

**THE TEACHING OF JESUS
CONCERNING
THE KINGDOM OF
GOD AND THE CHURCH**

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The teaching of Jesus concerning the kingdom of God and the church by Geerhardus Vos

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GEERHARDUS VOS

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THE KINGDOM OF
GOD AND THE CHURCH**

THE ^WTEACHINGS OF JESUS

CONCERNING

HIS OWN MISSION.	Frank H. Foster.	<i>Ready.</i>
THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE CHURCH.	Geerhardus Vos.	<i>Ready.</i>
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THE TEACHING OF JESUS

CONCERNING

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

AND THE CHURCH

By
Geerhardus Vos, Ph. D., D. D.

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CHAPTER I

Introductory

IN the body of our Lord's teaching as recorded in the Gospels the references to the kingdom of God occupy a prominent place. According to the common testimony of the Synoptical Gospels Jesus opened his public ministry in Galilee with the announcement, that the kingdom was at hand, Matt. iv. 17; Mk. i. 15; Lk. iv. 43. In the last mentioned passage he even declares that the main purpose of his mission consists in the preaching of the good tidings of the kingdom of God. And not only does

2 *The Kingdom and the Church*

the conception thus stand significantly at the beginning of our Lord's work, it reappears at the culminating points of his teaching, as in the beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount and in the kingdom-parables. Its importance will best be felt by considering that the coming of the kingdom is the great event which Jesus connects with his appearance and activity, and that consequently in his teaching, which was so closely dependent on his working, this event must also have a corresponding prominence.

If this be true from Jesus' own standpoint, it is no less true from the standpoint of his disciples. In their life likewise the kingdom of God forms the supreme object of pursuit, and therefore of necessity the theme about which before all other things they need careful instruction. Again, the work of those whom Jesus trained as his special helpers in preaching related chiefly to this same subject, for he speaks of