



SEEK  
*first*  
the  
KINGDOM

Bringing  
in the Kingdom of Heaven



• Is 9:6 For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His  
shoulder.

And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of *His* government and  
peace *There will be* no end,

NKJV



- Mt 13:31 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”
- <sup>33</sup> He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”



# The Kingdom of God(Heaven)

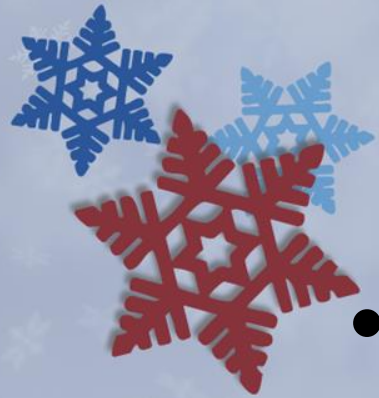
- The Kingdom of God is the reign of God expressed in the hearts and lives of His people both now and through eternity.
  - The reign of God
  - Expressed in hearts and lives
  - Of God's people (those who name the name of Jesus as Savior and Lord)
  - (in the past), now and future



# The Kingdom of God(Heaven)

- The kingdom is hidden
- The Kingdom starts small and gets bigger
- The kingdom's growth is imperceptible
- The Kingdom's growth is obvious
- The Kingdom is a commanding presence
- The Kingdom is powerful
- The Kingdom has been at work for 2,000 years



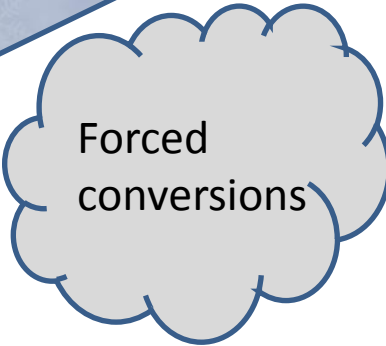
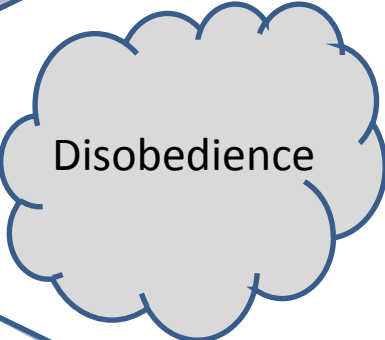


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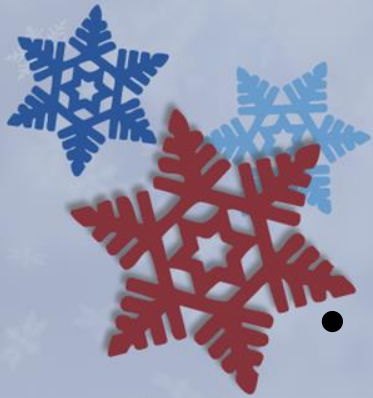
- The teachings and good news of Jesus Christ changed the World!
- Have already changed the world
- Are changing the world right now
- Will continue to change the world
- Nobody wants to acknowledge it



The Kingdom  
of God  
Advances







# The Current climate...

- The removal of comments about religion (religious convictions) in the study of history
  - Ie: BC or BCE
- Secular college professors for the most part have a negative view of religion in history
  - Sometimes argumentative
  - Sometimes belittling



# Providing another voice

- Present a different side
- The teachings of Jesus are responsible for transforming the cultures where it has had a strong influence into cultures that represent the Kingdom of Heaven
- I am not...
  - A historian
  - A scientist
  - A medical doctor
- I am a follower of Jesus whose job it is to reveal truth as I understand it



# Providing another voice

- An Alternative Reality
- What if...
  - ...those who shaped history/culture were really Bible believing, God honoring Christian people?
  - ...they used the Bible as their source of determining right and wrong?
  - ... because of their Christian convictions, they were willing to die in order to see social change?



# Providing another voice

- An Alternative Reality
- The pursuit of “ historical truth”
  - Too many variables to say anything for sure
  - In many cases it was both/and
  - God uses (and has always used) flawed, weak, frail, sin controlled people, who are stubborn, blinded to what is right, sure of themselves, power hungry and unwilling to concede an argument, to expand the Kingdom of God
  - But inside the hearts of those people God planted the seeds of His vision for humanity



# Providing another voice

- An Alternative Reality
- The pursuit of “ historical truth”
- Be careful about judging historical people by the standards and mores of today.
  - In 2200 AD will they say of American Christians “How could they in good conscience have used those resource eating petroleum burning modes of transportation? They must not have really been believers in Jesus or they wouldn’t have been so selfish.”
- The Kingdom is revealed (dispensed by God) over time...
- God’s time



# Providing another voice

- An Alternative Reality
- The pursuit of “ historical truth”
- We don’t judge historical people by the standards and mores of today.
- “The world isn’t the way it used to be! It’s just going to hell...”
- What if... the world is getting better?
- You and I aren’t seeing it!
- You and I aren’t taking part in it!



# Providing another voice

- An Alternative Reality
- The pursuit of “ historical truth”
- We don’t judge historical people by the standards and mores of today.
- What if... the world is getting better?
- What if... on the basis of historical evidence, the kingdom has advanced due to the teachings of Jesus?
- And Jesus really did change the world?



# Jesus demands a response

- Mk 8:27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”
- 28 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”
- 29 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”
- Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” NIV
- What is your response to the person of Jesus?





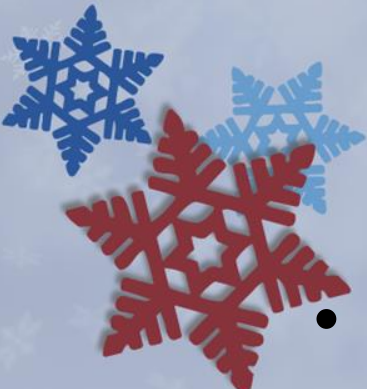
- “Not only countless individual lives but civilization itself was transformed by Jesus Christ. In the ancient world, his teachings elevated brutish standards of morality, halted infanticide, enhanced human life, emancipated women, abolished slavery, inspired charities and relief organizations, created hospitals, established orphanages and founded schools... it was Christians who invented colleges and universities, dignified labor as a divine vocation, and extended the light of civilization...” Paul L Maier

*The Russel H. Seibert Professor of Ancient History,  
Western Michigan University*



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  - founded schools...
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  - dignified labor as a divine vocation, and
  - extended the light of civilization...”

# So What?

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- THINK!
  - BE OPEN TO AN ALTERNATIVE REALITY
  - MOVE AWAY FROM ANGER, RHETORIC, SLANTED TEACHINGS ON BOTH SIDES.
  - ASK YOURSELF
    - “Why do I think the way I think?”
    - “Who /what informs my values?”
  - WHAT WRONG OR INJUSTICE IS GOD ASKING ME TO TAKE PART IN CHANGING?