

The Kingdom: God's Top Priority

Lesson 3 Past Present Future

Review: God created us in His own image as His royal sons and daughters, and designed us to rule the earthly realm as He ruled the heavenly realm. Our sin (Adam's) evicted us from the place we were destined to fill, and for millennia we have been like the prodigal son of Luke 15:11-32, living in the pigpen and feeding on the same corn husks that the pigs eat. We have been out of touch with "home" for so long that we have lost sight, not only of our identity, but also of our destiny.

Jesus came to lead us to: (1) rediscover our identity and destiny (2) to reposition us in right standing as royal sons and daughters (3) to retrain us in how to reclaim and live in them as Kingdom Sons of God.

The Kingdom of God is the domain of God's rule.

To fully understand the Kingdom of God as it exists today, we must look at it in 3 dimensions. What it was, what is, and what it will be.

3 Phases of the Kingdom

The First Kingdom manifested in Eden.

The Present Kingdom is being Re-established on the Earth.

The Final Kingdom will be enjoyed for Eternity.

Three Phases of the Kingdom

1) The First Kingdom manifested in Eden. PAST

This dimension of Kingdom includes the invisible kingdom before creation and the manifestation of that kingdom seen in the garden of Eden. This was the Kingdom of God uninhibited by sin.

- a) Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth".
The very first sentence in the Bible is a heading should be seen as an independent statement to the creation account that follows
 - i) The Heavens: According to Genesis 1:1 at some point in God's eternal schedule, God first created a spacious and spectacular spiritual realm which is called the heavens. Then He filled that heavenly kingdom with glorious angelic beings which exist to serve and worship Him.
 - ii) The Earth: Secondly He created the earth and everything that exists Gen. 1:2,3 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **3** And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Understand this: the physical world that God created would be the environment in which his eternal purposes to be manifested.

- iii) Man: Then God created man/ Adam in His own image because God sovereignly chose to extend His heavenly kingdom on earth through mankind.

Man's great privilege: being made in God's image.

Its found in Gen. 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

- (1) Only man was created in God's image.
- (2) It was man who was given the divine delegation of management and rulership over all creation.
- (3) It is Man that would be God's representatives and agents whereby He would release, establish, and implement His invisible Kingdom into the visible, natural world.

Gen. 1:28 God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

b) God created a garden and gave man his privileged job

Gen. 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

Gen. 2:8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Gen. 2:15 Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. (GNT)

- i) This garden was not your grandpa's garden filled with weeds, worms, and worries! I am convinced this garden was a glorious vision of the highest and most exquisite vision of life. It was uncontaminated by sin, surely it demonstrated with splendor and glory of God.
- ii) Adam (and Eve): were told to cultivate it and guard it! Grow it and Keep it. Manage it and Rule it!

They fell to Lucifer's scheme. And, so those who were created to rule, became the ruled

Why didn't God prevent that from happening?

c) The Law of Divine Delegation.

- i) The Law of Divine Delegation is summarized in two points.
 - (1) It was God's intention that we that we have dominion over the earth as managers, rulers, leaders, and stewards.
 - (2) Our authority in this realm is so complete that God Himself will not violate it. And, God could not violate his Holy Nature, therefore man's status with God changed due to sin.

In biblical culture on many occasions we find that when an earthly king makes a declaration or an edict, his words become law and it cannot be reversed. Even he (the king) must submit to the authority of those words even if it brings with it hurtful consequences.

So just like an earthly king, the word of the King of the Universe is law and cannot change.

- ii) God the King of the Heavens and the Earth, has made man his legal agency and access to earth.

God has chosen to limit His activity or intervention on the earth to that which we, the proprietors, give Him permission to do. The way we release God's intervention is through prayer.

Look at these Two Very Important Words.

Gen. 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And **let them** have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens...

"Let Them"

By these words God established a law which gives only to mankind the legal authority to exercise dominion and control over earth. His integrity will not permit Him to violate or break His word; therefore, whatever He speaks becomes a law even unto God.

Example: God told Ezekiel, I looked for a man to stand in the gap, (Eze. 22:30 NIV).

- 2) The Present Kingdom is being Re-established on the Earth.
 - a) The manifestation of God's Kingdom on earth today is tethered direction to our identity and authority. This why Jesus came to redeem us from our fallen dominion and restore us from our lost child status and bring us back into our legal son-ship and inheritance.
 - b) The all important prefix "re"
 - i) Many teachers and theologians point out that this little two-letter prefix is one of the most important prefixes in the scriptures. The prefix "re-" means to "do again" or to "go back to the original state." Whenever we "re-" something, we are moving backward and we get a chance to do it again.
 - ii) Nearly every word used in the Bible to describe God's program for mankind begins with this prefix. Here are a few of them: reveal, redeem, revive, restore, repent, reconcile, resurrection, renew, reward. All these words relate in one way or another to God's plan for our salvation and destiny.
 - c) The Kingdom was the Mission of Jesus SLIDE
 - i) Jesus came to *reintroduce* the Kingdom of God to us.
 - ii) Jesus came to *restore* the righteousness of God in us (2 Cor 5.21).
 - iii) Jesus came to *reinstate* Identity and Kingdom Authority in us (Heb. 2)

- iv) Jesus came to *return* the Holy Spirit to us (Luke 24:49)
 - v) Jesus came to *retrain* us for Kingdom Leadership.
- d) The Kingdom is the focus on the Holy Spirit.

It is the Spirit of God that is restoring the Kingdom by establishing his redeemed lost kids to their rightful Identity and Authority through our Son-ship.

i) Sons can change the world, slaves cannot do anything! (Alan Vincent)

ii) Romans 8:15-17 NIV

(1) **15** The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "*Abba*, Father."

(2) **16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

(3) **17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...

iii) We are Heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

The degree to which we enjoy our Kingdom citizenship depends upon the degree of our willingness to be bold and claim what is rightfully ours. All that Jesus has restored to us through His death and resurrection.

(1) These verses speak to our Identity in God and Authority on the earth.

We delight in the revelation of him as Savior and Lord but have we come into the full revelation of our identity with him in the FAMILY!

(2) He is your Big Brother! (this is not disrespectful, this is identity!)

(3) We were made in the His image. Lost our identity through sin. But now through Jesus we are re-deemed and re-stored to the royal family of God.

(a) He calls us brothers! Hebrews 2:10,11 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. **11** For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers.

(b) Christ Jesus is proud that our identity is not in our past slavery to sin but in the present reality of our sonship!

e) One of the things the Holy Spirit teaches us is how to stand in authority as true sons and daughters of God no matter what troubles or difficulties come into our lives.

- i) As royal children of our heavenly Father, we can take charge of our circumstances, rather than being a slave to them.

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

- ii) We can live daily in power and victory, rather than in weakness and defeat. All it takes is training, and the Holy Spirit is our Teacher.

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God...”

The good news is that in Christ, we are sons and citizens of the Kingdom of heaven, and all the resources of that Kingdom are available to us to help us live in victory on a daily basis in the here and now!

3) The Final Kingdom will enjoyed for Eternity. FUTURE

- a) The full Kingdom is our Inheritance. We are able to enjoy most now, but there is more waiting of us.

Jesus is explaining to his followers how this age shall end.

Matthew 25:34 Then **the King** will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Context:

Matthew 25:31-34 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. **32** Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

- b) **There is coming a day when THE KING will gather his Sheep and he will say to them,** Come, you who are blessed by my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world.