

The Enemy and the Kingdom

Matthew 13:1-30; 36-43

What is “the Kingdom”?

It is a time period

on the earth

characterized by

-Righteousness (Habakkuk 2:14)

-Resurrection (Daniel 12:1)

-Davidic King (Psalm 2:6-8)

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John had been taken into custody,
Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel
of God,
And saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the
kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe
in the gospel.”

“the field is the world”

Matthew 13:38

What is the punishment for heresy?

In Old Testament Israel

(Deuteronomy 13)

Death!

In the Millennial Kingdom

(Zechariah 13:1-6)

Death!

Religion in the U.S. 2007

- 26.3% Protestant Evangelical
- 25.0% Protestant Non-Evangelical
- 23.9% Roman Catholic
- 1.7% Mormon
- 0.7% Jehovah's Witness
- 0.6% Orthodox
- 1.7% Jewish
- 0.7% Bhuddist
- 0.6% Muslim
- 0.4% Hindu
- 1.6% Atheist
- 2.4% Agnostic
- 12.1% Nothing in Particular

Augustine

We see many who have renounced their former blindness; how could I begrudge them their salvation by dissuading my colleagues from exercising their fatherly care, by which this has been brought about?

—Letter 93

Thomas Aquinas

After the first and second admonition as the Apostle directs, if [the heretic] still remains stubborn, the church, despairing of his conversion, provides for the salvation of others by separating him from the church by the sentence of excommunication and then leaves him to the secular judge to be exterminated from the world by death.

—Summa Theologica, IIa IIae, Question 11, Article 3

Martin Luther

“We are at fault in not slaying them.”

—The Jews and Their Lies, (1543) Luther’s
Works, Volume 47, p. 267

Martin Luther

I shall give you my sincere advice. . . .to set fire to their synagogues or schools. . . .I advise that their houses also be razed and destroyed. . . .I advise that all their prayer books and Talmudic writings. . .be taken from them. . . .I advise that their rabbis be forbidden to teach henceforth on pain of loss of life and limb. . . .I advise that safe-conduct on the highways be abolished completely for the Jews. . . .

Martin Luther

*. . .I advise that usury be prohibited to them, and that all cash and treasure of silver and gold be taken from them and put aside for safekeeping. . .
.I recommend putting a flail, an ax, a hoe, a spade, a distaff, or a spindle into the hands of young, strong Jews and Jewesses and letting them earn their bread in the sweat of their brow as was imposed on the children of Adam.*

—Ibid., 268-272

Westminster Confession of Faith (1647)

[The civil magistrate] hath authority, and it is his duty, to take order, that unity and peace be preserved in the Church, that the truth of God be kept pure and entire; that all blasphemies and heresies be suppressed; all corruptions and abuses in worship and discipline prevented or reformed; and all the ordinances of God duly settled, administered, and observed. For the better effecting whereof, he hath power to call synods, to be present at them, and to provide that whatsoever is transacted in them be according to the mind of God.

—Chapter 23, Article 3

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (1791)

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.