

Kingdom Theology: Looking Back To Go Forward

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Abstract

Jesus is the central character of Scripture, whose message and ministry was centred on the kingdom of God. It is possible to understand the “kingdom of God” as a theme that unifies all of Scripture, providing an interpretative key that helps to locate and explain everything else. This thesis is an exploration of the relevance of Kingdom Theology to the church in a time of cultural, social, and religious change. In the history of the church, a search for the foundational doctrines and ideologies has proven to be a fruitful enterprise in times of challenge, for out of such endeavours reformation and revolutions of renewal have arisen and been a positive contributor to the direction of that change.

Chapter one lays a biblical and theological Old Testament foundation that helps to define why “kingdom” is an issue. It describes the root of the problem and the reason for the King to act in response to a “Fall” from grace.

Chapters two to four present the Gospel’s unveiling of the kingdom, through the message and ministry of Jesus; his prayer given to the disciples, and reflection on the relationship between the kingdom of God and the death of Christ on the cross.

The final chapter proposes the relevance of this discussion for today’s church with reference to the Church of Ireland.

The value of this work is that it invites the church to retreat. The invitation is to take time to remember and to re-orientate around the central character of its faith and the centrality of Jesus’ life in the scheme of the overarching theme of kingdom of God.