

# *Response Bible Institute*

## *Course 4: Kingdom Living*



## ***Response Bible Institute***

The Institute offers a comprehensive bible diploma that is completed in one year. Instruction is free and course materials can be downloaded online for no charge. A cost is incurred if hard copies of the course materials are requested.

The 19 courses you will cover to complete your diploma are:

1. Introduction to Christian Response
2. Strategies for spiritual harvest
3. Foundations of Faith
4. Kingdom Living
5. Spiritual Strategies: A manual for Spiritual Warfare
6. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
7. Knowing God's Voice
8. Creative Bible Study Methods
9. Basic Bible Survey - Old Testament
10. Basic Bible Study - New Testament
11. Developing a Biblical Worldview
12. Teaching Tactics
13. Methodologies of Multiplication
14. Power Principles
15. Biblical Management Principles
16. Principles of Environmental Analysis
17. Management by Objectives
18. Mobilization Methodologies
19. Leaven like Evangelism

As you progress through the courses there will be opportunities for you to connect with others and make an impact for the Lord in our world.

To obtain the Christian Response Institute Diploma you need to:

- \* Complete the written exercises at the end of each chapter.
- \* Pass an examination at the end of each course
- \* Complete practical activities at an appropriate level for your stage of Spiritual growth and situation.

Christian Response Team

# Kingdom Living

The basic theme of the training is to teach what Jesus taught, that which took men who were fishermen, tax collectors, etc., and changed them into reproductive Christians who reached their world with the Gospel in a demonstration of power.

This manual is a single course in one of several modules of curriculum which moves believers from visualizing through deputizing, multiplying, organizing, and mobilizing to achieve the goal of evangelizing.

This course is part of the **✠arvestime International Institute**, a program designed to equip believers for effective spiritual harvest.



# *Kingdom*

# *Living*

## **HARVESTIME INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE**

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# HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

## MANUAL FORMAT

Each lesson consists of:

**Objectives:** These are the goals you should achieve by studying the chapter. Read them before starting the lesson.

**Key Verse:** This verse emphasizes the main concept of the chapter. Memorize it.

**Chapter Content:** Study each section. Use your Bible to look up any references not printed in the manual.

**Self-Test:** Take this test after you finish studying the chapter. Try to answer the questions without using your Bible or this manual. When you have concluded the Self-Test, check your answers in the answer section provided at the end of the book.

**For Further Study:** This section will help you continue your study of the Word of God, improve your study skills, and apply what you have learned to your life and ministry.

**Final Examination:** If you are enrolled in this course for credit, you received a final examination along with this course. Upon conclusion of this course, you should complete this examination and return it for grading as instructed.

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS NEEDED

You will need a New International Version of the Bible.

# SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP STUDY

## FIRST MEETING

**Opening:** Open with prayer and introductions. Get acquainted and register the students.

**Establish Group Procedures:** Determine who will lead the meetings, the time, place, and dates for the sessions.

**Praise And Worship:** Invite the presence of the Holy Spirit into your training session.

**Distribute Manuals To Students:** Introduce the manual title, format, and course objectives provided in the first few pages of the manual.

**Make The First Assignment:** Students will read the chapters assigned and take the Self-Tests prior to the next meeting. The number of chapters you cover per meeting will depend on chapter length, content, and the abilities of your group.

## SECOND AND FOLLOWING MEETINGS

**Opening:** Pray. Welcome and register any new students and give them a manual. Take attendance. Have a time of praise and worship.

**Review:** Present a brief summary of what you studied at the last meeting.

**Lesson:** Discuss each section of the chapter using the **HEADINGS IN CAPITAL BOLD FACED LETTERS** as a teaching outline. Ask students for questions or comments on what they have studied. Apply the lesson to the lives and ministries of your students.

**Self-Test:** Review the Self-Tests students have completed. (Note: If you do not want the students to have access to the answers to the Self-Tests, you may remove the answer pages from the back of each manual.)

**For Further Study:** You may do these projects on a group or individual basis.

**Final Examination:** If your group is enrolled in this course for credit, you received a final examination with this course. Reproduce a copy for each student and administer the exam upon conclusion of this course.



**Module: Deputizing**  
**Course: Kingdom Living: Patterns and Principles**

## INTRODUCTION

All men live in a natural kingdom of this world. They live in a city or village which is part of a nation. That nation is a kingdom of the world.

In addition to the natural kingdoms of this world there are two spiritual kingdoms which exist. Every person alive is a resident of one of these two kingdoms: The kingdom of Satan or the Kingdom of God.

This course concerns the Kingdom of God. It introduces the two spiritual kingdoms, their rulers, and residents. It provides spiritual keys for gaining access to the Kingdom of God and warns of things which result in being cast out of the Kingdom. The past, present, and future of this Kingdom are examined, Kingdom parables are explained, and its patterns and principles of living are stressed.

Why is study of the Kingdom of God important?

Jesus told His followers:

**They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers.  
These men will be punished most severely. (Matthew 24:14)**

Before Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom in its final form, the Gospel of the Kingdom must be extended throughout the nations of the world.

In order to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, you must understand the Kingdom of God. Before you can become custodian to the keys to the Kingdom, you must first experience that Kingdom.

In the past, much emphasis has been placed on the life and ministry of the King of the Kingdom, Jesus Christ, and rightly so. But not enough emphasis has been given the Gospel of the Kingdom. Jesus told the religious leaders of His time:

**Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.  
(Matthew 23:13)**

It was this Gospel of the Kingdom which was the central purpose of Christ's life. He began His earthly ministry by declaring the arrival of the Kingdom (Matthew 4:17). He ended His earthly ministry by speaking of things pertaining to the Kingdom (Acts 1:3). In between the beginning and ending of His earthly ministry, the emphasis was on the Kingdom:

**But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." (Luke 4:43)**

The Kingdom of God was the greatest concern of Jesus. His teachings and parables focused on the Kingdom. His miracles were a demonstration of the Kingdom of God in action.

The phrases "Kingdom of God" and "Kingdom of Heaven" are used over 100 times in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We are told to seek first the Kingdom, to pray for it, and to preach it. We are told how to enter the Kingdom and taught that residency in it requires a new lifestyle.

To enter this Kingdom, to maintain residency, and to fulfill the commission to preach its Gospel to the world it is necessary to understand the principles and patterns of the Kingdom. That is the purpose of this course.

But there is a greater purpose than just understanding Kingdom principles. You must go beyond mere knowledge of the Kingdom to actually experience it and make it the central purpose of your life.

People seek for meaning in life. They want a cause for which to live and die. Make the Kingdom of God your central purpose of life and ministry. It is a Kingdom which cannot be shaken by enemy forces. It is an eternal cause to which you can give your total allegiance.

# COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Identify the invisible spiritual kingdoms.
- Identify the rulers of the invisible kingdoms.
- Identify the residents of the invisible kingdoms.
- Explain how entry is gained into the Kingdom of God.
- Summarize the past, present, and future of the Kingdom of God.
- List sins which prevent entrance into the Kingdom of God.
- Recognize the importance of spiritual patterns and principles.
- Demonstrate understanding of basic principles of the Kingdom of God.
- Demonstrate understanding of Kingdom parables.
- Become an ambassador of the Kingdom of God by spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom.
- Continue independent study of the Kingdom of God.
- Continue independent study of the ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ.

# CHAPTER ONE

## THE INVISIBLE KINGDOMS

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Demonstrate understanding of the natural and spiritual worlds.
- Define the word "kingdom."
- Identify the two spiritual kingdoms.
- Identify the rulers of the spiritual kingdoms.
- Identify the residents of the spiritual kingdoms.
- Define the phrase "Kingdom of Satan."
- Define the phrase "Kingdom of God."

