

## The Upside Down Kingdom May 15, 2022

**The kingdom of God:** the domain and territory where God's unchallenged rule exists.

**Kingdom:** sovereignty, royal power, dominion. The kingdom of God is anywhere the supreme authority of King Jesus is obeyed and demonstrated.

**Luke 17:20-21,** *"The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed,<sup>21</sup> nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."*

**Midst:** inside or within.

**Matthew 5:7,** *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."*

**Matthew 20:20-28,** *"Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him.<sup>21</sup> And Jesus said to her, 'What do you wish?' She said to Him, 'Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left.'<sup>22</sup> But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to Him, 'We are able.'<sup>23</sup> He said to them, 'My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father.'<sup>24</sup> And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers.<sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them.<sup>26</sup> It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,<sup>27</sup> and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.'*

**Jonah 4:2-12**, *“In order to forestall this (Your mercy and forgiveness to the Ninevites) I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.” <sup>4</sup> The Lord said, “Do you have good reason to be angry?” <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city. <sup>6</sup> So the Lord God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant. <sup>7</sup> But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah’s head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, “Death is better to me than life.” <sup>9</sup> Then God said to Jonah, “Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?” And he said, “I have good reason to be angry, even to death.” <sup>10</sup> Then the Lord said, “You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. <sup>11</sup> Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?”*

**2 Peter 3:9**, *“The Lord is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”*

**Luke 18:9-14**, *“Jesus told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*