

THE KINGDOM OF GOD - PART ONE

The year Jesus was born God's Kingdom on earth consisted of the Jewish people living under the Law of Moses. An honor they held for over 1400 years upon the condition that they kept God's Law (**Ex 19:5-6**).

The kingdom fell under the oversight of the High Priest and the Sanhedrin, which was the highest court, composed of the various political factions of the Jews (Pharisees, Sadducees). Jesus recognized their hypocrisy and their oversight of God's Kingdom (**Mt 23:1-3**).

Matthew 23:1-3 (NASB)

¹ Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples,
² saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses;
³ therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say *things* and do not do *them*."

By teaching human traditions which superseded the teachings of the Law of Moses, they had caused the people to violate God's Laws (**Mt 15:1-9; Mt 23:15**).

Matthew 23:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves."

Quincy church of Christ

25 A Street NE

PO Box 624

Quincy, WA 98848

509 787-4738

www.quincychurchofchrist.com

Article by: Nick Nelson

Therefore the Jewish leaders were robbing God of the fruit of His Kingdom. The fruit God expected was righteous subjects who freely submitted to the Law of Moses. Jesus prophesied through a parable that the Jewish leaders would be removed from their position of power (**Mt 21:33-46**).

Matthew 21:42-45 (NASB)

⁴² Jesus *said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, **THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER *stone*; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES**?"

⁴³ "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it."

⁴⁴ "And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust."

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them."

The Jewish overseers, corrupted by the power of their position, became envious as they observed the people turning from them to John the Baptist and then to Jesus. Afraid of losing their power they began to use violence, intimidation and even murder in an effort to prevent the people from following Jesus into the Kingdom. The Roman Official Pilate realized that they brought Jesus to him out of "**envy**" (**Mt 27:18**). Envy seeks to take from someone that which they possess. By killing Jesus they thought to gain control of the Kingdom.

(**Jn 11:47-48; Mt 11:12; 23:13; Jn 9:22; 12:10-11, 42-43**)

The lessons we should learn from Part One of the study of God's Kingdom are:

1. The majority of the religious leaders were wrong yet people followed them.
2. Following the majority can be spiritually fatal (**Mt 15:12-14**).

Matthew 15:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit."