

What on



earth

is this

KINGDOM ?



YOUR
KINGDOM
COME

Kingdom Culture
Praying a dangerous prayer!

**YOUR
KINGDOM
COME, YOUR
WILL BE
DONE, ON
EARTH AS IT
IS IN
HEAVEN**



MATTHEW 6:10



UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM

Matthew 5-7

More than 100,000 sold

UPSIDE the DOWN KINGDOM

Anniversary Edition

Donald B. Kraybill

AFTER HIS SUFFERING, HE PRESENTED
HIMSELF TO THEM WITH MANY
CONVINCING PROOFS THAT HE WAS
ALIVE. HE APPEARED TO THEM OVER A
SPAN OF FORTY DAYS AND SPOKE ABOUT
THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

- ACTS 1:3

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

- Matthew 6:33



**WHAT IS THE
KINGDOM
OF GOD?**

The Kingdom prophesied and predicted in the OT

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

(Luke 3:4-6, from Isaiah 40:3-5)

Paving the way for Jesus, John the Baptist describes four surprises of the coming kingdom: full valleys, flat mountains, straight curves, and level bumps. He expects a radical shake-up.



Mary's prophetic song

THE MAGNIFICAT

(Mary's song of praise was first sung to her cousin Elizabeth.)

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Luke 1:46-55



Jesus doesn't plead for social avoidance or withdrawal from society. Nor does he assume that the kingdom and the world split neatly into separate realms. Kingdom action takes place *in* the world, in the middle of the societal ballpark. But it's a different game, with special rules and a new coach. Kingdom values challenge the taken-for-granted social ruts of the dominant society. Rooted in the deep love and abiding grace of God, kingdom people seed new ways of thinking and living.

Besides being upside down, the kingdom speaks with authority today. Not just a dusty idea in an old trash bin, it offers a vision for how we ought to conduct our lives.³ The Gospels don't provide cookbook solutions for every ethical dilemma. But they do raise the right questions, focus important issues, and show how the Spirit of God can transform our lives.

What might the Kingdom look like through us?

- We are our message
- Adopt a different, perhaps unexpected posture
- Generosity in all things
- Modelling Jesus, shining lights in the darkness
- Power not talk
- Churches that love God and His world
- Join in with what God is doing (sometimes behind us)
- Unity
- Conduits and connectors
- Influential Nobodies





Conduits and Connectors

REACH

RAHAB
RESTORING ALL HOPE AND BELIEF

cji

Door of Hope

Argyle Community Church

10 DAYS OF PRAYER
READING, UK

FREEDOM IN CHRIST
Transforming Discipleship

Reading at Work
SUPPORTING CHRISTIANS IN THE WORKPLACE

Reading Gateway Church

the well church

STREET PASTORS

home for good

engage

YELDALL MANOR
recovery for life

ST MATTHEW'S

lifespringchurch

24-7 PRAYER

BURN 24-7
READING

MOVEMENT DAY

THE gate

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

THE SALVATION ARMY
Reading Central

TRINITY EARLEY

THE DELIVERANCE CENTRE

REINSPIRED

transforming lives for good

SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK
SERVING SPORT THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN CHAPLAINCY