### KEY VERSE:

**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)**

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter concerns the natural and spiritual worlds. The natural world is that which you can see, hear, touch, or taste. It is the visible world around you.

But there is another world which surrounds you of which you are a part. It is an invisible world which is composed of two spiritual kingdoms. In this chapter you will learn about these spiritual kingdoms, their rulers, and residents. You will learn of the Kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God.

### NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL

Man exists in two worlds: The natural world and the spiritual world. The natural world is that which can be seen, felt, touched, heard, or tasted. It is tangible and visible. The country, nation, city or village in which you live is part of the natural world. You are the resident of a natural kingdom located on one of the visible continents of the world. You can see the people who are part of your environment. You can communicate with them. You can experience the sights, sounds, and smells around you.

But there is another world in which you live. That world is a spiritual world. You cannot see it with your physical eyes, but it is just as real as the natural world. Paul speaks of this division of natural and spiritual:

**There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies—but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another.  
(I Corinthians 15:40)**

All men have a natural body which lives in the natural world. But man is also a spiritual being with an eternal soul and spirit. Man is body, soul, and spirit. Your spiritual being (soul and spirit) is part of a spiritual world just as your natural body is part of the natural world.

## **TWO SPIRITUAL KINGDOMS**

There are natural kingdoms of this world. A natural kingdom is a territory or people over whom a king rules. The Bible speaks of the kingdoms of the world. The kingdoms of the world are presently under the control of Satan:

**Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.**

**All this I will give you, I said, if you will bow down and worship me.  
(Matthew 4:8-9)**

In the future, all the kingdoms of the world will become kingdoms of God and He will rule over them:

**The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said**

**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11:15)**

In the natural world a king is the sovereign ruler of the kingdom. All the territory and people of the kingdom belong to him. He has the power of life and death over his subjects.

The spiritual world is composed of two spiritual kingdoms, the Kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of Satan consists of Satan, spiritual beings called demons, and all men who live in sin and rebellion to God's Word. The Kingdom of God consists of God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, spiritual beings called angels, and all men who live in righteous obedience to God's Word.

## **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

There is one Kingdom of God, but it is described in different ways in Scripture. The expression "Kingdom of Heaven" is also used as a name for the Kingdom of God.

This Kingdom is identical with the Kingdom of the Father (Matthew 26:29), of Jesus (Revelation 1:9), of Christ Jesus (II Timothy 4:1), of Christ and God (Ephesians 5:5), of "our Lord and His Christ" (Revelation 11:15), of "our God, and the power of His Christ" (Revelation 12:10), and "of the Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13). All of these are names for the Kingdom of God. For purposes of simplicity, the single title "Kingdom of God" is used in this course.

The Kingdom of God is not a denomination. Denominations are man-made organizations of groups of churches. They have been established for practical purposes of organization and administration. Denominations are major church organizations like Baptist, Assembly of God, Methodist, Lutheran, etc.

The Bible speaks of the true Church which is not a denomination or religious organization. The true Church is composed of all those who have become residents of the Kingdom of God. The true Church is the corporate spiritual body which God established by which the Gospel of the Kingdom is to be extended to the nations of the world. This Church is composed of all men and women who are residents of the Kingdom of God.

The Church is not only to preach and teach the Gospel of the Kingdom, but it should provide a scale model of life in the Kingdom of God. The Church should operate by Kingdom patterns and principles and demonstrate in its lifestyle the teachings of its King, Jesus Christ.

The Kingdom of God existed in the past, it exists in the present, and it will exist in the future, all in different forms. At the present time in the natural world, the Kingdom of God exists individually within every man, woman, boy or girl who has made Jesus King of their lives. In the future, there will be an actual visible revelation of God's Kingdom. You will learn more about the past, present, and future of the Kingdom of God later in this course.

Because the Kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom and not a natural kingdom of this world, it must be understood with a spiritual mind:

**He person without the spirit does not accept the things that come from the spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the spirit.  
(I Corinthians 2:14)**

## **RULERS OF THE KINGDOMS**

The Kingdom of Satan is ruled by Satan. You will learn more about him and his kingdom in the "For Further Study" section of this chapter. Satan was originally a beautiful angel created by God and was part of the Kingdom of God, but he tried to take over God's Kingdom. You can read about his rebellion in Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:12-19. Several angels joined Satan in this rebellion and they were all cast out of the Kingdom by God. They formed their own kingdom which is called the Kingdom of Satan.

The Kingdom of God is ruled by the Trinity of God which is composed of the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. You will learn more about the ruler of this Kingdom in Chapter Two of this course.

## **RESIDENTS OF THE KINGDOMS**

In addition to the rulers, there are other residents of the two spiritual kingdoms. Evil spirits called demons are residents of the Kingdom of Satan. These spirits can enter, torment, control, and use humans who belong to Satan's kingdom. They motivate many evil acts done by men and women.

Before the end of the world, Satan will use two special spiritual beings in his kingdom called the Antichrist and the False Prophet. They will be part of the final deceptive plan of Satan to overthrow the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God also has residents. There are angels which are spiritual beings who minister to men and women who are part of the Kingdom of God. Just as demons do the bidding of Satan in the world, angels do the will of God.

Although angels and demons are spiritual beings, they reveal themselves visibly and verbally in the natural world on occasion. Demons possessing the bodies of men speak and act in evil ways through them and angels sometimes appear in visible form.

In addition to these spiritual beings, all people alive are either residents of the Kingdom of Satan or the Kingdom of God.

## **ENTRANCE TO THE KINGDOMS**

One of the parables told by Jesus reveals that all men are either part of the Kingdom of Satan or the Kingdom of God. Jesus compared the world to a field. The good seed in the field were the children of the Kingdom of God. The bad seed, which resulted in the growth of tares (weeds) were the children of the wicked one:

**□he field is the world, and the good seed stands for the □eo□le of the kingdom. □he weeds are the □eo□le of the evil one, (Matthew 13:38)**

People enter the Kingdom of Satan through natural birth. The Bible teaches that all men are born in sin. This means that they have a basic sin nature or the "seed" of sin within. Their natural inclination is to do evil:

**□urely □was sinful at □irth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (Psalms 51:5)**

**Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. (Romans 5:12)**

**For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)**

Because we are born with the basic sin nature, we have all at one time been part of the Kingdom of Satan. The whole message of God's written Word, the Holy Bible, is the appeal to man to move from this evil Kingdom of Satan to the righteous Kingdom of God.

Men are born into the Kingdom of Satan through natural birth. They must be reborn into the Kingdom of God through spiritual birth. You will learn more about this in Chapter Four, *"Keys To The Kingdom."*

Those who are born again change their residency from the Kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God. They change their allegiance from Satan to God. When they enter the Kingdom of God they must learn the principles which govern life in this Kingdom. It is like learning the lifestyle of a new country to which you have immigrated. You will learn more about these important principles in other lessons of this course.

## **RELATIONS BETWEEN THE KINGDOMS**

From the time of the rebellion of Satan, there has been spiritual warfare raging between the Kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God. The Bible is the written record of the warfare between these two kingdoms.

This spiritual warfare being waged throughout the world is over the minds, souls and spirits of mankind. Satan is trying to keep men captive to sin in his kingdom. Through deceptive methods he entices men and women to partake of the temporary lusts of sinful living. He aims for the affections of the soul and spirit which rightfully belong to God:

**He thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)**

This warfare in the spirit world will continue until the end of time as we now know it. Spiritual warfare is a subject of such great depth that an entire Harvestime International Institute course, *"Spiritual Strategies: A Manual Of Spiritual Warfare,"* has been devoted to it. The course focuses on the Kingdom of Satan, his strategies, and spiritual tactics for defeating the forces of evil.



## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. What are the two divisions made in I Corinthians 15:44-49?

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3. What are the two invisible kingdoms in the world today?

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4. Who are the rulers of the two invisible kingdoms?

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5. Who are the residents of the Kingdom of Satan?

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6. Who are the residents of the Kingdom of God?

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7. What is the difference between these two phrases: "Kingdom of God" and "Kingdom of Heaven"?

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8. Define the word "kingdom."

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

This course is devoted to study of the Kingdom of God. But as you learned in this chapter, there is another invisible kingdom, the spiritual Kingdom of Satan. It is important that you understand both spiritual kingdoms.

The Harvestime International Institute course entitled "*Spiritual Strategies: A Manual Of Spiritual Warfare*" provides further information on this kingdom and spiritual strategies to deal with Satan. Obtain this manual as a companion to this course, "*Kingdom Living*." For purposes of this course, the following outline provides basic information on Satan and his kingdom.

### THE KINGDOM OF SATAN

- I. Ruler of the Kingdom of Satan: Satan
  - A. His origin: All creatures were created by God: John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17
  - B. His former glory: Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-17
  - C. His former position: Ezekiel 28:14
  - D. His fall: Ezekiel 28:12-19
  - E. His names:
    - 1. God of this world: II Corinthians 4:4
    - 2. Angel of light: II Corinthians 11:14
    - 3. Devil: I Peter 5:8; Matthew 4:1
    - 4. Satan: John 13:27
    - 5. Lucifer: Isaiah 14:12
    - 6. Dragon: Revelation 12:3
    - 7. Serpent: Revelation 12:9; 20:2; II Corinthians 11:3; Genesis 3:4,14
    - 8. Adversary: I Peter 5:8
    - 9. Belial: II Corinthians 6:15
    - 10. Beelzebub: Matthew 12:24; Luke 11:15; Mark 3:22
    - 11. Murderer: John 8:44
    - 12. Tempter: Matthew 4:3; I Thessalonians 3:5
    - 13. Anointed Cherub: Ezekiel 28:14
    - 14. Destroyer: Revelation 9:11
    - 15. Deceiver: Revelation 12:9; 20:3
    - 16. Apollyon (Greek word for destroyer): Revelation 9:11
    - 17. Abaddon (Hebrew word for a destroying angel): Revelation 9:11
    - 18. Ruler of darkness: Ephesians 6:12
    - 19. Angel of bottomless pit: Revelation 9:11
    - 20. Enemy: Matthew 13:39
    - 21. Prince of the devils: Matthew 12:24

22. Liar, father of lies: John 8:44
23. King of Tyrus: Ezekiel 28:12-15
24. Prince of this world: John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11
25. Prince of the power of the air: Ephesians 2:2
26. Spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience: Ephesians 2:2
27. Evil one: I John 5:9
28. Roaring Lion: I Peter 5:8
29. Accuser of the brethren: Revelation 12:10
- F. His attributes:
  1. Intelligent and subtle: II Corinthians 11:3
  2. Emotional: Revelation 12:17
  3. Self-willed: II Timothy 2:26
  4. Proud: I Timothy 3:6
  5. Powerful: Ephesians 2:2
  6. Deceitful: Ephesians 6:11
  7. Fierce and cruel: I Peter 5:8
  8. Deceptive: II Corinthians 11:14
- G. Recorded words of Satan:
  1. Genesis 3:1,4,5
  2. Job 1:7-12
  3. Job 2:1-6
  4. Matthew 4:1-11
  5. Luke 4:1-13

## II. Residents of Satan's Kingdom: Demonic spirits

- A. Satan is the ruler of a host of demons: Matthew 12:22-28
- B. Their Origin: Revelation 12:7-9; Jude 6
- C. Their attributes:
  1. Spirit beings: Matthew 8:16; Luke 10:17,20
  2. Speak: Mark 5:9,12; Luke 8:28; Matthew 8:31
  3. Believe: James 2:19
  4. Exercise their wills: Luke 8:32; 11:24
  5. Demonstrate intelligence: Mark 1:24
  6. Emotional: Luke 8:28; James 2:19
  7. Recognize: Acts 19:15
  8. Supernatural strength: Acts 19:16; Mark 5:2,3
  9. Supernatural presence: Daniel 9:21-23; 10:10-14
- D. Their structure:
  1. United: Matthew 12:26,45; Luke 8:30; I Timothy 4:1
  2. Organized in forces: Luke 8:30
  3. There are degrees of wickedness: Matthew 12:43-45
  4. There is organized structure: Ephesians 1:21; 3:10; 6:12; Romans 8:38

5. There are different kinds of demons: Matthew 10:1; I Timothy 4:1
- III. Residents of Satan's Kingdom: All people who are not residents of the Kingdom of God: Revelation 20:15; 21:8
- IV. The realm of activity of Satan and demons:  
A. Access to God's presence: Job 1:6-7  
B. Access to the whole earth: Revelation 12:10
- V. Activities of Satan and demons:  
  
The activities of Satan and demons are dealt with in detail in the Harvestime International Institute course entitled "*Spiritual Strategies: A Manual Of Spiritual Warfare.*" To summarize: Their activities are always directed against God, His purposes, and His people.
- VI. Believers have greater power than Satan and his demons:  
A. Matthew 10:1; Mark 6:7; 9:38; 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 5:16; 8:7; 16:16-18; 19:12  
B. Methods of spiritual warfare are dealt with in the Harvestime International Institute course, "*Spiritual Strategies: A Manual Of Spiritual Warfare.*"  
These are powerful spiritual guidelines that will help you exercise your rightful authority over the Kingdom of Satan.
- VII. The future destiny of Satan's Kingdom: Matthew 8:29; 25:41; II Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7-9; 20:10; I John 3:8; Luke 8:28; Matthew 25:41

# CHAPTER TWO

## KING OF KINGS

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Define the word "king."
- Identify Jesus as King of the Kingdom of God.
- Continue further study of the life and ministry of King Jesus.

### KEY VERSE:

**"He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever—his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:33)**

### INTRODUCTION

There is no kingdom without a king. In this chapter you will learn about the greatest King that has ever ruled, the King of Kings, Jesus Christ.

### WHAT IS A KING?

A king is a sovereign ruler of a nation, tribe, or country. The word "sovereign" means he has the supreme power, highest authority, and is free from outside control.

In times past in the natural world there were many kings and kingdoms. In an earthly kingdom the king owned all the territory in the kingdom and had authority over everything in the kingdom including the people.

The king made the laws of the kingdom and residents of the kingdom obeyed these laws. The king had power over the people, including the power of life or death.

### THE KING OF KINGS

The greatest of all kings is the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul refers to Jesus as the King of Kings:

**which God will bring about in his own time God, the blessed and only ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, (I Timothy 6:15)**

The book of Revelation calls Him King of kings:

**They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers. (Revelation 17:14)**

**On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written King of kings and lord of lords. (Revelation 19:16)**

Jesus is the King of kings because He rules over a Kingdom that is eternal and sovereign. The Kingdom of God will never come to an end. It will never be overthrown by revolution. There will never be another ruler who will succeed the King of kings.

### **THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF THE KING**

The Bible tells the story of the King of kings. Part of that story is the account of His life and ministry on earth. But Jesus existed before His earthly ministry. You can read about His pre-existence with God in John 1:1-18. (In this passage Jesus is called "The Word.")

### **PROPHECIES ABOUT THE KING**

The Old Testament contains many prophecies about the King of kings. A prophecy is an immediate word from God which reveals things about the future which cannot be known by natural wisdom.

