

All verses on the Kingdom of God in the Bible (Which I could find)

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This is a summary of every biblical reference I could find relating to the Kingdom of God. This is not every reference to the word "Kingdom" but it is every mention of the Lord's kingdom as far as I can tell, including physical kingdoms of earth being the Lord's. The verses are in the NIV.

This research may be used freely.

Part 1: Kingdom Prophecies and other Old Testament References

- The Kingdom of God is eternal.
 - Psalm 45:6 "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom." Hebrews 1:8 reveals that this was spoken to God's Son.
 - Psalm 145:13 "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations."
 - Isaiah 9:7 "Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."
 - Daniel 4:3 "His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation."
 - Daniel 6:26 "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end."
- Although God's eternal Kingdom exists, there's also an eternal kingdom to be established.
 - Daniel 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."
 - 2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16 "I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever... Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." Spoken by the prophet Nathan to King David concerning His kingdom becoming forever established by the coming messiah. Again 1 Chronicles 17:11,14
 - Daniel 7:14 "His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." (Daniel is speaking prophetically of the coming of the son of man.)

- Daniel 7:18 "But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever."
- Daniel 7:27 "His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom"
- God's people will become a kingdom of Godliness
 - Exodus 19:6 "you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." - Spoken to Moses at Mount Sinai
 - Daniel 7:27 "Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him."
- Israel is God's Kingdom.
 - 1 Chronicles 29:11 "Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all." -King David
 - 2 Chronicles 13:8 "And now you plan to resist the kingdom of the Lord, which is in the hands of David's descendants."
- The Lord gave people authority and success to rule over His Kingdom.
 - 1 Chronicles 28:5 "he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel." -King David
 - 2 Chronicles 17:5 "The Lord established the kingdom under [Jehoshaphat's] control"
- God's Kingdom rules all of the Kingdoms of the world.
 - Psalm 103:19 "The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all."
 - 2 Chronicles 20:6 "Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you."
 - Isaiah 37:16 "Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth."
 - Daniel 4:17 "so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people"
 - Daniel 4:25 "Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes." Again Daniel 4:32
 - Daniel 5:21 "He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like the ox; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and sets over them anyone he wishes."
 - Obadiah 1:21 "Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the Lord's" (A prophecy against Edom.)
- God's Kingdom is proclaimed glorious.
 - Psalm 145:11-12 "They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom."

Part 2: The Kingdom of God mentioned in the New Testament

- It's an inheritance, with emphasis on those who experience trials in life
 - Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Luke 6:20 repeats this, but leaves out "in spirit"
 - Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
 - Matthew 25:34 "...take your inheritance, the kingdom..."

- Luke 12:32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."
- Luke 22:27-30 "or who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."
- Luke 18:29-30 "'Truly I tell you,' Jesus said to them, 'no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.'"
- Acts 14:22 "strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. 'We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,' they said."
- 2 Timothy 4:18 "The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom."
- See also "People of the Kingdom are like children."
- James 2:5 "Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?"
- Colossians 1:12-13 "and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,"
- 2 Thessalonians 1:5 "All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering."
- People of the Kingdom are like children.
 - Matthew 19:14 "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" Again Mark 10:14-15, Luke 18:16
 - Luke 18:17 "Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."
 - Matthew 18:1-4 "At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'"
- Its near/at hand, and within, and that is what we are to proclaim
 - Matthew 3:2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Again 4:17, Mark 1:15
 - Matthew 10:7 "As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'"
 - Matthew 12:28 "But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.", Again Luke 11:20
 - Matthew 13:51-52 "...He said to them, 'Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven...'"
 - Luke 17:20-21 "Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst." NKJV says "the kingdom of God is within you."
 - Luke 21:31 "Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near." Jesus is referring to signs for the coming of the Son of Man.
 - Revelation 1:6 "and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."

- Luke 9:60 "Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.'"
- Luke 10:9 "Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"
- Luke 10:11 "'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.'" This was Jesus' command to tell those who do not accept them in for their preaching.
- There's a hierarchy within the Kingdom.
 - Matthew 5:19 "Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."
 - See Matthew 18:1-4 under "It's an inheritance"
- The Kingdom is about Godly living, and that's the standard needed for entrance.
 - Matthew 5:20 "For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven."
 - Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven"
 - Matthew 19:23-24 "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.'" Again Mark 24-25.
 - Matthew 21:31 "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you." -Spoken by Jesus to chief priests and elders out of a lesson that it's not about a *commitment* to obey, it's about *obeying*. Jesus also mentions how sinners believed John the Baptist but they did not.
 - Matthew 21:43 "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit."
 - Matthew 25:34-35 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you have me something to eat...'"
 - Luke 9:62 "Jesus replied, 'No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'" The context is Jesus rebuking someone who wants to say goodbye to his household before following Him.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 "Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God?... nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."
 - Galatians 5:21 "and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."
 - Ephesians 5:5 "No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:12 "encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory."
- The Kingdom is meant to invade Earth
 - Matthew 6:10 "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Again Luke 11:2
- Essentials of life are given for those who seek the Kingdom
 - Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things [food, water, clothing] will be given to you as well."

