

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

### Section 1: An Introduction to the Kingdom of God: A Survey of Kingdom Concepts

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

### I. Series Theme Verse: Make Multiple Points Including: What the Kingdom of God is Not & Its Priority

(Matthew 6:10) "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven." (Prayer's Goal & Place)

- A. Not Heaven, Going to Heaven or the Plan of Salvation (The most popular current Christian ideas)
- B. Not the popular notions during the days of the first Advent of Christ (More correct, but incorrect.)

### II. Note: Bulletin Supplement: What Do the Scriptures Say? Sample Scriptures Regarding God's Kingdom

- A. Read "All" Scripture. One Author. 1 central purpose, message & theme (2 Tim. 3:16; Psalm 119:160)
- B. The Primary, Principal and Prevailing Biblical Topic / Motif. (Two in One)
  1. The Kingdom of God: The Central Comprehensive Overriding or Dominant Theme of All Scripture
  2. The Progressive Unveiling of the King of Kings & His Present Comprehensive Yet Expanding Reign

### III. Chapter 2: What in God's Earth is the Kingdom of Heaven? The Kingdom of God Defined: A Collage or Mosaic of 12 Kingdom Defining Statements (Perhaps not presented in the Best Order. Combine then 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 purposes. Thus, experiencing "the obedience of faith / trust" separates religion from reality. (Col. 1:13-14) (Plato vs. Christ)
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 and space (this present age.) (See Covenantal History; Chapter3)
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.' <sup>26</sup> 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." (What can they see through God's Spirit in us?) (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) (Matthew 12:27-28) If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? For this reason they will be your judges. <sup>28</sup> But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
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. (A life poured out, expendable; of no account = His purpose)
7. The Triune God predestined, foreknew & ordained that His Holy Covenant people would always war against opposition. The opponents would include: Satan, his angels and demons & the peoples, nations & rulers of this age who persecute His people. (Cain, Able / Seth, Shem, Abraham, Israel, Sermon on the Mount)

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 of God's creative purposes in & through His people and produce destruction and death. (Romans 6:23) (Combine 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 to reveal Christ; who was obviously always the Point. The Mystery of the Kingdom is Christ and Christ in us. Thus we labor until Christ is formed in every man.

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") (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. <sup>9</sup> 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;

12. Clarification or Caution: The People of God are the 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:

- a. The citizens of the Kingdom never fully experience the kingdom in this life due to sin & finiteness
- b. 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) (*Present Day Examples*)

#### **IV. Preview : Chapters 3 through 5** (Therefore: Review Definitions of the Kingdom from Today)

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#### **What in God's Earth is the Kingdom of Heaven God Series – Section 1: Introduction to the Kingdom - Titles**

Chapter 1: What is the Bible All About? The Primacy of the Kingdom

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

Chapter 3: What Was God's Original Plan? A Covenantal History of the Kingdom in the Hebrew Scriptures

Chapter 4: Is the Kingdom a NT Novelty? A Survey of Sample Old Testament Kingdom Text

Chapter 5: What Do The New Testament Writers Say? A Survey of Sample New Testament Kingdom Text

Chapter 6: How Does God Change the World? Seven Institutions of the Kingdom

Chapter 7: Lord, Will You Restore the Kingdom to Israel? The Mystery of the Kingdom

Chapter 8: How Does the Kingdom Come? Three Agents of the Kingdom

Chapter 9: Who are the Enemies? What Is The Nature of the Opposition? The Clash of Kingdoms

Chapter 10: Who Is the Greatest in the Kingdom? Cross and Kingdom – Inextricably Intertwined

Chapter 11: Why Has the Kingdom Been Ignored? Current Concepts Conceal the Kingdom

Chapter 12: What Should We Do Now? Seek First the Kingdom (Defense That Generates Offense)

Chapter 13: Do We Have Progressive Priorities? Rebuilding Age-Old Foundations. Restoring the Church

Chapter 14: What Direction Is History Moving? ... All the Earth Will Be Filled With the Glory of the Lord

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