These Old Testament prophecies reveal how, when, and where the King was to be born and many details about His life, ministry, death, and resurrection. The New Testament shows how Jesus fulfilled these prophecies.

(A detailed list of these prophecies is provided in another Harvestime International Institute course entitled *"Creative Bible Study Methods"*).

### **GENEALOGY OF THE KING**

You can read the genealogy of the King of kings, Jesus, in Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38. The genealogy traces the ancestors of Jesus through His earthly father and mother. But remember, Jesus was really the Son of God born to the virgin Mary.

### **THE BIRTH OF THE KING**

You can read about the earthly birth of King Jesus in Matthew 1 and 2 and Luke 1 and 2.

## THE NAMES OF THE KING

Jesus was called by many different names, some of which reflect His ministry and purpose. The following are all names of Jesus, the King of Kings:

Adam, the Second:	I Corinthians 15:45-47
Advocate:	I John 2:1
Almighty:	Revelation 1:8
Alpha and Omega:	Revelation 21:6
Amen:	Revelation 3:14
Ancient of Days:	Daniel 7:9
Angel of His Presence:	Isaiah 63:9
Anointed Above His Fellows:	Psalms 45:7
Apostle of our Profession:	Hebrews 3:1
Arm of the Lord:	Isaiah 51:9-10
Author and Finisher of our Faith:	Hebrews 12:2
Author of Eternal Salvation:	Hebrews 5:9
Begotten of God:	I John 5:18
Beloved:	Ephesians 1:6
Bishop of Souls:	I Peter 2:25
Blessed and Only Potentate:	I Timothy 6:15
Branch, The:	Zechariah 3:8
Branch, A Righteous:	Jeremiah 23:5
Branch of Righteousness:	Jeremiah 33:15
Branch of the Root of Jesse:	Isaiah 1:1
Bread of Life:	John 6:35
Bright and Morning Star:	Revelation 22:16
Captain of the Lord's Host:	Joshua 5:15
Carpenter's Son:	Matthew 13:55
Chief Cornerstone:	I Peter 2:6
Chiefest Among Ten Thousand:	Song of Solomon 5:10
Christ, The:	John 1:41
Christ the Lord:	Luke 2:11
Christ Jesus Our Lord:	Romans 8:39
Christ the Power of God:	I Corinthians 1:24
Counselor:	Isaiah 9:6
Covenant of the People:	Isaiah 42:6
Dayspring:	Luke 1:78
Daystar:	II Peter 1:19
Deliverer:	Romans 11:26
Door, The:	John 10:9

Elect:	Isaiah 42:1
Emmanuel:	Matthew 1:23 (RSV)
Eternal Life:	I John 5:20
Everlasting Father:	Isaiah 9:6
Faithful and True:	Revelation 19:11
Faithful Witness:	Revelation 1:5
First Begotten:	Hebrews 1:6
First Born:	Psalms 89:27
First Born Among Many Brethren:	Romans 8:29
First Fruits:	I Corinthians 15:23
First and Last:	Revelation 22:13
Foundation Laid in Zion:	Isaiah 28:16
Glorious Lord:	Isaiah 33:21
God of Israel:	Isaiah 45:15
God with Us:	Matthew 1:23
Good Shepherd:	John 10:11
Great God:	Titus 2:13
Great High Priest:	Hebrews 4:14
Head of the Body:	Colossians 1:18
Head over all Things:	Ephesians 1:22
Headstone of the Corner:	Psalms 118:22
Heir of all Things:	Hebrews 1:2
His Anointed:	Psalms 2:2
Holy One of Israel:	Isaiah 41:14
Hope of Glory:	Colossians 1:27
I Am:	John 8:58
Image of the Invisible God:	Colossians 1:15
Immanuel:	Isaiah 7:14
Jesus Christ Our Lord:	Romans 1:3
Judge of Israel:	Micah 5:1
King of Glory:	Psalms 24:7
King:	Zechariah 9:9
King over all the Earth:	Zechariah 14:9
Lamb of God:	John 1:29
Light of the World:	John 8:12
Lily of the Valleys:	Song of Solomon 2:1
Living Bread:	John 6:51
Lord God Almighty:	Revelation 4:8
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:	II Peter 2:20
Lord of All:	Acts 10:36
Lord Our Righteousness:	Jeremiah 23:6
Lord, Your Redeemer:	Isaiah 43:14
Love:	I John 4:8



Man of Sorrows:	Isaiah 53:3
Master:	Matthew 23:10
Messiah:	Daniel 9:25
Mighty God:	Isaiah 9:6
Mighty One of Jacob:	Isaiah 60:16
Mine Angel:	Exodus 23:20-23
Most Holy:	Daniel 9:24
Most Mighty:	Psalms 45:3
Nazarene:	Matthew 2:23
Only Wise God:	I Timothy 1:17
Our Passover:	I Corinthians 5:7
Physician:	Luke 4:23
Prince of Peace:	Isaiah 9:6
Prince of the Kings of the Earth:	Revelation 1:5
Prophet:	Deuteronomy 18:15-18
Propitiation:	Romans 3:25
Rabbi:	John 1:49
Redeemer:	Isaiah 59:20
Resurrection:	John 11:25
Righteous Servant:	Isaiah 53:11
Rock:	I Corinthians 10:4
Root of Jesse:	Isaiah 11:10
Rose of Sharon:	Song of Solomon 2:1
Savior of the World:	I John 4:14
Seed of David:	John 7:42
Seed of the Woman:	Genesis 3:15
Son of God:	Romans 1:4
Son of Man:	Acts 7:56
Son of Mary:	Mark 6:3
Son of the Highest:	Luke 1:32
Star out of Jacob:	Numbers 24:17
Stone:	Matthew 21:42
Sun of Righteousness:	Malachi 4:2
Sure Foundation:	Isaiah 28:16
Teacher:	John 3:2
Truth:	John 14:6
Unspeakable Gift:	II Corinthians 9:15
Vine:	John 15:1
Way:	John 14:6
Wonderful:	Isaiah 9:6
Word:	John 1:14
Word of God:	Revelation 19:13

## THE LIFE OF THE KING

The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell the story of the life of King Jesus. These books were written by four disciples of Jesus who ministered with Him during His earthly ministry.

## THE MINISTRY OF THE KING

The ministry and teachings of Jesus are recorded in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In *"Teaching Tactics,"* another Harvestime International Institute course, a complete list of Christ's teachings by subjects is given.

Although there is much recorded in the four Gospels about the life and ministry of Jesus, John informs us:

**Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. (John 21:25)**

## THE REJECTED KING

As far as natural ancestry, Jesus was born a Jew. He came as King to His own Jewish people first, but they rejected Him. He was questioned as to whether or not He was the expected King (Matthew 27:11; Mark 15:2). He was accused of being of Satan rather than of God (Matthew 12:25-28; Luke 11:17-20). On one occasion the people tried to take Jesus and make Him a king by force because He was not establishing the visible kingdom they desired (John 6:15).

Only once was there public acclaim of Jesus as King. This was when He came into Jerusalem for the final time (Matthew 21:1-9). But the same people who honored him as king that day soon turned against Him. Many of those who cried "Hosanna" as Jesus rode into Jerusalem were shouting "Crucify Him" just a few days later. They were disappointed that Jesus did not overthrow the Roman government and set up a great earthly kingdom. Those who longed for release from foreign domination were angry when Jesus did not establish a visible, earthly kingdom.

Jesus was not the King which the Jews had pictured. He did not crush the Roman Empire. He did not set up the expected earthly Kingdom. He did not act as they thought a king should act. What they failed to realize was that before Jesus could assert His outward Lordship, He first had to rule the inner fortress of man's heart.