torch

all nations christian centre

Reading FAMILY CHURCH

FIRST STOP

CIRDIC
Churches in Reading Drop in Centre

Faith Christian Group

CCA
Christian Community Action

ReadiFood

arcade
Amethyst Resource Centre For Alcohol & Drug Education

A Bed for the Night

NORCOT MISSION CHURCH

greyfriars

COMMUNICARE
Advice, Information and Support

St Catherine's Tilehurst

GATHER MOVEMENT

TYNDALE Baptist Church

GRACE CHURCH
CAVERSHAM

LINKING LIVES UK

The Mustard Tree

NCD-UK

WYCLIFFE BAPTIST CHURCH

HOPE into ACTION

Reading Prayer Ministry

SPRINGWATER CHURCH

Whiteknights Church

friends INTERNATIONAL

Brookside Church

STARTING POINT

Argyle Community Church

ACTS

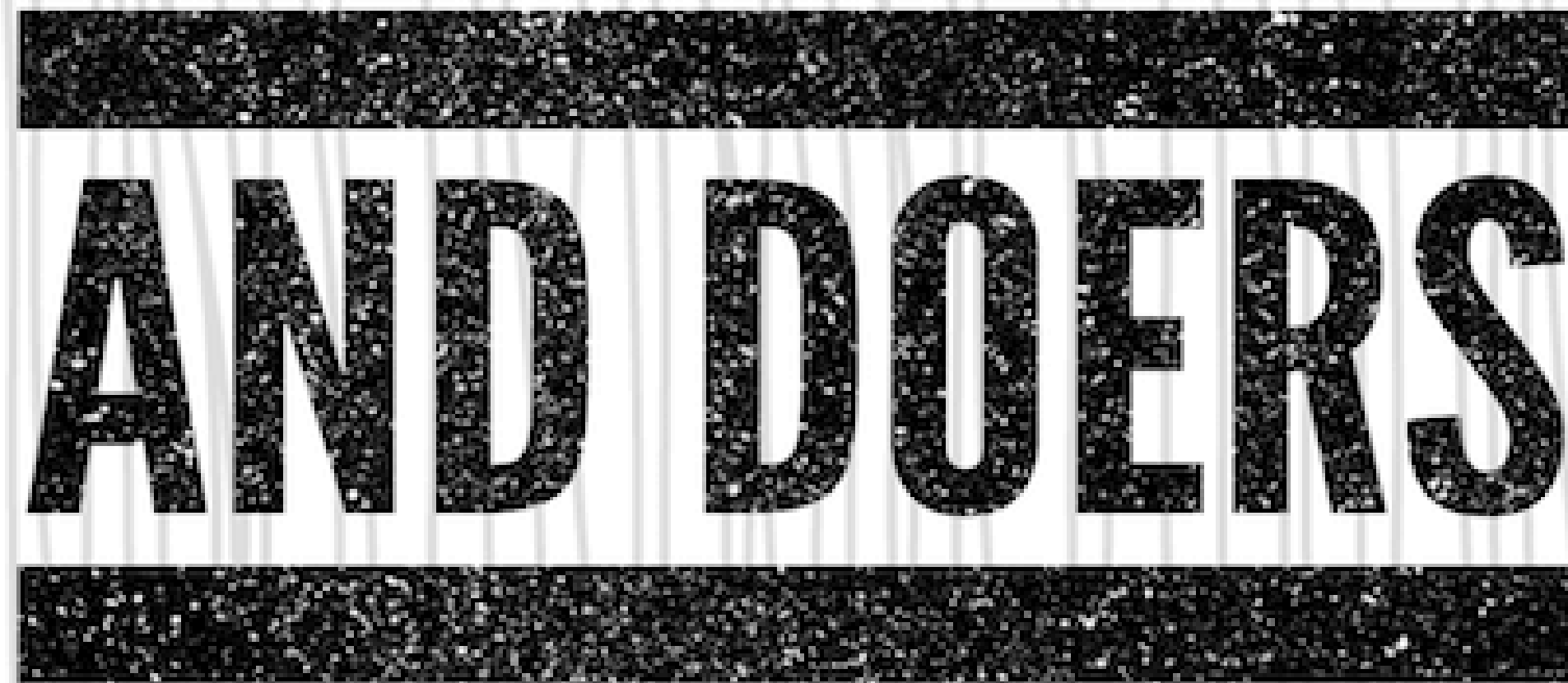
KINGDOM ADVANCE

What does the Kingdom look like in the Acts post Pentecost?

What does the Kingdom look like in the Acts post Pentecost?

- **Unity of heart and mind**
- **Daily new followers and disciples of Jesus**
- **Mutual, spontaneous, organic care and support of others**
- **Generous hospitality**
- **Growth of house churches focused on eating, prayer, learning and breaking bread**
- **Needs met and people restored (remember Isaiah 61)**
- **Remarkable grace and power**



