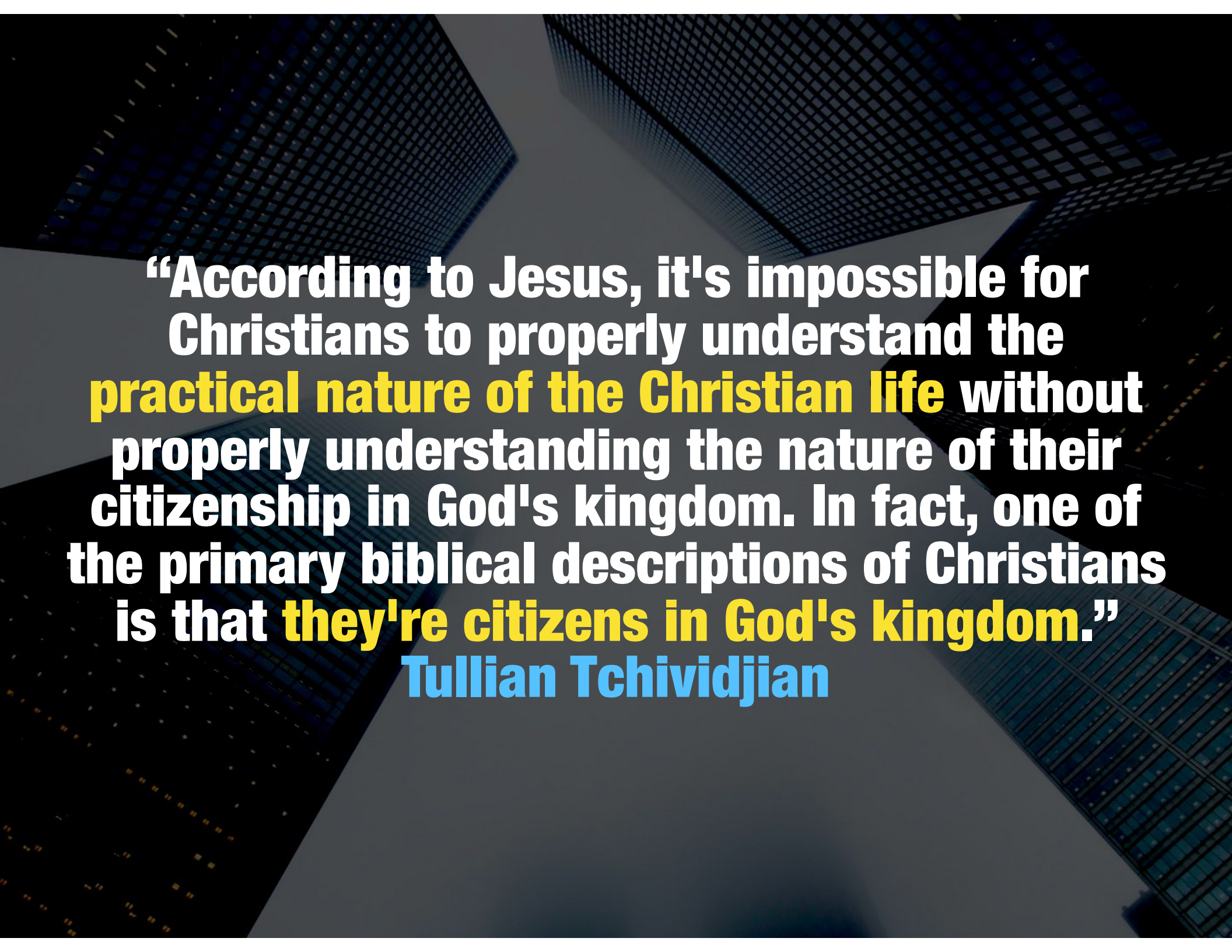




# THE KINGDOM

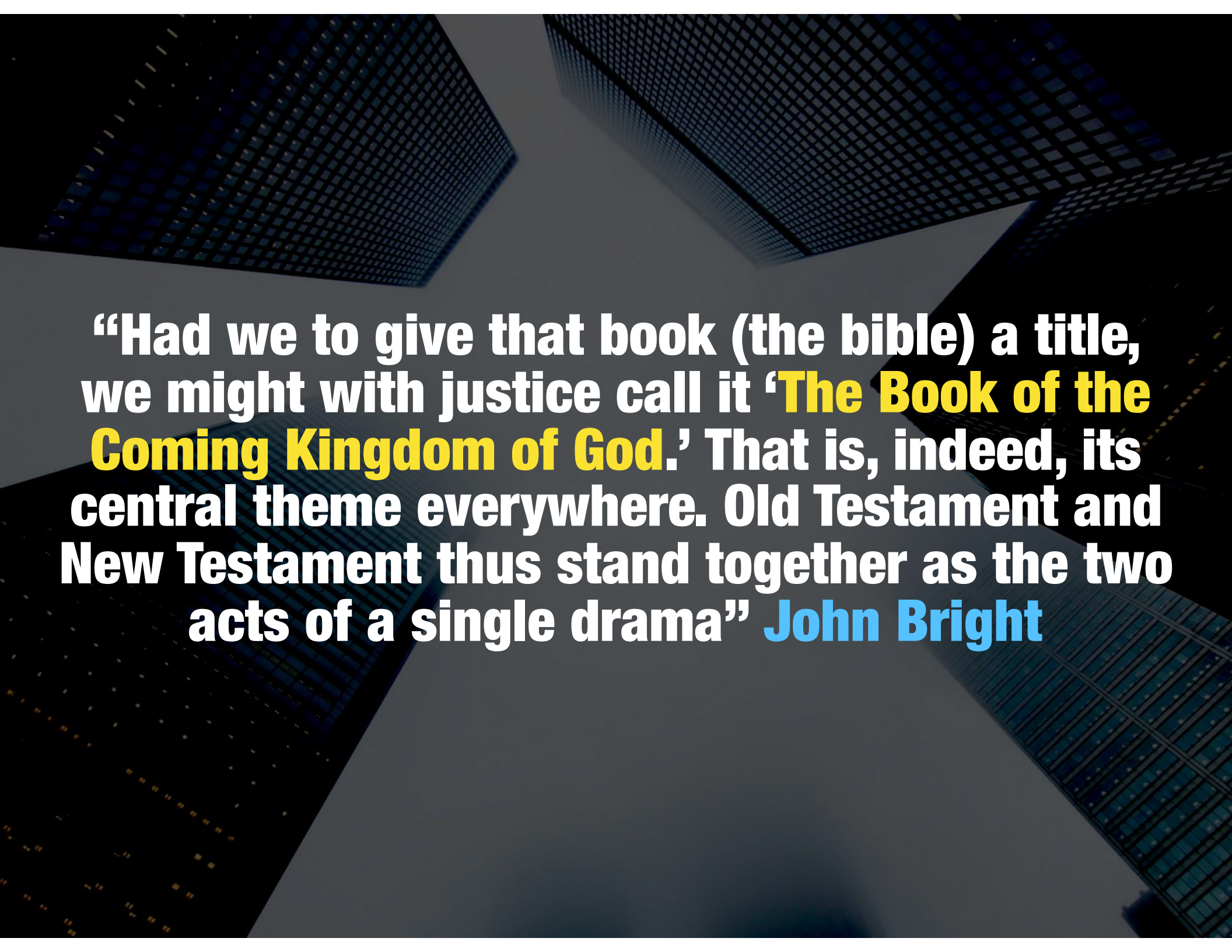
**Foundations  
of the Kingdom**



**“According to Jesus, it's impossible for Christians to properly understand the **practical nature of the Christian life** without properly understanding the nature of their citizenship in God's kingdom. In fact, one of the primary biblical descriptions of Christians is that **they're citizens in God's kingdom.**”**

**Tullian Tchividjian**





**“Had we to give that book (the bible) a title, we might with justice call it ‘**The Book of the Coming Kingdom of God.**’ That is, indeed, its central theme everywhere. Old Testament and New Testament thus stand together as the two acts of a single drama” **John Bright****



After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. **“The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”** **Mark 1:14-15**





**The Kingdom of Heaven is  
mentioned 31 times in Matthews  
gospel and the Kingdom of God  
68 times in all four gospels**



**To understand the kingdom that  
Jesus is proclaiming we have  
to start from the beginning**





**The Kingdom of Heaven:  
“malkut samayim”**

**The rule of God in **the present.****

**Early Rabbinic Writings by  
Hyam Maccoby, 2nd Century**



**Genesis is the beginning of all things, our choices, our relationships and our predicament**

**We are introduced to two concepts as the story of God unfolds**





**Covenant**

**Kingdom**

## **Covenant and Kingdom, Mike Breen**

**“Covenant** is the way in which the Bible describes and defines **relationship**: first our relationship with God and then our relationship with everyone else.”

**A marriage is a promise/covenant on the rules of this new relationship. The vows and the ceremony is meant to declare that the couple is now embarking upon a new relationship that will redefine their future behaviours.**



## Covenant

and all peoples on earth **will be blessed** through you **Genesis 12:3b**

and through **your offspring** all nations on earth will be blessed, **because you have obeyed me. Genesis 22:18**

**The bible begins with this strange promise God makes with Abraham and Sarah. He says that through them the people of earth will understand a new way of living.**

## **Covenant and Kingdom, Mike Breen**

**“Kingdom** is the way in which the Bible describes and defines **responsibility**, first, our responsibility to represent God to the people we know and then to everyone else.”

**To represent the kingdom meant that you were declaring to strangers a new paradigm of existence that they previously had not yet encountered. It also meant that your behaviour and actions had to align with this new place as well.**



# Kingdom

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, **you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.** These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.” **Exodus 19:5-6**