The greatest need of the Jewish people was not freedom from Rome, but release from the chains of sin. The key to the Kingdom of Jesus was repentance, not revolution. (You will learn more about this in a later chapter.)

Satan tempted Jesus to set up a visible earthly Kingdom (Matthew 4:8; Luke 4:5). Right up to the end of the earthly ministry of Jesus, the disciples longed for an earthly Kingdom (Acts 1:6). But the Kingdom of God was not to be set up at this time in visible form. Jesus said:

**Jesus said, My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place. (John 18:36)**

So the King of Kings was rejected by His own people:

**He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. (John 1:11)**

Only a few people recognized Jesus as King. Nathanael, one of His disciples, was one of these:

**When Nathanael declared, Rabbi, you are the Son of God—you are the king of Israel. (John 1:49)**

But to those few who accepted Jesus as King, a special relationship was extended:

**Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12)**

All of life is based on relationship. It is not what you know that is most important, it is who you know. It is not what we know about the Bible or Christianity that assures our entrance into the Kingdom of God. It is who we know. You must know the King of kings. In Chapter Four, *"Keys to the Kingdom,"* you will learn how to enter and maintain residency in the Kingdom of God.

## **DEATH OF THE KING**

Sinful man could not enter the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God was different from all other kingdoms. It was a righteous Kingdom. Through the death of King Jesus, a way was provided for all men to become part of the Kingdom. Jesus did nothing worthy of death. He never sinned, but He died in the place of all those who have sinned. He paid the penalty of death for their sins:

**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)**

You can read about the death of King Jesus in Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, and John 18-19.

## **RESURRECTION OF THE KING**

After His death by crucifixion, the King was buried but He did not remain in the tomb. You can read about His miraculous resurrection from the dead in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20.

Through His resurrection from the dead, Jesus gained victory over physical death. Those who become part of the Kingdom of God may experience physical death just like Jesus, but they will also experience resurrection from the dead as He did. Because our King is eternal, we are part of an eternal Kingdom and have eternal life.

## **APPEARANCES BY THE KING**

After His resurrection from the dead, King Jesus appeared to many people. You can read about His appearances in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20-21, and Acts 1.

## **THE KING RETURNS TO HEAVEN**

After Jesus appeared to many people over a period of forty days, He returned to Heaven. He will remain there until time for Him to return and establish the visible Kingdom of God in final form. You will learn more about this in the next chapter as you study the past, present, and future of the Kingdom of God. You can read about the return of Jesus to Heaven in Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:50-53, and Acts 1:1-11.

## **THE KING'S COMMISSION**

Just before He returned to Heaven, Jesus gave His followers an important commission to be ambassadors of the Kingdom throughout the world. You will learn more about this commission later.

## **THE COMING KING**

The Bible reveals that Jesus will return to earth in great power and glory to set up the visible Kingdom in its final form. You can read about His return in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. You can read about the establishing of the Kingdom and the events preceding it in the book of Revelation. The Bible reveals that the Kingdom of Jesus will be eternal:

**"...and he will reign over ☐aco☐s descendants forever☐his kingdom will never end."☐ (Luke 1:33)**

Every kingdom of earth and the kingdom of Satan will be defeated by the King of kings. In the end an announcement will be made that...

**the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said**

**the kingdom of the world has become  
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah,  
and he will reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11:15)**

### **CONTINUE YOUR STUDY**

The story of the King of kings is too great to be confined to the length of a single chapter in this manual. The "For Further Study" section of this chapter gives you an opportunity to study the life of Christ in detail through an outline of the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Define the word "king."

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3. Who is the King of the Kingdom of God?

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4. What four New Testament books tell the story of the earthly life, ministry, and teachings of King Jesus?

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Study the life of the King and His Kingdom teachings using the following outline. The outline combines the four New Testament records of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John:

### **The King And His Kingdom**

- I. Pre-existence of the King: John 1:1-18
- II. Introduction of the King
  - A. Arrival of the King
    - 1. Ancestry of the King: Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38
    - 2. Arrival of the King:
      - a. Announcement of the birth of John: Luke 1:5-25
      - b. Announcement to Mary of the birth of Jesus: Luke 1:26-38
      - c. Arrival of Mary in Judea: Luke 1:39-45
      - d. Praise of Mary: Luke 1:46-56
      - e. The birth of John: Luke 1:57-80
      - f. Announcement of the birth of Jesus to Joseph: Matthew 1:18-25
      - g. The birth of King Jesus: Luke 2:1-7
      - h. Announcement of the birth of Jesus to the shepherds: Luke 2:8-20
    - 3. The infancy and childhood of the King
      - a. Circumcision of the King: Luke 2:21
      - b. Presentation of the King: Luke 2:22-38
      - c. Infancy of the King:
        - (1) In Bethlehem: Matthew 2:1-12
        - (2) In Egypt: Matthew 2:13-18
        - (3) In Nazareth: Matthew 2:19-23; Luke 2:39
      - d. The childhood of the King
        - (1) Growth of the King: Luke 2:40
        - (2) The King visits Jerusalem: Luke 2:41-50
        - (3) Development of the King: Luke 2:51-52
  - B. The forerunner of the King: John the Baptist
    - 1. The message to John: Mark 1:1; Luke 3:1-2
    - 2. The message of John: Matthew 3:1-6; Mark 1:2-6; Luke 3:3-6
    - 3. The explanation by John: Matthew 3:7-10; Luke 3:7-14
    - 4. The promise by John: Matthew 3:11-12; Mark :7-8; Luke 3:15-18

- III. The approval of the King
  - A. The approval of the King
    1. At His baptism: Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23
    2. By His temptation: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13
    3. By His forerunner, John:
      - a. Testimony of John to the leaders: John 1:19-28
      - b. Testimony of John to Jesus: John 1:29-34
  - B. Acceptance of the King
    1. Belief by the first disciples: John 1:35-51
    2. Belief through the first miracle: John 2:1-12
    3. Possession of the temple: John 2:13-22
    4. Acceptance in Judea: John 2:23-3:21
    5. The witness of John: John 3:22-36
    6. In Zebulun/Naphtali: Matthew 4:12; Mark 1:14; Luke 3:19-20; 4:14; John 4:1-4
    7. Acceptance in Samaria: John 4:5-42
    8. Acceptance in Galilee: John 4:43-45
  - C. The authority of the King
    1. His authority to preach: Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15; Luke 4:14-15
    2. His authority over disease: John 4:46-54
    3. Rejection of His authority in Nazareth: Luke 4:16-30
    4. Residence in Capernaum: Matthew 4:13-16
    5. His authority over nature: Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11
    6. His authority over demons: Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37
    7. Authority over sickness: Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-34; Luke 4:38-41
    8. Authority to preach: Matthew 4:23-25; Mark 1:35-39; Luke 4:42-44
    9. Authority over defilement: Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16
    10. His authority to forgive sin: Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26
    11. His authority over men: Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32
    12. Authority over tradition: Matthew 9:14-17; Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39
    13. His authority over the Sabbath:
      - a. Through the healing of the paralytic: John 5:1-47
      - b. Through argument over grain: Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5
      - c. Through healing the withered hand: Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11
    14. His authority to heal: Matthew 12:15-21; Mark 3:7-12