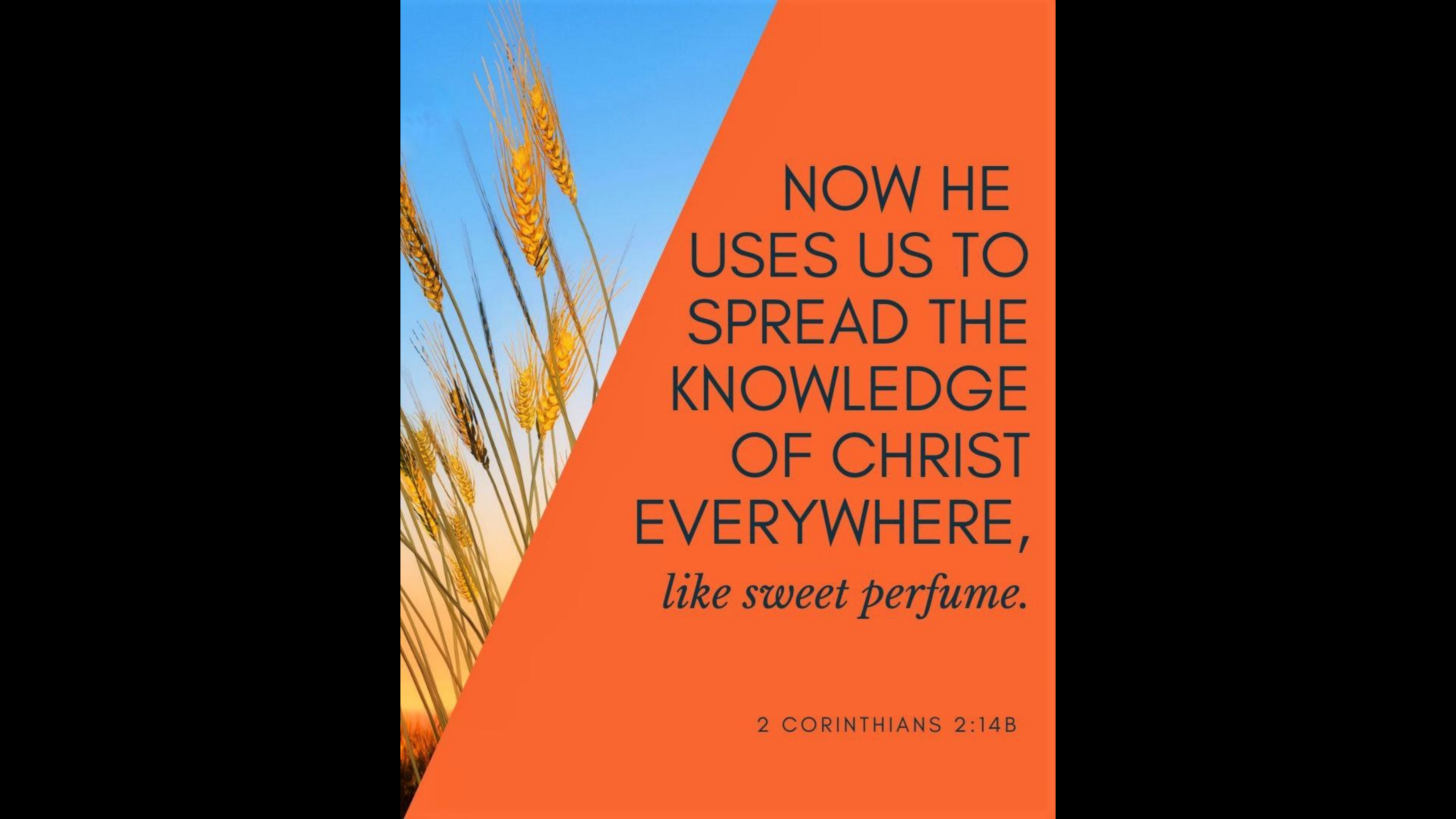


Discipleship Questions

Changing Lives



1. How does the Kingdom of God influence your life aspirations, actions, attitudes and priorities ?
2. Who are the people connected to you and whom you partner with, who help the life of Jesus and the Kingdom flow freely through your life. Who are the people God has connected you with to whom Jesus and the Kingdom might be revealed?
3. Is your focus primarily on the church or the King and His Kingdom?



NOW HE
USES US TO
SPREAD THE
KNOWLEDGE
OF CHRIST
EVERYWHERE,
like sweet perfume.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:14B

“Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”²⁷ The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

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,²⁹ for our “God is a consuming fire.”³⁰ **Hebrews 12:26-29**