

The Gospel of Matthew

“The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand”
Matthew 4:12-25

Kingdom Implications

“the kingdom of heaven is at hand”

- *“kingdom of heaven”* refers to the manifest exercise of God’s saving reign (“kingship”) among the people of earth
- *“is at hand”* – in the process of happening; it is already present yet not fully here

Kingdom Implications

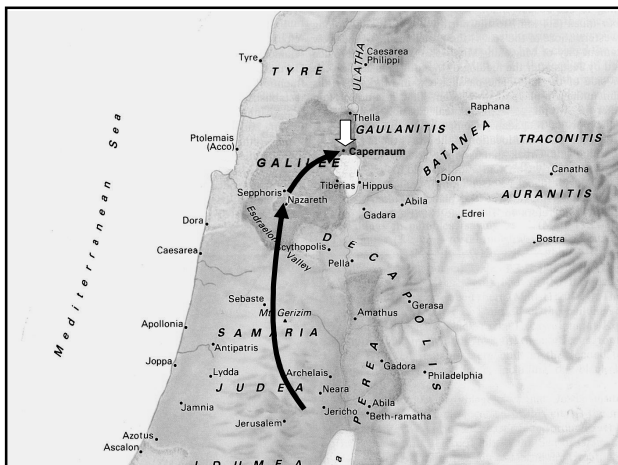
A. Nature of the Kingdom

1. It shines light into darkness
 - the most basic metaphor for salvation and restoration to God
 - A common metaphor for Jesus Himself – He is “the light of the world” (John 8:12)

Kingdom Implications

A. Nature of the Kingdom

2. It includes the nations/Gentiles



Kingdom Implications

A. Nature of the Kingdom

2. It includes the nations/Gentiles
 - Jesus’ ministry in “Galilee of the Gentiles” was a foreshadowing of the inclusion of the Gentiles in God’s kingdom
 - News about Jesus went beyond Palestine and His “followers” included Gentiles

Kingdom Implications

A. Nature of the Kingdom

3. It removes all effects of the Fall
 - the healing ministry of Jesus highlighted the presence of the kingdom and pointed to its consummation
 - the kingdom includes physical restoration and well-being (ultimately resurrection)

Kingdom Implications

B. Nature of Discipleship

1. It is entered through repentance and faith
2. It is a call to a radical, costly reorientation of life centered on Jesus
3. It is a call to become a “fisher of men”