15. His authority to commission: Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16
16. His authority to interpret the law: Matthew 5:1-7:29; Luke 6:17-42
  - a. He is the fulfillment: Matthew 5:17-20
  - b. Rejection of traditional interpretation of the law:
    - (1) Murder: Matthew 5:21-26
    - (2) Adultery: Matthew 5:27-30
    - (3) Divorce: Matthew 5:31-32
    - (4) Oaths: Matthew 5:33-37
    - (5) Retaliation: Matthew 5:38-42
    - (6) Love: Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-30; 32-36
  - c. Rejection of the practices of the Pharisees:
    - (1) Giving: Matthew 6:1-4
    - (2) Prayer: Matthew 6:5-15
    - (3) Fasting: Matthew 6:16-18
    - (4) Attitude toward wealth: Matthew 6:19-24
    - (5) Lack of faith: Matthew 6:25-34
    - (6) Judging: Matthew 7:1-6; Luke 6:37-42
  - d. Instruction to those who would enter the Kingdom:
    - (1) Prayer: Matthew 7:7-11
    - (2) Righteousness: Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31, 43-45
    - (3) The way of access: Matthew 7:13-14
    - (4) Warning to false teachers: Matthew 7:15-23
    - (5) The two foundations: Matthew 7:24-8:1; Luke 6:46-49
17. Recognition of the King's authority in Capernaum: Matthew 8:5-13  
Luke 7:1-10
18. Recognition of the King's authority in Nain: Luke 7:11-17
19. Witness of the twelve to the Kingdom: Matthew 9:35-11:1;  
Mark 6:6-13; Luke 9:1-6

#### IV. Controversy over the King

- A. Rejection of John: Matthew 11:2-19; Luke 7:18-35
  1. Death of John: Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29; Luke 9:7-9
- B. The curse of the cities of Galilee: Matthew 11:20-30
  1. Condemnation for their unbelief: Matthew 11:20-24
  2. Explanation of their unbelief: Matthew 11:25-27
  3. An invitation to believe: Matthew 11:28-30
- C. Controversy over a sinner: Luke 7:36-50
- D. Witness to the King: Luke 8:1-3
- E. Rejection of the King by the leaders: Matthew 12:22-37; Mark 3:19-30
- F. Request by the leaders for a sign from the King: Matthew 12:38-45
- G. Rejection of the nation: Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21

- H. Revelations of the rejected King:
    - 1. The Kingdom in the present: Matthew 13:1-53; Mark 4:1-34; Luke 8:4-18
    - 2. Power over nature: Matthew 8:18, 23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25
    - 3. Power over demons: Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39
    - 4. Power over disease/death: Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56
    - 5. Power over blindness: Matthew 9:27-34
  - I. Rejection in Nazareth: Matthew 13:54-58; Mark 6:1-6
- V. Instruction of the disciples by the King
- A. Feeding of the 5,000: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13
  - B. Rejection of offer to be King: Matthew 14:22-23; Mark 6:45-46; John 6:14-15
  - C. Instruction by example in Gennesaret: Matthew 14:34-36; Mark 6:53-56
  - D. Instruction concerning the Bread of Life: John 6:22-71
  - E. Instruction concerning defilement: Matthew 15:1-20; Mark 7:1-23; John 7:1
  - F. Instruction in:
    - 1. Tyre and Sidon: Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30
    - 2. Decapolis: Matthew 15:29-38; Mark 7:31-8:9
    - 3. Magadan: Matthew 15:39-16:4; Mark 8:10-12
    - 4. A warning against rejection: Matthew 16:5-12; Mark 8:13-26
  - G. The confession of Peter: Matthew 16:13-20; Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-21
  - H. Instruction concerning the death of the King: Matthew 16:21; 17:22-23; Mark 8:31-33; 9:30-32; Luke 9:22; 43-45
  - I. Concerning discipleship: Matthew 16:22-28; Mark 8:34-9:1; Luke 9:23-27
  - J. Revelation of the Kingdom: Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36
  - K. Instruction concerning Elijah: Matthew 17:9-13; Mark 9:9-13
  - L. Concerning dependence: Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43
  - M. Instruction concerning sonship: Matthew 17:24-27
  - N. Humility: Matthew 18:1-5; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48
  - O. Pride: Matthew 18:6-14; Mark 9:38-50; Luke 9:49-50
  - P. Forgiveness: Matthew 18:15-35
  - Q. Discipleship: Matthew 8:19-22; Luke 9:57-62
  - R. A challenge by the brothers of the King: John 7:2-9
  - S. The journey to Jerusalem: Luke 9:51-56; John 7:10
- VI. Opposition to the King
- A. Conflict at the Feast of Tabernacles
    - 1. The authority of the King is questioned: John 7:11-15

2. The explanation by the King: John 7:16-24
3. The person of the King is questioned: John 7:25-27
4. The explanation by the King: John 7:28-30
5. Response: John 7:31-36
6. An invitation from the King: John 7:37-52
- B. Conflict over the law: John 7:53-8:11
- C. Conflict over the light: John 8:12-20
- D. Conflict over the person of the King: John 8:21-59
- E. Conflict over the healing of a blind man: John 9:1-41
- F. Conflict over the shepherd: John 10:1-21
- G. Witness of the seven: Luke 10:1-24
- H. Conflict over the question of eternal life: Luke 10:25-37
- I. Conflict at the feast of dedication: John 10:22-39
- J. Conflict over the healing of the dumb man: Luke 11:14-36
- K. Conflict over ritualism: Luke 11:37-54

## VII. Instruction of the disciples by the King

- A. An example of fellowship: Luke 10:38-42
- B. Instruction in prayer: Luke 11:1-13
- C. Kingdom principles concerning:
  1. Hypocrisy: Luke 12:1-12
  2. Covetousness: Luke 12:13-34
  3. Watchfulness: Luke 12:35-41
  4. Faithfulness: Luke 12:42-48
  5. The effect of the King's coming: Luke 12:49-53
  6. Signs of the times: Luke 12:54-59
  7. Repentance: Luke 13:1-9
  8. Israel's need: Luke 13:10-17
  9. The Kingdom program: Luke 13:18-21
- D. Withdrawal from Judea: John 10:40-42
- E. Instruction concerning entrance into the Kingdom: Luke 13:22-35
- F. Instruction in a Pharisee's house: Luke 14:1-24
- G. Instruction on Kingdom principles concerning:
  1. Discipleship: Luke 14:25-35
  2. God's attitude toward sinners: Luke 15:1-32
  3. Wealth: Luke 16:1-31
  4. Forgiveness: Luke 17:1-6
  5. Service: Luke 17:7-10
- H. The raising of Lazarus:
  1. The miracle: John 11:1-44
  2. Conflict over the miracle: John 11:45-54
- I. Instruction on Kingdom principles concerning:
  1. Thankfulness: Luke 17:11-19

2. The coming of the King: Luke 17:20-37
3. Prayer: Luke 18:1-14
4. Divorce: Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12
5. Entrance into the Kingdom: Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:31-34
6. Israel: Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-53; Luke 18:35-43
7. Personal faith: Luke 19:1-10
8. The postponed Kingdom: Luke 19:11-28

#### VIII. Presentation of the King

- A. The King arrives in Bethany: John 11:55-12:1, 9-11
- B. Entry into Jerusalem: Matthew 21:1-11, 14-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19
- C. Authority of the King: Matthew 21:12-13, 18-19; Mark 11:12-18; Luke 19:45-48
- D. Invitations by the King: John 12:20-50
- E. Proof of authority: Matthew 21:20-22; Mark 11:19-25; Luke 21:37-38
- F. The King's authority challenged:
  1. By the priests and elders: The rejection of the King: Matthew 21:23-22:14; Mark 11:27-12:12; Luke 20:1-19
  2. By the Pharisees and Herodians: Kingdom principles regarding tribute: Matthew 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26
  3. By the Sadducees: Kingdom principles regarding the resurrection: Matthew 22:23-33; Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-40
  4. By the Pharisees: The greatest commandment in the Kingdom: Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34
- G. A challenge by the King: Matthew 22:41-46; Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20:41-44
- H. Principles of judgment: Matthew 23:1-39; Mark 12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47
- I. Kingdom principles of giving: Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4

