

THE UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM #1

“The Red Pill”

Merge from Intro Video into Matrix Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zE7PKRjrid4&list=PL842063FF9CD2577F&index=2>

I. Introduction

The Matrix is a science fiction film where the hero takes a red pill and his eyes are opened to see reality for the first time in his life. He realizes there is a greater reality that has been hidden from him. I don't recommend the movie. But I do believe that the biblical equivalent of the 'red pill' is what happens to Christians when their eyes are opened to see the true nature of this world as compared to the hidden reality of the Kingdom of God.

But as Morpheus says: “Unfortunately, no one can tell you about the Matrix; you have to see it for yourself.”

This is true about the Kingdom of God. I can tell you about it; but everything only changes when you see it for yourself. And I am sad to say that many, maybe even most, churchgoers have not seen the Kingdom. They have chosen the blue pill. They go to sleep, wake up, and think whatever they want. But let me share...

My Personal Testimony

I was saved for about 10 years before I took the 'red pill' and really saw the Kingdom. When I did, it changed everything! I wondered why it took me so long to see it. Then the Lord showed me something from...

John 3:3

Unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.

Notice: He did not say IF you are born again you WILL see the Kingdom;
He said if you are NOT born again you CANNOT see it.

I can tell you from my personal experience that it is possible to be born again and not “see” the Kingdom as a present reality.

You can be a Christian, go to church, and read your Bible-and not see it.

Why? I believe this is the result of the failure of those of us who are pastors and teachers to faithfully proclaim what Jesus called, “The Gospel of the Kingdom”. We have ministered the blue pill that puts people to sleep instead of offering them the ‘red pill’ that will open their eyes to the present reality of the Kingdom!

A big problem is that many think that seeing the Kingdom means going to heaven!

The great British Bible scholar N.T. Wright explains:

N.T. Wright

“In Matthew’s gospel, Jesus sayings about the ‘kingdom of God’ are rendered as ‘the kingdom of heaven’; since many read Matthew first, when they find Jesus talking about ‘entering the kingdom of heaven’, they assume he is talking about how to go to heaven when you die, which is certainly not what either Jesus or Matthew had in mind. Many mental pictures have grown up around this and are now assumed to be what the Bible teaches or what Christians believe.”

One of the many mental pictures produced by poor preaching is the idea that God’s plan for the church is to get us into heaven instead us getting heaven into earth! This is the blue pill that keeps the church asleep; the idea that all we are here for is to wait for the 2nd coming and so we can escape the Great Tribulation.

But this not the Gospel Jesus preached!

Ronnie McBrayer, “Leaving Religion, Following Jesus”

“The Good News, as Jesus proclaimed it, is not just an evacuation plan to rescue people from earth or the sufferings of the afterlife by transporting them to heaven. Rather, it is a revolutionary strategy to redeem the sufferings of earth by putting the rule and reign of heaven inside of people.”

I was saved in 1971, and spent 10 years taking the blue pill of the common Christian culture until 1981, when I swallowed the red pill and “saw” the Kingdom! My eyes were opened to the “Matrix” of cultural Christianity that has enslaved the church in a false view of God and His plan.

I suddenly saw that...

God’s plan is not to get the Church to heaven; it is to bring heaven to earth!

His plan is not evacuation. It is infiltration!

I realized what a low level we’d been living on. We had reduced the Gospel of the Kingdom to just a Gospel of salvation.

John G. Lake

“The purpose of Jesus is not just to save men from their sins. It is by the grace of God to begin in the souls of men that marvelous development in the nature and mind and understanding of God our Father until we are able to take our place and our part in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and bear our share of responsibility.”

So our goal for the next few weeks, God helping us, we will be to offer you the red pill that lets you see the present reality of the Kingdom of God for yourself.

II. Kingdom Basics: 3 Critical Facts

- **The Kingdom of God is a first priority**
- **The Kingdom of God is a present reality**
- **Only that which is of the Kingdom of God is sure and unshakable**

A. The Kingdom of God is a First Priority (10 Proofs)

1. John the Baptist preached the 1st sermon in the New Testament. The subject was the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 3:1-2

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Then John was put into prison...

“From that time, Jesus began to preach saying, ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand’.

Matthew 4:17

a. Don't miss this! *The primary message of Jesus and John is the Kingdom of God!* Then, when Jesus preached in the cities of Galilee, they tried to keep Him from leaving; but he said...

"I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."

Luke 4:43

2. Bible scholars use the “law of frequent mention” to determine the importance of a bible subject. The more something is mentioned, the more important it is.

a. In all 4 Gospels, Jesus only mentioned the “Church” 2 times; but He referred to the Kingdom of God well over 100 times! No other subject comes close.

b. The Kingdom of God was the subject of many of His parables, 7 in one chapter! (Matthew 13)

3. The Kingdom of God is the first thing Jesus told us to pray for!

a. The Lord’s Prayer begins with the worship of God; but the 1st petition in the prayer immediately follows: Thy Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

b. Here’s we see a simple definition of the Kingdom of God; it is the will of God done on earth as it is in heaven!

