

HIS PLANS YOUR PURPOSE

LESSON 2 The Kingdom Is His Plan

REVIEW

First lesson we revealed how God created the earth to be filled with his glory.

We defined glory as the appearance that would attract attention and bring recognition of who he was

He initially established this in Adam

He was created in God's image & given dominion or reign over creation

Adam sinned - missed the mark of the glory of God and this was passed on to all mankind

So God implements a plan to restore dominion or authority on the earth - known as the kingdom.

INTRODUCTION

Luke 11:1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. KJV

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Part of his instruction was to pray for the kingdom of God - That it would come

- That as, his will was done in this heavenly kingdom
- So that it would be done down here on earth

- Word for “come” in greek is a verb (means an action)
- it is used in a manner that speaks of an action that is currently happening, but not completed yet
 - Jesus response was to pray that the kingdom would continue
 - Something that was currently happening would continue
 - He was not telling them to pray for some future event,
 - but that something that was going on right now!

Questions to consider

What is the significance of this statement concerning his kingdom?

Has his kingdom manifested itself here? Can it?

KINGDOM DEFINED

OT word for kingdom - *mamlakah* = kingdom, dominion, reign, sovereignty

NT word for kingdom - *basileia* = royal power, kingship, dominion, rule

- not to be confused with an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom

From both these words we can grasp that kingdom is dominion or reign, not necessarily a physical or specific location.

PROPHECY OF THE KINGDOM

Daniel prophesied much about the kingdom

- *Dan 4:3 How great [are] his signs! and how mighty [are] his wonders! his kingdom [is] an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion [is] from generation to generation.*

- Dan 7:14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed.
- Dan 7: 18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.
- 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. ...
- 27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom [is] an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

New Testament & Kingdom

- Jesus Preached the good news of Kingdom, demonstrated it by healing - Mt 4:23
- “translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” - Col 1:13
- We have been called into His kingdom - 1 Thess 2:12
- We are to seek first the kingdom - Lk 12:31
- It is his good pleasure to give us the Kingdom - Lk 12:32
- We are presently receiving a kingdom - Heb 12:28

Jesus First Message

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” Mat 4:17

- Jesus Ministry began in Galilee
- After his period of temptation in wilderness
- He came out with a power
- Began to preach Kingdom of God
- And how to enter it

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Mk 1:15 ESV

- "the time is fulfilled" original language is one word - karios
- it means; "a fixed and definite time, the time when things are brought to crisis, the decisive epoch waited for”

Jesus was stating:

- The fixed and appointed, definite time has arrived!
- the dominion, rule power of God is here!
- the specific time for Kingdom manifestation was now!

The implication of this statement is that there was a timeline of Kingdom manifestation and its appearance was the good news, or the Gospel.

Jesus came to earth bring kingdom or authority and dominion of God to men

- Still his desire to day that all would enter his kingdom
- This evidenced by Lord's prayer & instances he instructed followers to preach the kingdom
 - list texts
 - Lk 4:43 And he said unto them, **I must preach the kingdom of God** to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.

- Lk 6:20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed [be ye] poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.
- Lk 8: 1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve [were] with him,
- Lk 9:2, 11 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. ... 11 And the people, when they knew [it], followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

In last lesson, we made the association that when Adam was given dominion and told to rule over creation, God was establishing the kingdom or reign, power or rule.

After he lost this, God's plan was to restore the Kingdom
Or restore dominion, reign or rule

Examine how God worked to establish dominion, authority

Jesus statement in Mark - the time

... "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mar 1:15 ESV)

Show the The Kingdom Is His Plan!

REVELATION OF THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom theme can be traced through the word of God

- From the creation story of Genesis to the book of Revelation.
- The Kingdom was not intended as a one-time event or just an Old Testament governmental structure
- it has been in the mind of God for eternity.

The psalmist tells us: "Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations" (Psalms 145:13).

Daniel stated to King Nebuchadnezzar that God's Kingdom was "an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation" (Daniel 4:3).

Regarding Jesus, the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary stating that God would give to him David's throne and "he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:32-33).

- Not only is His kingdom an everlasting one, but also the saints are to have an active part in its manifestation.
- Ps 145:10 All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. 11 They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; 12 To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. KJV
- Daniel weighs in again prophetically and tells us that the saints will take the Kingdom and possess it "for ever, even for ever and ever" (Daniel 7:18).
- will cover more of the saints involvement in last lesson

The Kingdom Established

From the first verses of Genesis, we see God's plan unfold. Understanding that the Kingdom is where the reign, domain or dominion of God exists, gives us the context to view its establishment in the creation process.

Gen 1:26, 28 ESV 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." ... 28 And 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."

God created Adam in a special way for a unique purpose
What set Adam apart from the rest of creation was being in the image and likeness of God
With this distinction, he was given rule or dominion over creation
Through Adam, God planned to manifest himself

With Adam's sin, he lost the image of God and the dominion, rule or Kingdom.

The Kingdom In Israel

God's next manifestation of His kingdom (rule, reign) was to be the Nation of Israel.

After delivering them from Egypt, through Moses God reveals his purpose for them:
"And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation" (Exodus 19:6).

It was God's intent that Israel would be His instruments on earth to demonstrate His reign.
It was this Kingdom (dominion/reign) that would be the method of revelation to the nations of God's identity.

Unfortunately, like Adam, Israel did not provide the best stewards of the Kingdom.

Jesus Ushered In The Kingdom

Jesus steps on the scene as the ultimate manifestation of God and his rule

Jesus came preaching and teaching the Kingdom
He demonstrated the power of the Kingdom
Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people" (Matthew 4:23).

His miraculous demonstration was to prove something greater than the religious system of the Jews.
"if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you" (Matthew 12:28).
Declaration that the miracles performed were proof of the Kingdom.

Much of his teaching was about the Kingdom
Parables of Matthew 13: Seed, leaven, treasure

The Kingdom and His Church

- Again, Israel did not grasp the significance of their purpose as God's kingdom people.
- Their crucifixion of Jesus resulted in the Kingdom demonstration being transferred to a new nation or people group
- the New Testament church.

Jesus used the Parable of the Tenants (*Matthew 21:33-42*) to illustrate Israel's rejection of himself and the Kingdom, followed by a prophetic statement:

"The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof" (*Matthew 21:42*).

Peter Discusses the church and the Kingdom

- *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"* (*1 Peter 2:9 ESV*).
- In this text, the word "royal" is *basileios* and means "royal, kingly or regal" (Thayer's).
- So it could be stated we are a kingly priesthood, obviously then, we must be associated with a kingdom.

- Note similarities in verbiage used by Peter and God's calling of Israel in Exodus 19:5-6 when he called them to Kingdom manifestation.
- both were called to be His kingdom representatives.

It is now God's intent that through Jesus Christ, the church is the vehicle of Kingdom demonstration.

- *1Th 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.*
- *Luk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*
- *Heb 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:*

Church Today

- Church = the corporate spiritual body, established by the Gospel of the Kingdom
- It is how the good news of the Kingdom is to be extended
- Those born again should provide a scale model of life in the kingdom of God – kingdom lifestyle.
- Church should operate by Kingdom patterns and principles, demonstrating the truth and power of our King and his kingdom.
- It is now God's intent that through Jesus Christ, the church is the vehicle of Kingdom demonstration.
- As born again believers, we are the representatives of the King and His kingdom.

Next lesson demonstrate how Jesus restores believers back to the place of Adam - as the image and representatives of God.

This places us in the position to demonstrate the power of the Kingdom.