



Sunday October 04, 2009
The Kingdom of God
Part 1 : Introduction

There are about 150 verses in the New Testament that talk about the kingdom

kingdom Greek = bas-il-i'-ah = royalty, that is rule, a realm of the kingdom, a realm of God's reign. The King's domain. The realm of the King's rule.

In the New Testament, we have the phrase "Kingdom of God" and the "Kingdom of Heaven". We understand these to be synonymous, and can be used interchangeably. The Kingdom of God is speaking with reference to "who" the Kingdom belongs to. The Kingdom of Heaven is speaking with reference to "where" the Kingdom originates, i.e. heaven or the spiritual realm.

A KINGDOM PREPARED

Matthew 25:34

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

"...from the foundation of the world"

The phrase from or before "the foundation of the world" appears about 10 times in the NT.

It indicates some thing designed for the saints, and they for it, before time began, from all eternity, before the work of creation commenced.

This was already God's intention in eternity, which was then followed by His execution in time. This describes a purpose that has been eternal in the mind of God.

It was not an "afterthought." It was not commenced in time. The purpose was far back in the ages of eternity.

"the foundation of the world" means the beginning of the world; the beginning of history, etc.

"...the kingdom prepared for you..."

God, even before the foundation of the world, intended to have a kingdom (a realm under His rule) of people who would inherit that kingdom.

inherit = to be an heir

being an heir of the kingdom is different from being a subject in the kingdom.

God's intent was to have a kingdom of people who would be "heirs" of the kingdom and not mere "subjects" in the kingdom.

THE KINGDOM INTRODUCED

In Genesis, God began to execute that which He had designed and intended, which is to have a kingdom of heirs...a kingdom of kings.



Genesis 1:27, 28

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

As God went about executing His intent to have a kingdom of heirs, He placed **them** (i.e. man and woman) to have dominion (lordship) over the earth.

However this process was temporarily interrupted with the Fall of man. Two important things in this context (not considering other important consequences of the Fall) took place:

- 1, lordship over this planet went temporarily in the hands of the devil
- 2, man's concept (understanding, perception) of being an "heir of the kingdom" was totally marred coming under severe oppression of the devil.

So God went about the plan of redemption (which He also fore-knew), that would eventually lead right in to the plan of establishing a kingdom of heirs.

In redemption (among other things), He recovers lordship of this planet and also rebuilds the redeemed-man's concept of being an "heir of the kingdom".

THE KINGDOM RE-INTRODUCED

John the Baptist was the first person who began announcing the arrival of the Kingdom:
Matthew 3:2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Jesus began His ministry by proclaiming the arrival of the Kingdom:
Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus went about announcing the good news of the Kingdom:
Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

From the time of John the Baptist the kingdom of God began to make its entrance in to the earth.

The King of the Kingdom, stepped in to recover the people He intended to be heirs of the Kingdom, and usher in the Kingdom over the earth, where He intended to have His Kingdom executed by the heirs of the Kingdom.

THE SPIRITUAL AND NATURAL KINGDOM

There is the spiritual dimension of the Kingdom – which has to do with the King's domain being established in the hearts and lives of people. From here, the Kingdom begins to pervade or affect everything around.

There is the natural dimension of the Kingdom – which is the literal government of the Kingdom that will be established when Jesus rules the earth, out of Jerusalem in the Millennium. The government of the Kingdom will be administered by the saints – the heirs of the Kingdom.



BORN IN TO THE KINGDOM

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

See = meaning partake or be a part of
Being born again, ushers us in to the Kingdom of God.
We are now heirs of the Kingdom.

We are in His Kingdom and His Kingdom is in us.

Colossians 1:13,14

**13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**

In fact we are brought out from the dominion of darkness and ushered in to the kingdom.

Matthew 13:36-40

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

The Son of Man, Jesus, has purposely sowed us, the sons of the kingdom, in to the world. In this world, there are the sons of the Kingdom and the sons of the wicked one.

Obviously He "sowed" us in to this world with a purpose. A purpose that has to do with us being "sons of the Kingdom" – having to do with the Kingdom of God being released on the earth.

OPERATING FROM A "KINGDOM OF GOD" PERSPECTIVE

As we progress in this study of the Kingdom of God, one of the things we desire to see happen in all of our lives is that all of us being to live and operate out of a "Kingdom of God" perspective – because this was God's original intent. His intent was for us to inherit a Kingdom prepared for us here on earth.

Perceive everything you do as an extension of the King's domain here on earth – His rule being released in you and through you.

SALVATION CALL

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

1, (with the limited ground we have covered so far please answer) How would a "Kingdom of God" perspective of things affect/alter/influence the way we live and operate?



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>