#### IX. Preparation for the death of the King

- A. Predictions by the King
  1. The question: Matthew 24:1-3
  2. The tribulation: Matthew 24:27-30
  3. The second coming: Matthew 24:27-30
  4. The regathering of Israel: Matthew 24:31
  5. Endtime parables:
    - a. The fig tree: Matthew 24:32-44
    - b. The faithful servant: Matthew 24:45-51
    - c. Ten virgins: Matthew 25:1-13
    - d. The talents: Matthew 25:14-30
  6. Judgment on the Gentiles: Matthew 25:31-46

- B. Preparation for the death of the King:
  - 1. The prediction of His death: Matthew 26:1-2; Mark 14:1; Luke 22:1
  - 2. The plan of the rulers: Matthew 26:3-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:2
  - 3. Pouring of the ointment: Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:2-8
  - 4. The promise to betray: Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6
  - 5. Preparation for the Passover: Matthew 26:17-19; Mark 14:12-16; Luke 22:7-13
  - 6. The Passover: Matthew 26:20; Mark 14:17; Luke 22:14-16; 24-30
  - 7. Provision of an example: John 13:1-20
  - 8. Prediction of Judas' betrayal: Matthew 26:21-25; Mark 14:18-21; Luke 22:21-23; John 13:21-30
  - 9. Prediction of Peter's denial: Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-38; John 13:37-38
  - 10. A memorial: Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:17-20
- C. Final message of the King:
  - 1. Introduction: John 13:31-35
  - 2. Problems: John 13:36-14:24
  - 3. Promises: John 14:25-31
  - 4. Instruction concerning:
    - a. Fruit bearing: John 15:1-17
    - b. Enemies of the disciples: John 15:18-16:4
    - c. The ministry of the Holy Spirit: John 16:5-15
    - d. Results of the resurrection: John 16:16-28
    - e. Conclusion: John 16:29-33
- D. Final prayers of the King
  - 1. His prayer for Himself: John 17:1-5
  - 2. His prayer for His disciples: John 17:6-19
  - 3. His prayer for all believers: John 17:20-26
- E. The Garden Prayer: Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1
  
- X. Death of the King
  - A. Arrest: Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-12
  - B. The religious trial of the King
    - 1. Examination before Annas: John 18:12-14, 19-23
    - 2. Examination before Caiaphas: Matthew 26:57, 59-68; Mark 14:53, 55-56; Luke 22:54, 63-65; John 18:24
    - 3. Denial by Peter: Matthew 26:58, 69-75; Mark 14:54; 66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27
    - 4. Verdict of the Sanhedrin: Matthew 27:1; Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66-71.
    - 5. Death of Judas: Matthew 27:3-10
  - C. The civil trial of the King

1. The trial before Pilate: Matthew 27:2, 11-14; Mark 15:2-5; Luke 3:1-5; John 18:28-38
  2. Trial before Herod: Luke 23:6-12.
  3. Trial before Pilate: Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:39-19:1, 4-16
  4. Mockery of the King: Matthew 27:27-30; Mark 15:16-19; John 19:2-3
  - D. The journey to Calvary: Matthew 27:31-34; Mark 15:20-23; Luke 23:26-33; John 19:16-17
  - E. The crucifixion of the King
    1. The first three hours: Matthew 27:35-44; Mark 15:24-32; Luke 23:33-43; John 19:18-27
    2. Second three hours: Matthew 27:45-50; Mark 15:33-37; Luke 23:44-46; John 19:28-30
    3. Signs at the death of the King: Matthew 27:51-56; Mark 15:38-41; Luke 23:45,47-49
  - F. Burial of the King: Matthew 27:57-60; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:31-42
  - G. The sealing of the King's tomb: Matthew 27:62-66
- XI. Resurrection of the King
- A. Preparation by the women: Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1
  - B. Opening of the tomb: Matthew 28:2-4
  - C. The visit of the women: Matthew 28:5-8; Mark 16:2-8; Luke 24:1-8; John 20:1
  - D. The report to the disciples: Luke 24:9-12; John 20:2-10
  - E. Appearance of the King to Mary: Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18
  - F. Appearance of the King to the women: Matthew 28:9-10
  - G. The report of the guards: Matthew 28:11-15
  - H. Appearance to disciples on the Emmaus Road: Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-32
  - I. Report of the two disciples: Luke 24:33-35
  - J. Appearance to the ten disciples: Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
  - K. Appearance of the King to the eleven disciples: John 20:26-31
  - L. Appearance of the King to the seven disciples: John 21:1-25
- XII. Commissioned by the King: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:44-49
- XIII. The King returns to Heaven: The ascension of Jesus: Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53

# CHAPTER THREE

## THE KINGDOM: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Demonstrate understanding of the Kingdom of God in its past form.
- Demonstrate understanding of the Kingdom of God in its present form.
- Demonstrate understanding of the Kingdom of God in its future form.
- Present basic facts about the Kingdom of God.

### KEY VERSE:

**When the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. (Matthew 25:34)**

### INTRODUCTION

The previous chapters introduced the Kingdom of God and the ruler of this Kingdom, the Lord Jesus Christ. This chapter presents an overview of the past, present, and future of the Kingdom of God. It also presents basic facts about the Kingdom.

There is a basic theme that unites both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. That theme is the Kingdom of God and the King. The phrases "Kingdom of God" and "Kingdom of Heaven" do not appear in the Old Testament. These are New Testament terms. But as you will discover as you study the past history of the Kingdom of God, its foundations were laid in Old Testament times. The present and future forms of the Kingdom are built on these Old Testament foundations.

### THE PAST KINGDOM: OLD TESTAMENT

The Kingdom of God is eternal. This means it has always existed and will always exist:

**Our kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures through all generations.  
The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises  
and faithful in all he does. (Psalms 145:13)**

God's Kingdom existed first in Heaven. When God created the earth, it was His desire that His Heavenly Kingdom be extended to the world He had created.

### **A CHOSEN MAN:**

To fulfill this desire, God created a perfect environment as an extension of His Kingdom. In this Garden of Eden He created the first man and woman who were to multiply and populate the earth. By this method of reproduction they were to extend the Kingdom throughout the world.

The creation of the world marked the preparation of the Kingdom of God to be inherited by man:

**"When the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'" (Matthew 25:34)**

The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were given dominion over the earthly extension of God's Kingdom:

**"When God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'"**

**"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."**

**God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'" (Genesis 1:26-28)**

God did not want forced servitude from the subjects in His earthly Kingdom. He wanted man to be part of the Kingdom of God by free choice. So He made a law in the new Kingdom. The law was based on freedom of choice. The choice would determine whether or not man would continue to live in the Kingdom of God:

**"And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden'"**

**"but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'" (Genesis 2:16-17)**

In Genesis chapter 3 you can read the story of the wrong choice made by Adam and Eve. When



Adam and Eve sinned, they lost their inheritance in the Kingdom of God. They lost eternal life and the beautiful environment of the Kingdom.

Because of sin, certain curses came upon Satan, the earth, and man. You can read about these curses in Genesis chapter 3. The earth was no longer a perfect environment, a flawless extension of the Heavenly Kingdom. Man no longer had dominion over the earth, and he was separated from the presence of the King because of sin.

God had offered to extend His Kingdom through a man, but the Kingdom had been rejected. Man lost the inheritance prepared for Him by God from the foundation of the world and Satan took control of the earth. But in this darkest hour came the promise of God to restore the Kingdom of God to man. God said to Satan:

**And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers; he  
will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel. (Genesis 3:15)**

This was the first promise of a King who would someday come and crush the power of the enemy, Satan. From a woman's body the King, Jesus Christ, would come. Through His death man could be cleansed from sin, reborn into the Kingdom of God, obtain eternal life, and reclaim his rightful inheritance.

