

Online Grace Bible School

With

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**Online Grace Bible School
Phase 6
The Kingdom Of God**

1) What is the Kingdom?

- ✓ There is a divine climax and glorious future for earth and the human race. It is the kingdom of God.
- ✓ 'Kingdom' is mentioned approximately 160 times in the New Testament (grace' approx. 128 times).
- ✓ Some confuse the kingdom with heaven and then teach we can lose our salvation based on these verses, 1 Cor.6:9-10; Gal.5:19-21; Eph.5:3-7.

What is the Kingdom?

- ✓ The kingdom of God is **not** heaven or salvation.
- ✓ It is **not** a place or physical realm. *'Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you' (Luke 17:20-21).*
- ✓ It is **not** a people, e.g. the Church.
- ✓ When the Bible refers to God's kingdom it always refers to His reign, His rule.
- ✓ The kingdom of God is manifested whenever and wherever God's rule is exercised and submitted to.

This is the meaning of the word in both the Old Testament and the New Testament:

- ✓ In the OT 'kingdom' is the Hebrew word *malkuth*. Example: *'The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all' (Psa.103:19). 'Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations' (Psa. 145:13).*
- ✓ The New Testament Greek word is *basileia*. Example: *'But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you' (Matt 12:28).*

We see 3 distinct terms used to describe life on this planet as far as the rulership is concerned:

- ✓ **The earth** - the whole of creation before the fall was placed under man who was appointed by God to have dominion on His behalf, Gen.1:28.
- ✓ **The world** - referring to the earth and its inhabitants after the fall, now under Satan's control, 1 Jn.5:19.
- ✓ **The kingdom** - When Jesus commenced His ministry He announced the kingdom of God had arrived, Mk.1:15. What does this mean?
 - ✓ 1) He had come to deliver people from Satan's rule and restore them to God by believing the gospel, *'He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love' (Col.1:13).* We entered the kingdom when we were born again, John 3:3-5. Salvation is the entry point of the kingdom. At salvation Jesus delivered us from the rule of Satan and brought us into the rule of God.
 - ✓ 2) He is going to establish His Kingdom over all the earth, Zech.14:9; Zech.9:10; Psa.72:11.
- ✓ Paul spoke of Christ being exalted to reign over all creation, Phil.2:9-11; and of the saints judging the world, 2 Tim.2:11-13. The earth will be full of the knowledge and glory of God, Isa.11:6-9; 65:20-23.
- ✓ This is our inheritance, Acts 26:18.

Note the difference between salvation and the kingdom:

- ✓ God sets salvation before the unsaved. He sets the kingdom before the saved.
- ✓ In salvation we take Jesus to be our Saviour. By living for the kingdom we make Him Lord.
- ✓ Salvation is a gift. The kingdom is a reward.
- ✓ Salvation is by faith. The kingdom is by faithfulness.
- ✓ In salvation we become sons of God. In the kingdom we see we are also heirs of God.
- ✓ Salvation cannot be lost. The kingdom may be forfeited.

Pray for it. *'Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven' (Matt.6:10).*

Preach it. There are 2 advents of Christ. The first provided salvation and the gospel; the second will establish His kingdom. This is the whole counsel of God, Acts 20:24-27.

Seek it. *'Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness' (Matt.6:33).* Judgment Seat of Christ *'...that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer' (2 Thes.1:5).*

2) Being Kingdom-minded

Two kingdoms exist alongside one another. Satan keeps those in his kingdom by deceiving and drawing them away from God. Christ, through the gospel, is reconciling people to God and building them into His kingdom.

- ✓ *'For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you'* (Isa.60:2). Two things will happen as we approach the end of the age according to the Bible: 1) Evil will get worse; 2) God's kingdom will grow until its climactic fulfilment.
- ✓ At His first coming Jesus was put on a cross. At His 2nd coming He will be seated on a throne, Rev.11:15.
- ✓ He desires to share the kingdom with us. He will *'divide the spoil with the strong'* (Isa.53:12).
- ✓ We are destined to reign. E.g. Rev.2:26-27; Rev.3:21.
- ✓ Without the Kingdom, life doesn't make sense, 1 Cor.15:19.
- ✓ We can endure suffering if we know there is vindication, compensation and glorification, Rom.8:18.

- ✓ Jesus and the apostles exhorted us to live for this kingdom and showed us how. Abide in Him and experience His life. As the kingdom is growing so is His life in us.
- ✓ Peter also says we have received life through faith in Christ (2 Pet.1:1-4). Now let us grow in grace. *'But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love'* (2 Pet.1:5-7). Literally, 'out of your faith...furnish, supply...' Growth is organic.

- ✓ **Virtue** – the proper fulfilment of anything. The proper fulfilment of a human being is to reflect the image of God. For this reason Jesus became a man. He was a man par excellence; a man who fulfilled manhood excellently, reflecting the image of God perfectly.
- ✓ **Knowledge** - practical knowledge that enables us to handle life successfully.
- ✓ **Self-control** – handling pleasures, 1 Cor.9:24-27. We will either control passions or be controlled by them.
- ✓ **Perseverance** – handling pressures. The ability to cope with trying circumstances and trying people. *Hupomone* Heb.12:2.
- ✓ **Godliness** – i.e. holiness.
- ✓ **Brotherly kindness** – love for the brethren, Gal.6:10. To bear one another's burdens.
- ✓ **Love** – the climax, Col.3:14. A desire for the highest good of others that manifests itself in sacrificial action, Jn.3:16; 1 Jn.3:16. Christianity always begins with faith and ends with love.

Peter promises five results will occur as we grow in grace:

1 We will never be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (v.8). Kingdom living gives our life meaning for time and eternity. What we do and how we live will not evaporate in time but will bear fruit, even when we are gone, Rev.14:13. All we do in the kingdom will be remembered and rewarded.

2 We will never be short-sighted (v.9). *'For he who lacks these things is short-sighted...'* A person who is short-sighted sees only that which is immediately before him. Spiritually speaking a short-sighted person lives for this world only. But we have a long range vision in a short-term world!

3 We will never be blind (v.9). *'... even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins'*. We won't lose sight of the things God has saved us from by returning to them.

4 We will never stumble (v.10). *'Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble'*. We all fall over from time to time. To stumble, however, is to fall and not get up.

5 We will not be ashamed to meet the Lord (v.11). *'...for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.'* The Lord Himself will welcome us into the kingdom with the words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of your Lord'.

Conclusion: Jesus said to His disciples: *'Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom'* (Lk.12:32). Remember – you can't, but He can. It is all by grace.