4. The Kingdom of God is the foremost thing Jesus commanded us to seek...

a. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is comparing worldviews. He says the Gentiles worry about what they will eat or drink or wear; but to His own He says, “Don’t worry about these things...

But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

b. In other words: Be delivered from man-centered thinking; Put the Kingdom of God and His Lordship, will, authority, and purposes at the center of your life pursuits! Make this one thing central and all other provisions you need will be given to you!

5. The Kingdom of God was the first message He sent His 12 disciples out to preach!

Luke 9:1-2 NIV

When Jesus had called the 12 together, He gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases; and He sent the out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

6. Later, it was the first message He sent His 70 disciples out to preach!

Luke 10:1

After this the Lord appointed 72 others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place here he was about to go.

Luke 10:1, 8-9 NIV

“When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The Kingdom of God has come near you...’”

7. The Kingdom message is what brought Jesus to trial; Pilate’s 1st question...

“Are you a king?”

Pilate to Jesus at the Trial in John 18:33

a. To this day, people don’t care if you call Jesus a good teacher, a good man, a prophet or even a savior; but people get offended when you insist that Jesus is Lord, the King of creation!

8. It was the message of the Kingdom that got Him crucified...

a. Jesus did not get the death penalty for being a healer, or a good Bible teacher; *it was His claim to the Kingdom*, so they wrote over his head....

And the title ‘King of the Jews’ was written in Hebrew, in Greek, and in Latin...

John 19:19-20

9. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for 40 days prior to the Day of Pentecost. What was His subject?

After His suffering, He presented Himself to them with many convincing proofs that He was alive, appearing over a span of 40 days and speaking to them of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.”

Acts 1:1-3

10. Read the rest of the Book of Acts and you see how the Apostles carried out the mission of Christ by preaching the Kingdom of God as the central subject:

• Philip preached the Kingdom (Acts 8:12)

- Paul and Silas preached the Kingdom (Acts 14:22)
- The Book of Acts closes with Paul living his last days in Rome...

Acts 28:30-31

For two whole years Paul stayed in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

11. The Kingdom of God was the central subject of the preaching of John, Jesus, and the Apostles, both in the Gospels and the Book of Acts. But the Kingdom of God is not only a 1st priority...

B. Second: The Kingdom of God is a Present Reality

1. Nothing blinds us more to the Kingdom of God than to “futzurize” it; to think it is something not here yet!

2. Many can't see the Kingdom because they think it refers to heaven!

3. It is true that there IS a fullness of the Kingdom that is yet future; but if that's all you're waiting for you miss the moment! The whole message of the ministry of Jesus was that He, the King, had brought the Kingdom from heaven to earth!

Josh Carter

“The Kingdom of God is not just our future hope, but rather our present reality.”

4. Jesus almost always referred to the Kingdom using present tense verbs!

Mark 1:14-15 NKJV

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

(The Greek term “at hand” means nearby; within your reach!)

Mark 1:15 New Living Translation

"The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

5. Jesus said this about the ministry of deliverance in **Luke 11:20** (NLT):

But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

6. He even warned His disciples not to “faturize” the Kingdom by looking for it in the distant future:

Luke 17:20-21 ESV

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

(Other translations: “behold, the Kingdom of God is within you.”)

- a. Notice that the verb is present tense!
- b. The Kingdom IS “in your midst”; “among you”; “within you”!

7. If the Kingdom was present then it is present now! The Kingdom is near us; among us; all around us! The “matrix” of the world and the flesh have blinded us to its reality. We’ve missed it because we don’t know what it is. But the Apostle Paul explains how this happens in his definition of the Kingdom:

Romans 14:17

The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

8. Do you have the Holy Spirit living in you? Then you have the Kingdom! It is a present reality!

C. Third: The Kingdom of God is Sure and Unshakable

1. The writer of Hebrews reminded the Jewish Christians of how God shook the earth when the nation of Israel refused to listen to God in the Old Testament; then he warns them not to make the same mistake.

Hebrews 12:25-26

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth;

Hebrews 12:26-27

...but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates *the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.*

2. God has promised to shake heaven and earth; for the purpose of removing the things that can be shaken so that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

a. God has promised to shake our lives; our circumstances; our belief systems; but...

God shakes us so that only those things that cannot be shaken will remain.

3. And when God gets through with the shaking, what will be left?

Hebrews 12:28-29

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.

4. God is shaking out everything in us that is not grounded in His Kingdom.

III. Close

A. Review: What Have We Said?

- **The Kingdom of God is our 1st priority**
- **The Kingdom of God is a present reality**
- **The Kingdom of God is sure and unshakable**

1. The question for us is, “have we seen the Kingdom?”

2. Is it our 1st priority? Have we realized how near it is? Do we now know why God is shaking our lives? He is removing everything that can be shaken so only the unshakable will remain. The Unshakable Kingdom. And God will do it because “our God is an all-consuming fire.” Let us close with this prayer...

Matthew Henry

“Consuming fire, refining fire, go through my heart and purge me of all that can be consumed! Holy Spirit, drive out of me all that can be shaken and removed, so that only your abiding kingdom may remain, and to you shall be the praise and the glory forever! Amen.”