

Sunday 23rd August 2026

The Gospel of The Kingdom – Peter Lyne

Key Outcomes

Peter delivered a sermon centered on the **Gospel of the Kingdom**, arguing that mainstream Christian focus on "going to heaven when you die" misrepresents the New Testament's emphasis. The core message: God's purpose is not escape from earth but the transformation of earth — heaven coming *down*, not believers going *up*. The sermon challenged the congregation to adopt a kingdom-oriented faith expressed through active engagement with the world.

Core Theological Argument

- **Kingdom-first framing:** The Lord's Prayer ("Your kingdom come, your will be done *on earth*") reflects God's intent to transform earth, not evacuate it.
- **Colossians 3:1–4** cited to show believers are *already* raised with Christ — the posture is present participation, not future escape.
- **Matthew 24:14** identified as the prelude to the end: the gospel of the kingdom must be preached to all nations *before* the end comes.
- **New heavens and new earth** (Revelation) interpreted as *transformation*, not destruction — eradication of sin, not annihilation of creation.
- **Gospel of the church vs. Gospel of the Kingdom:** Many Christians hold a church-centric gospel; Peter urged a kingdom-centric one — embodied, demonstrated, not merely proclaimed in words.

Three Preaching Points

- **God's Priority:** God loves the world (John 3:16) and has not forsaken it; believers must share that love rather than give up on the world.
- **God's Program:** God's timing differs from human expectation; end-time speculation has repeatedly proven premature throughout history (e.g., Nazi era); the call is to *live* the kingdom daily, not fixate on eschatological timelines.
- **God's Purpose:** The kingdom comes *to earth* — manifest in people, communities, and society — not as a distant heavenly reward.

Personal Testimony: New Zealand Mission (1977–1978)

- Peter and Linda arrived in Auckland on **11 November 1977** with three children (all under five), sent out in faith by their Bristol church with no pre-arranged contacts.
- Providential chain of events: hotel newspaper ad → Mount Eden house rental → Citroen car loan → Waiwera holiday stay — all unplanned.
- At **Valley Road Baptist Church**, Peter's connection to mentor **Arthur Wallace** was recognized by pastor David Jacobson and elder Blythe Harper, establishing a spiritual home; Peter later led that church.
- Relocated to **Wellington** after a conference at Patoni Baptist Church; hosted by **Hudson Salisbury**, a former Brethren elder, whose small home group became the base for nine months of significant ministry.
- Returned to New Zealand for a **four-day Kingdom of God conference** at Valley Road Baptist Church, delivering four messages: gospel, parables, signs, and consummation of the kingdom — described as the finest series of ministry Peter had done.

Illustrative Example: Stormzy at Glastonbury 2019

- Peter recounted watching **Stormzy's headline set at Glastonbury 2019** (audience: ~300,000) in which Stormzy shifted mid-performance to gospel worship with a choir, ending on his knees in tears.
- Used as a live example of God injecting the kingdom gospel into unexpected, secular spaces — reinforcing that the kingdom is not confined to church settings.

Call to Action for the Congregation

- Urged the Cyprus church to have the **Gospel of the Kingdom written into its DNA** — a passion for the broken, lost, and unreached.
- Signaled intent to continue the series: parables of the kingdom, signs of the kingdom, and consummation of the kingdom in future sessions.



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