

Introduction to the Kingdom of Heaven Movement of Jesus

The Movement Jesus founded was called, "The Kingdom of Heaven." Observant Jews did not want to chance "breaking the commandment of profaning God's name," so they used euphemisms to keep from breaking the commandment. "Heaven" is a euphemism for the Hebrew word "Elohim," which is translated "God."

The fact that the Gospel of Matthew has "Kingdom of Heaven" 32 times," while it doesn't appear in the other Gospels or any of Paul's epistles indicates that Matthew was written for a "Hebrew speaking" audience. In other books we find "Kingdom of God," which were for a "Greek speaking" audience.

In Matthew 4:17, we find the founding of the Jesus Movement.

*"From that time Jesus began to preach and to say,
'Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.'"*

- The Hebrew word translated "repent" means "turn around." In the Hebrew Scriptures, "people are taught how to walk with Elohim" (God). They "walk with Elohim" by "doing what He commands." If a person "doesn't do what Elohim commands," it means "the person has strayed from the path of Elohim." "Turn around" means, "get back on Elohim's path!"
- "Elohim, Creator of the Heavens and the Earth," is "the King."
- "At hand" means that "the Kingdom of Elohim is now here!"

Now I will update the translation of the verse above:

*"From that time,
Jesus began to preach and to say,
'Get back on Elohim's path!
The Kingdom of the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth is now here!"*

Beginner's Guide for Exploring the Teachings of Jesus

The Jewish people understood what those words meant. The “**coming of the Kingdom of Elohim**” was a very hot topic at the Temple, in synagogues, and in Jewish homes. **There were many opinions** about when that would be, and **most of them were in the future – and usually linked to the “Great Day of Judgment.”**

*When Jesus said, “**the Kingdom of Elohim is now here,**”
it had to mean “**the Great Day of Judgment**” is very close!*

In my previous email, [**Make and Teach Students of All Nations!**](#), I pointed out that Jesus gave his followers this command:

*“Go therefore and make students of all the nations . . .
teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you”*

Now we can update it to this:

*“Go therefore and make students of all the nations . . .
teaching them “Turn around! Get back on Elohim’s path!
The Kingdom of the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth is here now!”*

Shalom,
Jim Myers

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