

# Introduction

Some years ago I encountered an anonymously quoted observation:

“Jesus came proclaiming the Kingdom, and what arrived was the Church.”

Over the years, I have written many articles and published them on the [paidionbooks.org](http://paidionbooks.org) website that have explored this observation. After the Lord put it on my heart to compile these articles into a book, I discovered that this observation was made by a French Roman Catholic priest named Alfred Loisy (1857-1940) who was excommunicated by the Roman Catholic “Church” in 1908.

Other than this one observation, Loisy’s life, history and theology has absolutely nothing to do with this book in any way. Rather, this book is an exploration of the New Testament as viewed through the “focal lens” of the kingdom of God, a focal lens that exposes the fallacies and deceptions that have crept in and been incorporated into our ideas and practices about seeking and following Christ and God. These writings are not merely intellectual teachings derived from the study of the New Testament but are spiritual truths as opened up and revealed by the Spirit of truth.

This book explores the characteristics of the three entities Loisy’s observation brings into view: the kingdom of God, the ekklesia and the “church.” That is:

- Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God, *but*
- the ekklesia took the preeminence, and *then*
- “church” replaced ekklesia.

If we gain any clearer understanding of this huge picture, then we will be in a better condition to truly co-labor with Christ and God in furthering *His* kingdom.

If this book has any purpose it would be for the liberation of the sons of the kingdom from

- the traditions of men and the doctrines of demons,
- the perceived need to practice things that in reality are merely false religion,
- the false notion that we have no other options than to either submit or rebel against the “church” (when we can just forsake it and be true ekklesia),
- the dual streams of power that attend so many of those who seek God in the context of “church.”

Any book that attempts to be any kind of “definitive work” on the kingdom of God faces some very serious obstacles and large difficulties:

- First, is the book to be a “tour guide” to the vast country that is the kingdom of God, a spiritual realm that incorporates “mountaintops,” “valleys,” “rivers,” “oceans,” “plains,” and “desert wildernesses.” The kingdom of God resists being reduced to mere definitions and simple formulas but instead can only be experienced by obediently following the King.

- Second, is the book to be a “practical guide” to participating in the kingdom of God, a “manifesto” as it were? The New Testament is already God’s “manifesto” and no part of it can be safely cut away and remain a true representation of the kingdom of God. The genuine seeker of truth is encouraged to spend more time reading the Scriptures (as illumined by the Spirit of truth and not just by one’s soulish or carnal intellect) than any book, even this one!

- Third, is the book to be merely an intellectual’s “defense” of the kingdom of God in contrast to other, especially “church,” “theology.” Such a defense must include elements of church history, doctrinal and theological standings as well as spiritual enlightenment and revelation – subjects many readers are woefully and inadequately prepared to delve into. Make no mistake – the gospel of the kingdom is the core message of the New Testament and it will withstand all the human and demonic assaults and criticisms against it, no matter what title or position the critic and opponent of the truth has taken unto him or herself. But such a work could become a tome in and of itself.

- Fourth, is the book to be a historical treatise of how the kingdom of God was changed first into ekklesia and then into “church”? This would require diving deeply into church history, a subject many people rightly find very confusing and even repulsive to their faith in Christ and God.

- Fifth, in a day and age when most people seem to want to deny the depths of the human “disease” of sin and carnality and demand simple remedies and superficial instructions, is it even possible to write a book of such depth that is still palatable to many, even spiritual, current-day readers?

- And sixth, is it even possible to compile all these things into one book (other than the New Testament!)?

This book is my effort to do something of all of these things simultaneously and still place before you, the reader, a valuable resource of kingdom views and their Scriptural basis.

The many Scripture references from which the ideas of this book are drawn are provided for two reasons:

- 1) so that those unfamiliar with the New Testament can readily find the source and

2) so that those who think themselves familiar with the Scriptures might look again and seek the Spirit of truth as to whether they have only read and understood these verses through merely soulish or carnal eyes.

If you find this tedious or distracting, please know that my motive is to work against the overall Scriptural and spiritual ignorance that seems to prevail in many places.

The gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all people. (Mt. 24:14) This book is merely a precursor to the fullness of what is coming. It is my fervent prayer and desire, beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, that this book will prove a useful tool in your further explorations into this realm that is your spiritual right and inheritance.

In His love,

Neil Girrard  
January , 2016

Chapter One: Kingdom Now?

<http://paidionbooks.org/girrard/tgotk/01kn.pdf>