



The Greatness of the Kingdom: An Inductive Study of the Kingdom of God

Alva J. McClain

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This classic, penetrating analysis of the Kingdom of God as taught in both the Old and New Testaments has been republished in a handsome hardback dust jacket edition. This masterwork was written by the founding president of Grace Theological Seminary, who was a member of the Scofield Reference Bible Revision Committee and a charter member of the Evangelical Theological Society.

The Greatness of the Kingdom: An Inductive Study of the Kingdom of God Details

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Sonny says

This classic work on the Kingdom of God by Alva McClain, the founding president of Grace Theological Seminary, was recommended to me by a friend who is a retired chaplain and instructor at a local Bible college. McClain provides a powerful analysis of the Kingdom of God as taught in both the Old and New Testaments, while building a compelling exegetical argument for a premillennial understanding of the Kingdom of God. McClain addresses the paradoxes related to the kingdom, including the “already” and “not yet” aspects of the kingdom. In the book, he distinguishes between the “universal” kingdom of God and the “mediatorial” kingdom of God. The focus of the book is on the mediatorial kingdom. McClain carefully constructs a plausible theology of the kingdom that takes into account all of the available biblical data about the kingdom. While I may not accept everything he contends, I would agree with others that there is no more valuable book addressing the Kingdom of God from a dispensational point of view.

Bud Hewlett says

Sometimes I fantasize about what books I would take if I knew I were to be marooned on a desert island. What would be my top 5 or 10 or 20 etc. This book and Language In Thought and Action would both be in my top 5. It's the most important Christian book in my library next to my Bible. Many may disagree with it's dispensational point of view, but for me it made the entire Bible come together

Bobby says

Like drinking from a fire hose. So much information but an excellent read.

Jeff says

Best book ever. Unifies the entire Bible into a seamless plan orchestrated by the King of kings. It is easily the most important book about the Bible I have ever read and, despite its length, deserves multiple readings as well as time for reflection on the implications presented. It is thorough, but everything is important. There is no fluff. I had to keep my Bible close by when I read this book in order to look up many of the passages referenced. If I had one book to recommend to any student of the Bible, this is it.

Marshall Walter says

Very, very enjoyable! It's wonderful to read a book and have it affect the way you go back and read Scripture. This is an excellent work that is standing the test of time and provides great insight into Biblical theology. I'm eager to read this one again and hope that I actually own a copy the next time around so I don't

have to borrow one!

David says

A well thought out classic on pre-millennialism. Get it and read it!

Rick Shrader says

During my seminary years (1972-1975) I was assigned this book as the text for a class on the Kingdom. I think this one book did more for my understanding of the New Testament, especially the Gospels, than any other book I read during those years. That class on the kingdom was taught by Dr. Rolland McCune who had been a student of McClain's at Grace Theological Seminary. I used this book as a text myself when teaching in Bible College and have continued to recommend it to anyone looking for a definitive word on the subject of the kingdom. I have recently reread the book and was blessed and encouraged to report on it again.

Alva J. McClain (1888-1968) was the son of Walter Scott McClain who was part of the old division in the Brethren movement (1882) that formed the Brethren Church. Alva McClain was later part of another split in that movement (1939) which formed the Grace Brethren. McClain and Herman Hoyt had already organized Grace Theological Seminary in 1937 and McClain served as its first president and professor of Christian Theology until his retirement. He received a Th.M degree from Xenia Theological Seminary and honorary doctorates from the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (where he taught for a while) and Bob Jones University. McClain wrote a commentary on Daniel in 1940 and published this volume in 1957.

McClain's proposition is that the kingdom of God and its King are the theme of Scripture. Although acknowledging the truth of a universal kingdom of God which God rules from heaven (thought rarely mentioned in Scripture), McClain championed the idea that the kingdom spoken of in almost every other passage of Scripture refers to a literal earthly kingdom, either the Old Testament kingdom of Israel, the kingdom of God offered to Israel in the gospels, or the future kingdom of God spoken of throughout the remainder of the New Testament. If one would consider this idea of the kingdom first when it is mentioned in these texts, the whole picture of the Bible would become clearer. For McClain, this also solidified his belief in premillennial dispensationalism which it will also do for almost anyone reading the Bible with this straightforward, literal hermeneutic.

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Mike Maticik says

A must read for every teacher. You wish every believer would read it. Not only do you get good theology on the kingdom, but the author teaches excellent principles of interpretation.

I hope to go back to this book often. It is so rich in its depths.

Robert Tingle says

Probably the greatest and most significant work on the nature of the kingdom. Reading this book will help you understand the connection between old and new testaments and will have you walking away with a deep desire for Christ to return! Maranatha, Lord Jesus!

Doug May says

If I had only one book to make a five star this would be it. Alva is my favorite theologian bar none and the Kingdom is a subject that I hungered and thirsted to understand. It was not until I read this book that my thirst was slaked. It is like being caught in a desert and coming accross a true oasis every word drips into the throat like a tantalizing elixer. God is gracious to lead us into His truth so mercifully.

Brad says

Easily the finest book I have ever encountered on the subject. This term "the Kingdom of God" is used in such a sloppy way and it truly cheats the believer out of some of the greatest blessings that we have yet to anticipate. Misquoting Lewis - "Aim at Heaven you get the earth thrown in, but aim at the earth and you get neither." Studying about the Kingdom plan will change the believer's life. Or at least it is changing mine.

Scotkeen says

I read this book several years ago. Up until then, I had a hard time seeing how the Pentateuch related to the Prophets, how the gospels related to the N.T. Epistles, etc. I read this book and typed up a detailed outline of its contents. God used that study to turn the lights on for me and connect many dots that had remained disjointed until then. I was able to morph my study into a module that I still teach. I would definitely recommend this book.

Bob says

This is a must have book, a great read & a great resource. I know of no other work that is as comprehensive as this one is on the subject of the Kingdom of God & its meaning.

The first half of the book deals with the kingdom in the Old Testament. The author asserts that there is a universal kingdom where God rules over everyone, & there is a mediatorial kingdom, experienced either in the form of the Old Testament Israelite Theocracy, or in the life of the individual believer. He points out that even though we are experiencing some of the benefits of kingdom life on earth if we are Christians, we still need to look forward to the day when God installs Christ as head of the future 1000 year messianic kingdom on earth so that God's rule may be experienced by one & all (at least those who survive the judgment at the

second coming of Christ).

Anyone reading this book in its entirety will gain a full understanding of why God's glorious Kingdom is to be anticipated with great expectation.

I believe that the author's hermeneutic is consistent, consistent from Genesis through Revelation and is applied consistently as he discusses the Kingdom of God throughout this unique & valuable work.
