

The Kingdom of God Series
Chapter 2A, 2B & 2C: The Kingdom of God Defined

Or... What in God's Earth is the Kingdom of Heaven?

I. Introductory Verses:

(Matthew 6:10) "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven." (Prayer's Goal & Place)
(Mark 1:14-15) Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (NKJV)

(1 Peter 2:5, 9) ... you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁹ But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (Quoted from Exodus 19:5-6: See Below)

(Exodus 19:5-6) Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

II. Today Chapter 2: The Kingdom of God Defined: *or... What in God's Earth is the Kingdom of Heaven?*

Twelve Statements that Define the Kingdom of God (Note: These are a Mosaic - Combine Them All)

1. The Kingdom of God is the Reign, Government, Rulership or Dominion of God. It is the sphere or realm in which His good and perfect will is willingly enacted, not only as in Heaven, but on the Earth Now. God owns and is completely sovereign over all the earth, and therefore, even His enemies do His will. Only recipients of His Reconciling & Empowering Grace are freed to participate in His Redemptive, Restoration Purposes. Thus, experiencing "the obedience of faith / trust" separates religion from reality. (Col. 1:13-14)

2. The Kingdom of God is Both Present & Future. It is not primarily heaven or the age to come, but a breaking into this present evil age w/ the power, order, Spirit & reign of the King now & on the earth. (Explain)

3. God has eternally purposed to express His reign (kingdom) through a nation of people born of One Regal Head in time & space (this present age.) (Chapters 5 & 6) (Ex. 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:5, 9) (Plato vs. Christ)

4. The Bible reveals that His premeditated plan was always that His "special treasure" that is, "the people for His possession" would willingly enter into His death, so that in dying His death they might be reborn of One Regal Head, into His Newness of Resurrected Life, and enter Now into His New Kingdom Creation. In other words, there is no true Kingdom life on the wrong side of our daily crosses. (Gal. 2:20) (Hebrews 13:20; 2 Cor. 4:12; Roms. 6; Etc.) (Foreshadowed by Circumcision, applied by daily Baptism: Explain) (Luke 22:25-26) And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' ²⁶ But *it is* not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. (Kingdom & Cross) (Matt. 23:10-12)

5. God's predestined purpose has always been & remains to produce a kingdom of priest: born of; filled with & extending the manifest presence of His Spirit. Together, they are to be God's Temple, built according to His Pattern & Overflowing w/ His Glory in Demonstrable Ways. (Rom. 14:17) (1 Cor. 12:3) (John 3:8) The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (Matthew 12:27-28)

(Combine Exodus 40:33-38; 2 Chronicles 5:13-14; Hebrews 7:22; 8:6; 12:24; Romans 5:19 w/ Eph. 2:19-22)

The Holy Spirit and You: A Guide to the Spirit Filled Life by Dennis & Rita Bennett

When Heaven Invades Earth: A Practical Guide to A Life Earth by Bill Johnson

6. Ultimately, all of God's actions, movements, works & dealings are designed to produce that nation and work in and through it to subdue the entire earth and Manifest His glory. This involves the reproduction of children born of His Spirit & producing His character, fruit and works. Whenever, God calls an individual it is always for this larger corporate purpose. (Life poured out, expendable; John 15:6, 16; Matt. 4:19; Mk. 1:17)

7. The Triune God predestined & ordained that His Holy Covenant people would always war against opposition. The opponents would include: (1) Satan, his angels and demons; (2) The peoples, nations & rulers of this age who persecute His people; & (3) Ourselves. (Cain vs. Able; Sermon on the Mount; Early Church, Etc.)

8. The Bible is a Book of the Kingdom of God. It contains the history of the Kingdom of God in the earth – past present and future. It contains the laws and covenants of the Kingdom. It contains a history of the covenantal kingdom people. It contains a progressive unveiling of the person of the King, our Lord Jesus Christ. It increasingly brings to light His ways, heart, character and Kingdom purposes through His *ecclesia*.

9. No person can have any ultimate fulfillment, purpose or joy without the illumination of knowing and experiencing the King, that is, the Living Word, who is made manifest through the written word & by aligning one's life, character and purpose with King Jesus's life, character and Kingdom purposes. (John 10:10) All other reasons for living are futile and frustrating; miss the mark (sin) of God's creative purposes in and through His people and produce destruction and death. (Romans 6:23) (Cf. John 7:17 w/ Matthew 23: 37-39)

10. The whole Bible contains a progressive revelation of the Mystery of the Kingdom of God as explained clearly by Jesus, Peter & Paul. (Matt. 13; Mark 4 & Col. 1:25-29) The "Mysteries of the Christ and His Kingdom" are presented clearly, plainly and pervasively throughout every chapter of Scripture, yet in such a way that no one fully grasped their meaning or anticipated their fulfillment, because God had ordained that a veil lies over the minds of the seekers, until it is lifted by the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ; who was obviously always the Point. The Mystery of the Kingdom is Christ and Christ in us manifesting and filling the whole earth with His glory. Thus, we labor until Christ is formed in every man, family, church community and beyond.

11. The Kingdom of God is the Jurisdiction of God. And the People of God are the Agent of the Kingdom. The people of God are therefore supposed to be a nation within the nations with separate and unique priest, government, culture, laws, language, economics, taxes, race, leadership models, philosophy of education, business purposes and ethics and politics, etc. (Matt. 5:13-16 ... "city set on a hill" ... "lampstand")

12. Clarification or Caution: The People of God are a Primary Agent of the Kingdom (See Chapter 8); but are not exactly or completely synonymous with the Kingdom of God in at least two important respects:

- The citizens of the Kingdom never fully experience the kingdom in this life due to sin & finiteness
- The Kingdom and purposes of God are always larger than the people of God. This includes: Using the people of God to bless all of the earth. (Gen. 12:1-3) (*7 Institutions of God's Government*)

The Kingdom of God Series – 15 Titles (Note: May Be Subject to Change)

Chapter 1: The Primacy of the Kingdom of God

Chapter 2: The Kingdom of God Defined ... *or...* What in God's Earth is the Kingdom of Heaven?

Chapter 3: Major Biblical Themes: Creation, Dominion, Covenant, Kingdom, Redemption, Enemies and Christ

Chapter 4: An Introduction to Biblical Imagery (Major Symbols Surveyed)

Chapter 5: A Survey of Kingdom History in the Hebrew Scriptures (Covenant Heads, Types of Christ & More)

Chapter 6: A Survey of Kingdom History in the New Covenant

Chapter 7: Seven Inevitable Institutions of Government (Changing the World via the Plan of Jesus)

Chapter 8: Three Agents of the Kingdom of God

Chapter 9: The Mystery of the Kingdom of God

Chapter 10: The Clash of Kingdoms (Who are the Enemies? The Nature of the Opposition & Their Futility)

Chapter 11: Cross and Kingdom (Who Is the Greatest?)

Chapter 12: Current Concepts that Conceal the Kingdom (Why Has the Kingdom Been Ignored?)

Chapter 13: Seek First the Kingdom (Defense That Generates Offense)

Chapter 14: Our Priorities (Rebuilding Age-Old Foundations; Restoring His Church; Making Disciples)

Chapter 15: The Direction History is Progressing (... All the Earth Will Be Filled With the Glory of the Lord!)
