



### **Part 3: TO SET UP HIS KINGDOM**

You do not understand Christ till you understand his cross.

-- PT Forsyth, *The Cruciality of the Cross*

The gospel is to declare something about a Person, about God in his revelation in Jesus Christ and about what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

-- Scott McKnight, *The King Jesus Gospel*

The concept of the kingdom of God is an important teaching found in all of Scripture.

-- Stephen Um, in *The Gospel as Center*

Kingdom and cross belong exactly and profoundly together.

-- N.T. Wright, *How God Became King*

Through Calvary, we can understand Jesus to be waging war against the powers and exposing the systemic evil that fuels religious legalism and oppression. He was conquering evil with love while giving his followers an example to follow. This is what the reign of God looks like.

-- Gregory A. Boyd, *The Nature of the Atonement*

We must go beyond only trusting Jesus as a guilt remover. Gospels of sin Management presume a Christ with no serious work other than redeeming humankind, and they foster "vampire Christians," who only want a little blood for their sins but nothing more to do with Jesus until heaven.

-- Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

The best hypothesis is that all four gospel writers believed that with his crucifixion Jesus of Nazareth had indeed been enthroned, however paradoxically, as Israel's Messiah and that, with that event, Israel's God had established his kingdom on earth as in heaven.

-- N.T. Wright, *How God Became King*

**Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."**

**Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."**

-- The Gospel of John