

# THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM (2 & 3) Mark 4:26-32

**Daniel 2:36** This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. **Daniel 2:37** Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. **Daniel 2:38** And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. **Daniel 2:39** And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. **Daniel 2:40** And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. **Daniel 2:41** And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. **Daniel 2:42** And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. **Daniel 2:43** And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. **Daniel 2:44** And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. **Daniel 2:45** Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

## **Introduction:**

- That God's kingdom was coming was known → even well-known
- That God's kingdom would put an end to all other kingdoms was **also known**
- That God's kingdom **during this age wasn't** that - Jesus is **now** making known
- Jesus makes known the mystery of the Kingdom

**Concealed in the OT, revealed in the NT**

**Unknown in the OT, made known in the NT**

**Not mysterious but a mystery**

**Not difficult to understand (mysterious) but impossible to know / understand apart from revelation**

## **What does Jesus reveal?**

### **1. It will grow!**

**Mark 4:27** And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

**They understood kingdoms – kingdoms came & went by the power of the sword.**

**How will this kingdom grow with just seed???**

**Mark 16:15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

**Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

### **2. It will grow in & of itself**

**Mark 4:26** And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;

**Mark 4:27** And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. **Mark 4:28** For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

## **This isn't just any message:**

**Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**1 Peter 1:23** Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. **1**

**Peter 1:24** For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: **1 Peter 1:25** But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

**Isaiah 55:11** So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

### 3. It will grow **without** our understanding

Mark 4:27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, **he knoweth not how.**

### 4. It will grow progressively **until** the harvest

Mark 4:28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. Mark 4:29 But when the fruit is brought forth, **immediately** he putteth in the sickle, **because the harvest is come.**

### 5. It begins small → very small

Mark 4:30 And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or **with what comparison shall we compare it** (παραβολῇ παραβάλομεν αὐτήν)? Mark 4:31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:

This is proverbial not a botanical lesson!

Commonly used for something very small (Mt. 17:20; Lk. 17:6)

Epiphytic orchid: like dust requiring a microscope to see

Mustard seed: size of a grain of seed

### 6. It becomes large → very large

Mark 4:32 But when it is sown, **it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs**, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

### 7. It branches out → **too far** out!!!

Mark 4:32 But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, **and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.**

### What exactly happens? What are the birds?

Mark 4:13 And he said unto them, **Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?**

Mark 4:4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and **the fowls of the air** came and devoured it up.

Mark 4:14 The sower soweth the word. Mark 4:15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, **Satan cometh immediately**, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 2 Timothy 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 2 Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 2 Timothy 3:6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 2 Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 4 For there are certain men **crept in unawares (Παρεισέδυσαν)**, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

### When it grows **too big** and branches out **too far**:

- Doctrine declines
- Power corrupts
- Ethics corrode