed missionaries like Paul to travel throughout the region and speak to the people in various nations clearly and precisely in Greek.
- **Time had run out for the human race...** Some people even think God reached the end of His divine rope, was tired of being patient, and sent His Son to finally “fix the problem, once and for all!”
- **Sovereignty...** There are even some who think the Bible is silent on the matter, that God’s sovereignty allows Him to simply do what He wants, not ever needing to explain Himself.
- **The Bottom line:** The Bible says that when the fullness of time came, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. This means that God waited to send Jesus until the situation was ripe. Jesus came at just the right moment and place in history. What made this particular time 2,000 years ago right? Among other things, the time was right because there was a great earthly kingdom in place that could provide tangible, visible illustrations for Jesus’ teachings about the Kingdom.

- Reestablishing His Kingdom on Earth

- “Jesus came to earth to restore what Adam lost, and He brought a kingdom message. Jesus came to reestablish the government of God on earth and to reinstate His earthly kings to their rightful place of dominion. Adam lost a kingdom, not a religion, and therefore the redemptive work of the Creator would be the reestablishment of His Kingdom on earth.” ~ Myles Munroe
- If you ask people, “**What was the message of Jesus?**” most would say it had a lot to do with **love**: “Jesus taught about love. He said we should all love each other.” He told them to love their enemies. He said that loving God is the greatest commandment and loving our neighbors is right behind. Yes, love was an important part the message of Jesus.
- **The core of Jesus message was not love, but the kingdom of God!** Most of His parables had to do with this topic. This subject angered most of the Jewish leaders of the time and even got the demons riles up! In the end, this is what got Him killed on a Roman cross.
- The main message of Jesus was the restoration of a kingdom. God’s plan was to restore the kingdom that Adam lost.



Dr. Myles Munroe

- What does a Kingdom look like? What do all kingdoms have in common?

- **A King and Lord...**The King personifies the kingdom, representing its glory and nature. Authority flows from the king and the word of the king is supreme.
- **A Territory...**This is the domain over which the king exercises His authority. The territory, its resources and people are all personal property of the king. The king by right owns all and, therefore, is considered lord over all. *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.* (Psa 24:1 NLT-SE)
- **A Constitution...**The king has formed a covenantal relationship with his citizens and this constitution expresses his mind and will for his citizens and the kingdom. The constitution contains the documented words of the king (the Bible) and communicates the intent of the king for his people as well as containing the benefits and privileges of the kingdom.
- **A Citizenry...**These are the people that live under the rule of the king. Citizenship in a kingdom is not a right, but a privilege, and is a result of the king’s choice. Only citizens have access to the benefits and privileges of a kingdom, as well as the favor of the king. The king is obligated to care for and protect all of his citizens. In fact, their welfare is a reflection on the king himself. The number one goal of a citizen in a kingdom is to submit to the king and remain in right standing with him. This is called righteousness. *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.* (Matt 6:33 NLT-SE)
- **Law...**The Law reveals the standards and principles established by the king which spell out how the kingdom will function. The laws of a kingdom are to be obeyed by all, including foreigners residing in it. The laws guarantee access to the benefits of the king and the kingdom and violations of kingdom law have a direct impact on our relationship with the king. The laws in a kingdom cannot be debated or changed by the

citizens. Simply put, the word of the king is law in his kingdom. Rebellion against the law is rebellion against the king.

- **Privileges...**The Privileges are the benefits the king lavishes on his faithful citizens. In a kingdom, citizenship is always desired by the people because, once you are in the kingdom, the king is personally responsible for you and all your needs and, because the king owns everything within his kingdom, he can give any or all of his wealth to any citizen he desires.
- **A Code of Ethics...**A Code of Ethics reflect the acceptable conduct of the citizens in the kingdom. This code includes moral standards, social relationships, personal conduct, attitude, attire, and the way one chooses to live life..
- **An Army...**The Army is the kingdom's system of securing its territory and protecting its citizens. In a kingdom the citizens do not fight in the army, but enjoy the protection of the army. This is why, in the Kingdom of God, the angels are called the host of heaven. This word "host" means army and identifies the angels as the military component of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Church, as Jesus established it, is not identified as an army but rather a citizenship, a family of sons, and a nation.
 - He loosed on them his fierce anger—all his fury, rage, and hostility. He dispatched against them a band of destroying angels. (Psa 78:49 NLT-SE)
 - ²⁰ Praise the Lord, you angels, you mighty ones who carry out his plans, listening for each of his commands. ²¹ Yes, praise the Lord, you armies of angels who serve him and do his will! (Psa 103:20–21 NLT-SE)
 - ⁴⁰ So will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt 13:39–42 ESV)
- **A Commonwealth...**This is the economic system of a kingdom guaranteeing each citizen equal access to financial security. The term commonwealth is used because the king desires that all his citizens share and benefit from the wealth of the kingdom. The kingdom's glory is in the happiness and health of its citizens.
 - ²² Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. (Luke 12:22–23 NLT-SE)
 - ³¹ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. ³² "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. (Luke 12:31–32 NLT-SE)
- **A Social Culture...**The Social Culture is the environment created by the way the king and his citizens. This is the cultural aspect that separates and distinguishes the kingdom from all others around it. It is the culture that expresses the nature of the king, through the lifestyle of his citizens. This distinction in Kingdom culture is evidenced in the words of the Lord Jesus, when He repeatedly said in the Book of Matthew, "*you have heard that it was said... but I tell you,*" (Matt. 5: 21-22), and again, "*it shall not be so among you*" (Matt. 20: 26KJV).

One of the best references for understanding the Kingdom of God is found in the teachings of **Dr. Myles Munroe**. His life was taken in a plane crash in 2014. Four of his best books on the kingdom of God have been put together in the "**Myles Munroe Kingdom Series**" which is available at amazon.com.