

Greater Works Christian Church

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The Kingdom of God, Pt. 1

With all the various governmental systems developed in the earth, only one stands alone and has never failed. That governmental system is called the “Kingdom of God (heaven).” God’s Kingdom has been fully established since the beginning of time, and He has been revealing His Kingdom more and more. As His people we are to know what this Kingdom is, how it operates, our place in it; then we are to live as people of His Kingdom.

Jesus came preaching the Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 4:17

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

In this passage Jesus tells us to, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Repent (Grk. 3340) *metanoeo*

- 1) to change one’s mind, i.e. to repent
- 2) to change one’s mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one’s past sins

Jesus knew that we would need to change the way we thought in order to bring us to the place where we could properly assess the realities of His kingdom. Without first understanding what the Kingdom of heaven is and how we are to respond to this kingdom, we would never be able to fulfill the requirements demanded of this kingdom and its rule.

Our thinking has to change and come into alignment of the King and His kingdom rule.

Rob’s Paraphrase

“Start thinking as they think in heaven, for the power and authority of God’s habitation has come to you.”

Note: God doesn’t want us to wait until we get to heaven to experience heaven. He wants to give us a little heaven on earth.

This study is to help us understand the Kingdom of Heaven (God) and help us to change the way we think in regard to the kingdom of heaven and its King.

Questions and Discussion: Give an example of what someone must change to be Kingdom Minded.

Example: If a doctor says, "You must change your lifestyle if you want to live a long life." The changes made could be, bad diet to a good diet; bad habits to good habits; exercise, etc.

God is a King

Psalm 47:1-9

- 1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
- 2 For the LORD Most High *is* awesome; *He is* a great King over all the earth.
- 3 He will subdue the peoples under us, And the nations under our feet.
- 4 He will choose our inheritance for us, The excellence of Jacob whom He loves. Selah
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
- 7 For God *is* the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding.
- 8 God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.
- 9 The princes of the people have gathered together, The people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth *belong* to God; He is greatly exalted.

This Psalm establishes God as the King of the earth. This always has been and will never change. God, ultimately, is the King and Ruler of this earth.

v.2) "For the LORD Most High *is* awesome; *He is* a great King over all the earth."

v.6) "Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!"

v.7) "For God *is* the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding."

It is clearly established that God is the King of the earth. These three verses clearly show this. Above Him there is no other.

Jesus, the "Express Image" of the Father

Hebrews 1:1-4

- 1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
- 2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
- 3 who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
- 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

This passage speaks about who Jesus is. In these 4 verses we find several things about Jesus.

Jesus:

- *Is a spokesman for the Father*
- *Heir of all things*
- *Made the worlds*
- *Is the brightness of the Father's glory*
- *Is the Express Image of the Father*
- *Upholds everything by the word of His power*
- *He purged our sins*
- *He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High (the Father)*
- *Became much better than the angels*
- *By His inheritance obtained a more excellent name than the angels*

Express Image (5481) *charakter*

1) the instrument used for engraving or carving

2) the mark stamped upon that instrument or wrought out on it

2a) a mark or figure burned in ([Lev 13:28](#)) or stamped on, an impression

2b) the exact expression (the image) of any person or thing, marked likeness, precise reproduction in every respect, i.e facsimile

*2b) shows us that Jesus is the "exact expression" of the Father.

Questions and Discussion: *Is it possible to take the Characteristic of Jesus upon yourself? If yes, why? If no, why?*

When we look at this bullet point list describing Jesus, we also see the Father. This is why Jesus could make this statement:

John 10:30

I and My Father are one.

We clearly find that Father God is the King of the earth, and Jesus is the exact representation of the Father. This would also make Him a King.

Jesus is King

Revelation 17:14

These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful."

Revelation 19:16

And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

1 Timothy 6:15-16

15 which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Jesus being the “Express Image” of the Father automatically makes Him a King. However, Jesus is not only a King by default, but because He inherited “All Authority” because of His faithfulness and obedience (Matthew 28:18).

Questions and Discussion: *Jesus is King. What does this mean? King of what? Who are His subjects? What does King Jesus rule over?*

We are Kings

Revelation 1:4-6

4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

v.5) “from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth”

Jesus is called, “the ruler over the kings of the earth.” This is why He is also called, “the King of kings.” He is the Ruler, or King, over other kings. There is no earthly throne greater than Christ’s throne.

v.6) “and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father”

You and I (those who belong to Jesus) have been made kings on the earth. Jesus Himself has shared what He obtained by way of inheritance with you and I. We have been given authority to rule as kings in the earth, and this authority goes all the way back to the garden.

Dominion

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

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 we can plainly see from this passage, man (each human being) was created to have "dominion" over the earth. We were created to rule as kings.

Dominion (7287) *radah*

1) to rule, have dominion, dominate, tread down

1a) (Qal) to have dominion, rule, subjugate

1b) (Hiphil) to cause to dominate

When Adam fell into sin his ability to rule as God wanted him to, became perverted and twisted, and at least partially under the influence of satan (the deceiver).

Jesus came to purge us of our sins and reconnect us to our true purpose in the earth. We are to be kings ruling in the earth influenced by the Great King- Jesus.

Questions and Discussion: Give some examples of the Dominion of mankind (What do we rule over?). Does our dominion interfere with the dominion of Jesus? If yes, how? If no, why?

Conclusion: In order for us to understand the Kingdom of God (heaven) we must understand that God is a King; Jesus is a King, and we are kings influenced and empowered by God. We are to move and operate in this world as rulers and kings. Our governmental system is to be the Kingdom of Heaven. Every other system will eventually fail, because it is man created, not God created.

1 Samuel 8:7-9

7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.

9 Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."

Questions and Discussion: *In what ways have you rejected the rule of Christ in your life? What in you do to remedy your rebellion towards God?*