

SERMON NOTES

Senior Pastor Subash Cherian

MESSAGE: KINGDOM, PARADISE OR HEAVEN

I. **The Kingdom** (Luke 23:42) *“Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”*

1. **Kingdom of Heaven** (Place)

- Refers to the realm or domain where God reigns
- Emphasis on a future, visible kingdom
- **Matthew 3:2 / 4:17**

2. **Kingdom of God** (Principle)

- Refers to God's rule and authority in hearts and lives
- A present spiritual reality expressed through believers
- Involves Kingdom people (the Church)
- **Matthew 6:10** (God's will on earth)
- **Matthew 6:33** (seek first the Kingdom)
- **Matthew 8:8–9** (authority of the King)
- **Mark 1:14–15** (Kingdom proclaimed)
- **Acts 1:3** (Kingdom teaching after resurrection)

II. **Paradise, Hades, and Heaven** (Luke 23:43) *“Today you will be with Me in Paradise.”*

1. **Paradise**

- A place of comfort and presence with God
- Associated with the righteous dead
- **2 Corinthians 12:2–4**
- **Revelation 2:7**
- **Luke 16:22–23, 26** (Abraham's bosom)
 - **Jesus and Paradise**
 - Jesus declared victory and led captives to freedom
 - **Ephesians 4:8–10**
 - **Psalms 68:18**

2. **Sheol/Hades**

- Place of Judgment (Evil side)
- Temporary holding place for the unrighteous
- **1 Peter 3:19–20**
- **2 Peter 2:4**
- **Jude 1:6**

3. **Heaven**

- The dwelling place of God
- The eternal destination of believers
- **2 Corinthians 5:8** (present with the Lord)
- **Philippians 1:23** (desire to be with Christ)
- **John 14:1–3** (promise of eternal dwelling)

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4. Future Events

- **Rapture**
 - Believers caught up to be with Christ
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17**
 - **1 Corinthians 15:42, 51-57**
- **Rewards** (Judgment Seat of Christ)
 - Evaluation of believers' works
 - **2 Corinthians 5:10**
- **Millennial Kingdom**
 - Christ's reign on earth
 - **Revelation 20:7**
 - **Acts 3:21**
- **White Throne Judgment**
 - Final judgment of the wicked
 - **Revelation 19:20 / 20:10-15**

III. New Heaven and New Earth

- The final restored eternal state
 - **Revelation 21-22**
 - **Revelation 21:1-3**
- **Kingdom Promise**
 - **Luke 23:40-43**
 - The thief on the cross:
 - Asked about the Kingdom
 - Received the promise of Paradise
 - **Luke 22:16, 18-19**
 - Jesus points to the future fulfillment of the Kingdom