- People from all different places will have a right to dwell in the Kingdom.
 - Matthew 8:11-12 "I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom [Jews who miss salvation] will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (This is spoken after Jesus sees a Centurion with great faith. It's a lesson on gentiles being saved, but not all Jews.)
- The Kingdom is of incomparable worth to a person.
 - Matthew 11:11 "Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Again Luke 7:28
 - Mark 9:47 "And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,"
 - Luke 14:15 "When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.'" (Jesus confirms this statement by backing it up with the Parable of the Great Banquet.)
- The Kingdom has either been violently attacked, or it has a nature of violence to it.
 - Matthew 11:12 "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it." (NKJV says "pressing into it." This verse could also mean that the Kingdom of God is violently advancing, and people who lay hold of it do so forcefully.) Context: Jesus had been preaching about hating money and loving God. The Pharisees didn't like that teaching, so Jesus tells them that God looks at the heart, and their praise of men means nothing, because God abhors things which men love.
- The Kingdom does not contradict itself.
 - Matthew 12:25-27 "Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges." Again Mark 3:24, Luke 11:17-19
- The knowledge of the Kingdom was originally given only for the disciples of Jesus.
 - Matthew 13:10-11 "The disciples came to him and asked, 'Why do you speak to the people in parables?' He replied, 'Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.'" Again Mark 4:11, Luke 8:10
- The Kingdom and the gospel are intrinsically bound.
 - Matthew 13:19 "When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path."
 - Matthew 19:24-25 "'Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, 'Who then can be saved?'"
 - Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."
 - John 3:3 "Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.'"
 - John 3:5 "Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.'"

- Matthew 23:13 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to."
- Acts 8:12 "But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."
- The message of the Kingdom finds its roots in a person's heart, but the devil can take it away before it develops. (See Matthew 13:19 under "The Kingdom and the gospel are intrinsically bound.")
- The Kingdom is eternal.
 - Luke 1:33 "and he [Jesus] will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."
 - Hebrews 1:8 "But about the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.'" (Quoting Psalm 45:6)
 - Hebrews 12:28 "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe"
- Our inheritance to the Kingdom includes Kingdom authority.
 - Matthew 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
- The Fulfillment of the prophecies concerning God's eternal Kingdom being established took place in the first century.
 - Matthew 16:28 "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."
 - Mark 9:1 "And he said to them, 'Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.'" Again Luke 9:27
 - Revelation 11:15 "The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.'"
 - Revelation 12:10 "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah." Context: This is proclaimed in the middle of the story of the woman and the dragon—Mary giving birth to Jesus and Satan.
- The Kingdom was often taught about and proclaimed.
 - Acts 1:3 "After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God."
 - Acts 19:8 "Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God."
 - Luke 4:43 But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."
 - Luke 8:1 "After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him,"
 - Acts 20:25 "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again." (Paul giving a farewell speech)
 - Acts 28:23 "He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God"
 - Acts 28:31 "He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ"
- The proclamation of the Kingdom was often done alongside supernatural healing.

- Matthew 4:23 "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people."
- Matthew 9:35 "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness."
- Luke 9:2 "and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."
- Luke 9:11 "but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing."
- People were aware that Jesus was about to establish a Kingdom, although it was sometimes misunderstood.
 - Matthew 20:21 "'What is it you want?' he asked. She said, 'Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.'"
 - Mark 11:10 "'Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!' 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'" - Jesus' triumphal entry on a donkey into Jerusalem
 - Mark 15:43 "Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body." Again Luke 23:50-51.
 - Luke 9:11 "While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once." Jesus tells the Parable of the 10 minas, which is very similar to the parable of the talents.
 - Luke 23:42 "Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'" This prayer from a criminal got him saved.
 - Acts 1:6 "Then they gathered around him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'"
- The Kingdom is about love, not the sacrificial system.
 - Mark 12:32-34 "'Well said, teacher,' the man replied. 'You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.' When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions."
- We work for the Kingdom of God
 - Colossians 4:11 "Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God"
- We work because of the Kingdom of God
 - 2 Timothy 4:1 "in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge"
- We are the Kingdom of God
 - Revelation 1:9 "I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus." (Many translations, like this one, do not include the article "the" before kingdom.)
 - Revelation 5:10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." (Context is the elders at the throne room praising Jesus referring to "men for God" who are made to be a kingdom.)
- The Kingdom is not about the physical, but about the spiritual.
 - John 18:36 "Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'"

- Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"
- 1 Corinthians 4:20 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power."
- 1 Corinthians 15:50 "I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable."
- Miscellaneous
 - Matthew 26:29 "I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Jesus is at the last supper offering the cup to his disciples. Again Mark 14:25, Luke 22:18. Jesus mentions something similar about the bread in Luke 22:16 'For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.'"
 - 1 Corinthians 15:24 "Then the end will come, when [Jesus] hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power."
 - 2 Peter 1:11 "and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
 - Matthew 19:11-12 "others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

Part 3: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like..."

When Jesus uses illustration and comparisons to help us understand the Kingdom, he doesn't mention places. He mentions situations, scenarios, events, and their outcome.

- Matthew 13:24-30

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' ²⁸ "'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' ²⁹ "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

This is explained in v. 38-43:

³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.
- Matthew 13:31-32

³¹ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² 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.” Again Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19

○ Matthew 13:33

He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds^[a] of flour until it worked all through the dough.” Again Luke 13:20-21

Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

○ Matthew 13:45-46

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

○ Matthew 13:47-50

Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

○ Matthew 18:23-35

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold^[a] was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.^[b] He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

○ Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them a denarius^[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³ “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴ He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’

⁵ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶ About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

⁷ “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

⁹ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius.

¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

¹² ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

¹³ “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

¹⁶ “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

○ Matthew 22:2-14

“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴ “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵ “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶ The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸ “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹ So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹² He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

¹³ “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴ “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

○ Matthew 25:1-13

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹ “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

¹² “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

¹³ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

○ Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ “Again, it [the kingdom] will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, ^[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.

¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²² “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴ “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ ““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

○ Mark 4:26-29

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.

²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”