**Kingdom**

**A Kingdom is a reflection of the King**



## Return of the King

My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will **follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees.** **Ezekiel 37:24**

Instead, they will serve the Lord their God and David their king, **whom I will raise up for them.** **Jeremiah 30:9**

Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, **and I will live among you,**” declares the Lord. “Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. **Zechariah 2:10-11**

**relationship  
with God**

**Covenant**

**+**

**Kingdom**

**=**

**Kingdom  
of God**

**rule of  
God's love**



# God's Kingdom in the Old Testament

## Justice

Learn to do right; **seek justice**. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. **Isaiah 1:17**

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? **To act justly** and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. **Micah 6:8**

**Cursed is anyone who withholds justice** from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow. **Deuteronomy 27:19**

Instruction will go out from me; **my justice** will become a light to the nations. **Isaiah 51:4b**

# God's Kingdom in the Old Testament

## Compassion

This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer **true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.** Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.' **Zechariah 7:9-10**

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger forever; **he does not treat us as our sins deserve** or repay us according to our iniquities **Psalm 103:8-10**



**“Certainly we in the modern world find it very difficult to accept many of the older interpretations of the kingdom of God. But however varied our interpretations may be, there is at bottom a profound spiritual {meaning) in the concept. The phrase meant literally **the reign of God**, the condition of things in which God's will is everywhere supreme. Here we are left in no doubt as to the true meaning of the concept. Whether it come soon or late, by sudden crisis or through slow development, **the kingdom of God will be a society in which all men and women will be controlled by the eternal love of God.**” **Martin Luther King Jr****

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs  
is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3**

**“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. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord,  
Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in  
your name drive out demons and in your name  
perform many miracles?’ Matthew 7:21-22**