



An Invitation to Rest

Matthew 13:31-32 (NIV): “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

Matthew 13:31 (NIV): 31 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven

Kingdom of heaven = heaven's King taking charge of earth—here and now, not humans escaping earth for heaven.

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Ezekiel 31:1-8 English Standard Version: 31 ... the word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his multitude: “Whom are you like in your greatness? 3 Behold, Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon, with beautiful branches and forest shade, and of towering height, its top among the clouds. 6 All the birds of the heavens made their nests in its boughs...and under its shadow lived all great nations. 8 The cedars in the garden of God could not rival it,...no tree in the garden of God was its equal in beauty. 10 “Therefore thus says the Lord God: Because it towered high and set its top among the clouds, and its heart was proud of its height, ... 12 Foreigners, the most ruthless of nations, have cut it down and left it. On the mountains and in all the valleys its branches have fallen, and its boughs have been broken ... and all the peoples of the earth have gone away from its shadow and left it.

Daniel 4:20-23 NIV: 20 The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, 21 with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the wild animals, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds— 22 Your Majesty, you are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth. 23 “Your Majesty saw a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Cut down the tree’...”

Ezekiel 17:23 (NIV): “Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches.”

Matthew 4:17: “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Acts 5:38-39, “If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. 39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!”

Philippians 1:6 “God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed.”

When we abide — when we rest in what God is already doing — we're freed.

Psalms 46: 1 God is your refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. 7 The Lord Almighty is with you; 9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. 10 He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;