Thy Kingdom Come: The Church and the Kingdom of God in Loisy’s L’Évangile et l’Église.

Jeffrey Morrow, Seton Hall University

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/jeffrey-morrow/112/
Thy Kingdom Come: The Church and the Kingdom of God in Loisy’s L’Évangile et l’Église

Jeffrey L Morrow
Seton Hall University, USA

Abstract
This article examines Alfred Loisy’s (1857–1940) ecclesiology as evidenced in his famous work L’Évangile et l’Église. Ecclesiological concerns are a generally understudied area of Loisy scholarship, but this article discusses Loisy’s ecclesiological elements with reference to his work on the Bible. In particular, the article looks at how Loisy views the relationship between the kingdom of God and the Church. The article then underscores some ways in which Loisy’s work anticipates the Second Vatican Council.

Keywords
Alfred Loisy, criticism, ecclesiology, historical biblical, Roman Catholic modernism

In the first chapter of Lumen Gentium, we read the following: ‘Christ, therefore, in order to fulfill the will of the Father, inaugurated the kingdom of heaven on earth and revealed to us its mystery … The Church, as the kingdom of Christ already present in mystery, by the power of God in the world, visibly grows’ (no. 3). For much of Christian history, the kingdom of God was viewed as present now, but not yet present in its fullness, which awaits the eschaton. Nunc et tunc: now and then, at that time. Certainly one aspect of Loisy’s L’Évangile et l’Église which is difficult to miss is the eschatological character of the kingdom of God. Loisy famously wrote, in what many have taken to be an apparent judgment against the Church, ‘Jesus announced the kingdom, and it is the Church that came’. Even Joseph Ratzinger noted that Loisy’s intent, in context, was not to create so wide a gap between the kingdom and the Church that the two have no relation to one

Corresponding author:
Jeffrey L Morrow, Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Ave., South Orange, NJ 07079, USA.
Email: jeffrey.morrow@shu.edu