

# THE KINGDOM - THE RULE OF GOD

By  
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Some of the recent dealings of the Lord in my heart have been regarding **HIS RULE**, and I am coming to see how very important this is. We so often “Call Him” Lord, but nonetheless we are not truly allowing Him to be Lord in US – in all things: to permit His Sovereign Rule over us in all things. And because of this so few of us are really living in the glorious Relationship that God has brought us into: The Kingdom of Heaven, The Kingdom of God, The Kingdom of His Son. But we must understand “The Kingdom” is not a physical location or a natural thing: it is the Spiritual state by which The Life of God and of Heaven is made accessible to man. And although it is Spiritual and Heavenly we can enjoy “The Kingdom” here on earth. This is the realm of God’s Rule and Eternal Sovereignty, and when we are Born Again – as New Creatures in Christ we come into this Kingdom.

My heart continues to be challenged by the Reality of our Salvation: that it is so much more than simply having our sins forgiven and receiving Eternal Life whereby we

have our Relationship of Oneness with God as our Father. Our Salvation also means we come into His Kingdom, into the realm of His Rule! Whereas before we received Christ we were ruled by the power of sin, darkness and death and we were not capable of getting free from that realm: now in Christ we are in another realm entirely. **Colossians 1:13**, *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”* And the challenge to us is - do we recognize “where” we are? Are we allowing His Rule to define our very existence, and are we appreciating and resting in all that ‘The Kingdom’ means? We must understand this is not something we are waiting for. Jesus is not waiting to become King and take His Throne. He IS King and The Kingdom of God, of Heaven, of The Son is established forever and we now have come into the realm of His Rule. This is not by our good works or righteous living: but this is what HE has done for us!

So I want to look briefly in the Scriptures concerning “The Kingdom”. We must understand in Old Testament times as recorded in the Scripture that “The Kingdom of God” typed by Jerusalem and Israel was a promise of what was to come. They were looking for “The Kingdom to come”. And although Jehovah showed Himself to be the God of Heaven, The Living God whose Kingdom could not be destroyed, and that the Heavens do rule

even over the Kingdoms of men: the full Rule of Heaven was not fully come into the earth. But in the wisdom of God when the fulness of the time came, God would bring the FULL Rule of Heaven into the earth. And when John the Baptist came preaching as the forerunner who would prepare hearts for receiving the Lord, their God; he declared something wonderful. **Matthew 3:2**, “...*the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” And the timing of this is so important. John came declaring that The Messiah, The Lamb of God that was promised had come, and now The Rule of Jesus Christ would bring “The Kingdom of Heaven” into the earth realm. This was “The Kingdom that had been covenanted to the seed of David and described in the Prophets. And now it would come in the very Person of Jesus Christ, The Son of God come to the earth as The Son of Man.

And when Jesus taught in the synagogues of Galilee He preached the “Gospel of The Kingdom”; He preached the good news about The Kingdom of Heaven. (**Matthew 4:23**) But this was not simply by ‘pulpit preaching’ as we do today. **HE** was the declaration, the manifestation of the Good News of The Kingdom of Heaven now come to earth. He healed the sick, delivered the oppressed, and did many miracles showing that with God and under His Rule all things were possible.

And when Jesus chose and sent forth His Disciples,

they were also to declare this. **Luke 10:9**, “*And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. 10 But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, 11 Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.*” They were to go in the authority of The Kingdom of God, declaring that God’s Rule is NOW near them. And the Disciples of Jesus who received power from Him to demonstrate this Kingdom in the earth were first of all themselves to be subject to The Rule of God over them. **Verses 19**, “*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*” Jesus had brought The Kingdom of Heaven into the earth, and it was necessary for those who would walk with the Lord to come totally under The Rule of God. They had to acknowledge and obey whose Kingdom they were in.

