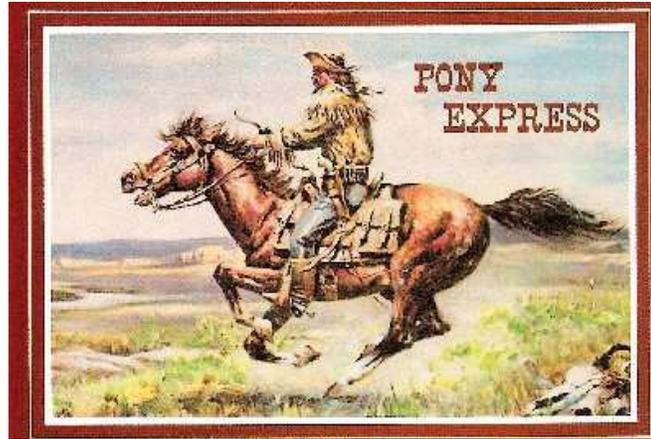




FEBURARY 2016



THE CHURCHE'S VOCATION—TO EXPRESS THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

MATTHEW 28:19

Sign Up for the NEW National Newsletter

Sign up for the NEW "rLife" National Royal Rangers Newsletter and be "in the know" on the latest developments in the Royal Rangers ministry. Distributed monthly via e-mail, rLife is available to anyone – leaders, parents, pastors, etc. who want to be kept up to date on the latest news and developments in Royal Rangers. Signing up is quick & easy. Just fill out the form below and you'll be on the list to receive the next rLife newsletter! [Click here for more information or to subscribe to RLife now!](#)

- **Rangers NOW is in the Mail!**

The annual **Rangers NOW** magazine is in the mail to all *chartered Royal Rangers groups only*.

Did you know **CHARTERED OUTPOST** get a *15% discount* on all products ordered and district & national events; this saves you more than it cost, Da!

CHARTER NOW ON LINE AT <http://royalrangers.com/programs/chartering/> this helps to support your district as well as your outpost.

What If Video Series 2009:

What if the ministry of Royal Rangers was used in a totally new way, something that would dramatically impact the church and community around it? These videos describe churches who are using Royal Rangers to powerfully impact their world for Christ!

[What If...RR in Springfield, MO](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

February

- 26-28 FCF Winter Camp Glasgow Ky. [Registration Packet](#)

March

- 9-12 National LEAD Conference, Dallas Tx.
- 26 Pine Car Race, Radcliff First Assembly of God.



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April

- 15-17 FCF Big Adventure



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Kentucky Rangers Ministry Academy 2016

For more information view our [Rangers Ministry Academy Training Chart](#).

Online training now available:

- Ranger Safety
- Outpost Chaplaincy
- Preventing Child and Substance Abuse
- Outpost Coordinator
- Outpost Committee
- Working with Boys with Disabilities
- Frontiersman Camping Fellowship

Go to this [Link](#) to sign up and take these courses.

“The Kingdom of Heaven Suffereth Violence.”

Matthew 11:12

From the Old Testament to the New The Old Testament ends on a note of **expectation** —the return of Elijah the prophet who would soften the hearts of the people to obey the Law of Moses in conformity with Israel’s calling as God’s holy nation (Mal. 4:4-6). However, four hundred long years pass before Israel hears any word from God.

Finally, the deafening silence was shattered by the strong voice of **John the Baptist** — the promised forerunner of Messiah who was also the new Elijah (Matt. 3:3; 11:14; Mark 1:2-3; 9:13; Luke 3:4-6). John the Baptist made this startling, but exciting announcement: “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand” (Matt. 3:2)!

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

At long last, God was about to do something new! Indeed He was! What He was about to do was to fulfill the redemptive hope of the Old Testament through the inauguration of the **Kingdom of God** in the person of His own virgin-born Son, Jesus Christ. The time had finally come. The offspring of the woman who would bring redemption to the earth was at hand. The covenants of promise were being fulfilled. God’s redeeming rule has now broken unto the world! This is what the story of Jesus and the New Testament is all about! At the heart of this story is the concept of the Kingdom of God. Now the Kingdom means a very great deal more than merely getting into it, fare more than being converted. There is a great deal more in the purpose of God for our lives than we ever imagined, and if we are to enter into that, violence has to characterize us. We must desperately mean business. Many lives are side-tracked, simply because they are not desperate enough! They are caught in things which limit—things which may be good, (the work vocation, sports) even things that may have something of God in them, (serving at soup kitchen or a mission trip) but none the less are limiting things. The way for us to come into all God’s purpose, is to be desperate, to be men of violence; to be men who say, ‘by God’s grace, nothing and no one, however good, is going to stand in my way; I am going on with God.’ Have that position with the Lord, and you will find that God meets you on that ground, (James 4:7, 8).

Views of the Kingdom

Bible scholars agree that “the Kingdom of God is the **central message** of Jesus.”[1] The Biblical evidence for this is quite clear. For example, the gospel of Mark introduces Jesus and His mission with these words: “And after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, *and the kingdom of God is at hand*; repent and believe in the gospel’” (Mark 1:13-14). Matthew’s summary of Jesus’ ministry is similar: “And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and *proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom*, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people” (Matt. 4:23). Luke expounds the same note with this comment: “But He [Jesus] said to them, “*I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose*” (Luke 4:43). These three verses are unanimous: the Kingdom was at the heart of Jesus’ purpose on earth.

Unfortunately, however, scholarly accord ends here. There is **little if any agreement** about what the Kingdom is or how it should be defined. There is not much understanding about its identity among the rank and file in our churches either. Some believe that God’s Kingdom is the same as heaven. Catholics (and some Protestants) tend to equate it with the institutional church (so the phrase “Kingdom work” means “church work”). Pietists locate the Kingdom of God in the heart and connect it with the spiritual life. Liberal Christians associate God’s Kingdom with social reform (as in the social gospel). Others still believe that the Kingdom is still future and will be established for the Jews during the 1000 year reign of Jesus on the earth.

Obviously there is not much **agreement or clarity** these days about the Biblical concept of the Kingdom. In order to shed some light on this subject, let’s do our best to see how the Bible answers several important questions about the definition, timing, and nature of this crucial theme.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

What is the Kingdom of God? In short, could the Kingdom of God be the **rule of God** manifested in **Christ** to bring **redemption** to the earth? If so no wonder the Kingdom is the central theme of the New Testament! (Matthew 13:19) (Luke 17:20-21) (Matthew 16:28) (Luke 9:27) Who, when, were, and how does the Kingdom suffer violence? Check out the March issue of the Pony Xpress. I have an idea, let’s see if the word supports it.

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