This was the overriding aspect of what we call “The Lord’s Prayer” that Jesus taught His Disciples to pray. **Luke 11:2**, “*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.*” This is not just a rote prayer like we use it: but He was showing them their Relationship to God as their Father and what that would mean. First of all they were to acknowledge and honor The Father – who He is and the position of authority He has. And then they were to desire His Rule: that in the same way that He rules in Heaven – over everything – He would now rule in earth. And this would begin **in them**. Jesus wanted them to submit to The Rule of Heaven taking total control over them, and that they would be content with that. AS (to the same degree) Jesus submitted Himself and His will to His Father, to The Heavenly Eternal Plan... this is how we are to submit also. This is ‘letting the kingdom of God come’ - to us and in us. **Romans 14:17**, *“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”*

I want to look at three aspects of “The Kingdom” but it is important to understand that although “The Kingdom of God” is to be made known in the earth, it first must be established in hearts. We too often as well-meaning Christians go around just ‘preaching the Kingdom of God’, but often this is without effect unless The Rule of God is first established in us! **Luke 17:20**, *“And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”* Just like the

Pharisees of His day, people look for an outward display of “The Kingdom of God”, but Jesus said The Rule of God is to be IN YOU, and that begins by accepting and acknowledging God’s King!

When Christ – who IS THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS rules our hearts and minds in all things, then we become the manifestation of God’s Kingdom, of The Rule of Heaven in the earth. Now historically this took place on the day of Pentecost when after Jesus ascended He sent The Holy Ghost to dwell in the hearts of believers. Before this happened the Disciples were looking for a physical Kingdom and God’s Rule in the natural realm. **Acts 1:6**, *“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?”* Jesus speaks to them of what The Father will do – giving them power to become witnesses unto HIM. **Verses 7**, *“And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”* The Holy Ghost would establish The Kingdom of Heaven **in their hearts**, and as they shared The Truth of Jesus now as The Lord and Christ, The Kingdom of God was being established in all the earth.

Now The Spirit of Truth had come and would make known The Truth of The Kingdom in the very Person of The King: The Resurrected and Exalted Son of God who was now seated at the right hand of God. The Spirit in them caused them to know what God had done in Christ, and that His Kingdom had been Eternally established as He had promised. And that same Holy Spirit operates today to cause us to know the greatness of Christ as King, and to bring us to live experientially in the fulness of The Kingdom: the greatness of The Rule of God. And this Reality will change how we live: we are no longer living by ourselves and unto ourselves, but now we live “Kingdom Life” here in the earth.

So the first thing God wants us to know is that “The Kingdom” means **the Presence of The King**. The greatest blessing of The Kingdom is the continual indwelling Presence of Christ and our fellowship with God as Father because of our union with The Son. The coming of the Holy Spirit into hearts brought the Reality of The Kingdom and The King to believers. And this is a real, abiding, continuing, all-encompassing and eternal Presence and dwelling: not visitations and sporadic appearances. Jesus had promised this in **John 14:23**, *“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”* This was part of Jesus’ encouragement to His Disciples that things would be better for them after He would go

to The Cross. Then by Him sending the Holy Spirit at Pentecost **His Presence** would not only be with them, but would be IN them! And His abiding Presence in them meant that His Relationship to His Father would be theirs, and that Heaven was not only around them, what was IN them.

And I really pray that God would challenge our hearts about this. We say we believe what Jesus said we would know in **John 14:20** – “*I am in my father, and he in me, and I in you.*” But do we acknowledge that The One who is in us is The King, and as He is making His Presence known in us that this is His Kingdom; and we are now in His Kingdom: in the realm of His Rule. God wants us to enjoy, appreciate and honor His Kingdom that has come. But we can only do that as we acknowledge and honor the Presence of The King and live every day giving The King His rightful place in His Kingdom.

So this brings us to another aspect of “The Kingdom”: **the rule of the King**. We must acknowledge the truth of **Psalm 103:19**, “*The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all*”, and live in that understanding. Jesus said in **Matthew 28:18**, “... *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*” And He demonstrated that authority while He walked in the earth. And that Rule continues Eternally as He is seated at the right hand of The Father: the place of supreme Power. “The Kingdom” for us should be defined as His



Rule: the working of this power that He is making known to us. **Ephesians 1:19**, “*And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*” This is the Reality of what Christ has done by His Cross: this is HIS Kingdom, His Rule over ALL!

And we ‘experience The Kingdom’ as we allow His authority to rule in us. **Colossians 3:15**, “*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*” This is **allowing** the Rule of The King that is operating in Heaven to be ruling here in earth – in us. And this is what changes us. It is not us being ruled by Christian beliefs and doctrines, but allowing The Rule of The Indwelling King to rule in our

hearts and minds. We must become subject to His Rule: to be obedient to Him and His Will in all things. And as we yield our will to Him, and desire that 'His Will be done in us' God works something in us: true obedience to His Will that causes us to be content and rest under His Rule. God wants to establish His Rule in US: only then can His Will be done in us and by us. But as long as we allow the flesh to rule us and we continue to battle against the Sovereign Rule of The King we will not enjoy the many benefits and blessings of The Kingdom.

We must acknowledge the truth of **Romans 8: 5**, *“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”* And we must understand that the flesh was only fully dealt with by The Cross, and that “The Kingdom of God” can only be fully established in us as we allow the full working of The Cross to take place in us. Jesus was raised out from the realm of death and He now reigns in that glorious Reality over all! It is The Lamb who was slain who now sits eternally on The Throne of Heaven. And He now deserves and demands His proper recognition. **Revelation 5:12**, *“Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and*

*blessing. **13** And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. **14** And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”*

And now this brings us to the **Power of The Kingdom**. **1 Corinthians 4:20**, “*For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.*” But we must understand “The Power” is defined in and as the very Person of The Crucified Christ! **1 Corinthians 1: 23**, “*But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; **24** But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*” And God did not just call us to ‘preach about The Kingdom’ and the inherent power of The Rule of Christ in Heaven, but to be the **manifestation** of This Kingdom in the earth! **1 Corinthians 2: 1**, “*And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. **2** For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. **3** And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. **4** And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and*

*of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*" The Church was ordained of God to be in the earth a demonstration of The Spirit and of the Power of The King ruling His Kingdom. This is not 'us' being powerful and doing mighty acts. This is the demonstration of Him – His Power being made known through us. **2 Corinthians 2:14**, *"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."* That is living in the Victory, the Glory of "The Kingdom".

It is only His mighty Power: that Power of His Cross operating in US that is able to change us so that we no longer function as children of disobedience dictated by the power of the world and our flesh. But now as we submit to His Power working in us, we function as His – in Relationship to God our Father - as His. **Philippians 2: 13**, *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. 14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."* This is functioning in the Power of The Kingdom of God NOW COME: being established by His Power working in you – ruling you.

God desires that we come into the full possession of “The Kingdom of Heaven” that has now come by the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants us to be daily living in “The Kingdom” – now – here in the earth: not when we die and “go to Heaven”. And dear friends, we do not have to fight to ‘gain The Kingdom’, but we enter into the blessedness of God’s Kingdom by FAITH – by faith in Him. He has brought His Kingdom into the earth, and we now must receive it: enter into it and possess all that it has. Something interesting is said by Jesus in **Mark 10:15**, “*Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.*” As we have said when we are Born Again we are brought into this Kingdom. But we must in simple trusting faith receive it as a Gift from God: as a little child would receive a wonderful gift from his loving Father. We must lose all of our strength and wisdom, and all of our will and self-life; humbling ourselves and being grateful for all God has done for us and given us. It is the good pleasure of The Father to “give us The Kingdom” (**Luke 12:32**), and it is all for His Glory.

I pray that this short sharing will challenge us to look in the Scriptures for all that God has spoken regarding “The Kingdom of God, The Kingdom of Heaven, The Kingdom of His Dear Son.” May we truly find ourselves to be in that Place: in The Place prepared of The Father for us, and may we truly come under the Reality of His

Kingdom: the total Rule of a Loving God.

Amen

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