### **A CHOSEN PEOPLE:**

After man failed, God chose a nation through which He could extend His Kingdom throughout the world. God raised up Abraham as the man from whom this nation would descend. He made many promises concerning the nation of Israel and their role in the extension of God's Kingdom throughout the world. You can read the story of Abraham and the promises given him and the nation of Israel in Genesis 12 through 25.

The nation of Israel was chosen for purpose, not privilege. They were not chosen because they were better than other nations or God loved them more. It was a choice of responsibility. That responsibility was to extend the Kingdom of God throughout the earth. God gave Kingdom laws to the nation of Israel. Many of these laws are recorded in the book of Exodus.

Earthly kings were later appointed to help govern God's Kingdom. But the nation of Israel failed in its responsibility to extend the Kingdom. Time and time again the nation sinned and turned to false gods. You can read examples of their failures in the book of Judges in the Old Testament.

God compared the nation of Israel to a vine in the natural world. Israel has been chosen to bear the "fruit" of the Kingdom of God. God finally said of Israel:

**Israel was a spreading vine—he brought forth fruit for himself. As his fruit increased, he built more altars—as his land prospered, he adorned his sacred stones.**

**Their heart is deceitful, and now they must bear their guilt.  
The Lord will demolish their altars and destroy their sacred stones.**

**When they will say, We have no king because we did not revere the Lord.  
But even if we had a king, what could he do for us?**

**I had planted you like a choice vine of sound and reliable stock. Now then did you turn against me into a corrupt, wild vine? (Jeremiah 2:21)**

Because of their rejection of the Kingdom of God and failure to fulfill the responsibility of its extension, Israel became a divided nation. They were separated into the nations of Israel and Judah. Finally both of these nations were conquered and ruled by heathen nations.

Despite Israel's failure, God promised that His Kingdom would someday be restored in visible form and Israel would again be part of it. Through the prophets, God gave many promises about the coming King and the Kingdom of God in its future form.

Promises were given to David (II Samuel 7:16; Psalms 22:27-28; 72:7-11; 89:1-4; 96 and 98) and to Jeremiah (Jeremiah 3:17-18; 23:5-6; 31:31-34). Promises were given by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 2:2-5; 33:20-22; 35; 62:1-2; 65:17-25). Promises were also given to Ezekiel (Ezekiel 26:25-30; 37:22-28), Joel (Joel 2:28), Zechariah (Zechariah 8:20-23; 12:10; 14:9-17), Amos (Amos 9:15), and Micah (Micah 4). There were many other promises given concerning the Kingdom in addition to those listed.

The nation of Israel waited for the coming of a Messiah who would fulfill these great promises. They waited for a King who would free them from the control of other nations. They waited for the Kingdom which they had lost to be restored in visible form.

## **THE PAST KINGDOM: NEW TESTAMENT**

There is a key verse which links together the Old and New Testament accounts of the Kingdom:

**The law and the prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it. (Luke 16:16)**

Old Testament prophecies predicted the coming Kingdom and its King. The New Testament fulfilled these predictions. The Old Testament law laid the foundation for New Testament principles which would govern life in the Kingdom. When Jesus came He did not do away with the law but fulfilled it and expanded Kingdom principles on this foundation.

When John the Baptist lifted up his voice in the wilderness of Judea and announced, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand," he used terms common to his day. These terms were understood by the nation of Israel, for the hope of the promised Kingdom and its King burned in the heart of every Jew:

**In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea**

**and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."**

**This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah**

**"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,**

**and he will prepare the way for the Lord,**

**making straight paths for him." (Matthew 3:1-3)**

### **A CHOSEN MAN:**

In the Old Testament, God selected a man to extend His Kingdom throughout the world. Adam failed in this responsibility. In the New Testament, God sent His own Son, Jesus, to extend the Kingdom to the world. Jesus fulfilled this responsibility, as He made it the central purpose of His life and ministry.

After the imprisonment and death of John the Baptist, Jesus began to share the message of the Kingdom:

**After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.**

**"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:14-15)**

**From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." (Matthew 4:17)**

During His earthly ministry, Jesus selected several key men to be His disciples. Jesus instructed them to go and preach saying "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand" (Matthew 10:7). What does the term "at hand" mean? Look at the same words of Jesus used in a different context:

**"Beware lest us go where comes my betrayer!" (Matthew 26:46)**

When Jesus said the one who was to betray Him was "at hand," He meant the person (Judas) had arrived. The time for betrayal was "at hand." When Jesus said the Kingdom of God was "at hand," it meant the Kingdom had arrived. Jesus spent His entire life telling people the Kingdom

had come, teaching the principles of Kingdom living, and explaining how men and women could enter the Kingdom of God.

Although the Kingdom of God was at hand, it did not come in visible form:

**Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed,**

**nor will *one* say, "Here it is," or "There it is," because the kingdom of God is in your midst. (Luke 17:20-21)**

The parables of Jesus about the Kingdom pictured it as seed which was sown, a mustard seed hidden in the ground, a hidden treasure, and a hidden pearl of great price. In all these forms, the Kingdom was present yet not visible.

Israel had expected the Kingdom of God to come in visible form, with great fanfare, ruled over by a visible and powerful King:

**While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the *one* thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. (Luke 19:11)**

The parable Jesus told was of a nobleman who went into a far country and would return to receive his kingdom. As Jesus was approaching Jerusalem, He was preparing the people for His forthcoming death. Through this parable He revealed that the Kingdom in its visible form was to be postponed until another coming. On His return, it would be established.

Israel believed that the true King would immediately establish the Kingdom in all the glory of its previous visible form under King David. God had promised King David:

***He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (II Samuel 7:13)***

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the people thought He was coming to establish the visible Kingdom with Jerusalem as its capitol as had been prophesied since Old Testament times. Because of this, they rejoiced and honored Him as King as He entered the city. They cried:

**"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David"  
"Hosanna in the highest heaven" (Mark 11:10)**

But the Kingdom was not to be visibly established. Jesus had already given a parable about leaven in a lump of dough to illustrate the spread of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:33). It was to come through silent, steady growth just as leaven spreads through bread dough.

Jesus had already given the parable of the nobleman who went to a far country and later returned to receive his kingdom. But Israel had not understood these Kingdom parables. Because Jesus did not immediately establish a visible Kingdom, a short time later the same people who had received Him as King rejected Him. They turned against Him and called for His death by crucifixion.

When Jesus came to earth, the Kingdom of God was "at hand." Because it did not come as they expected, the Jewish people rejected both the Kingdom and its King:

**He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.**

**Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God**

**children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:11-13)**

Because of this rejection, Jesus announced that the Kingdom of God had been taken from Israel and given to a people who would produce the fruit of righteousness:

**I therefore tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. (Matthew 21:43)**

By this, Jesus meant that the message of the Kingdom would be taken to the Gentile nations (all nations other than Israel). They were ready to receive and respond to it.

Jesus said the nation of Israel and Jerusalem, their capitol city, would come under judgment:

**They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (Luke 21:24)**

Because Israel rejected the Kingdom and the King, the visible establishment of the Kingdom in its final form was postponed until another coming of the King. That other coming is called the second coming of Jesus Christ.

## **A CHOSEN PEOPLE:**

In the Old Testament, God chose the nation of Israel as the corporate body of people through which the Kingdom could be extended throughout the world. Israel failed in this responsibility. In the New Testament, God selected the Church, those who receive and respond to the Gospel, as the corporate body through which the Kingdom is to be extended.

The Apostle Paul, chosen of God to bear the Gospel of the Kingdom to the Gentiles, wrote these words:

**Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me to reach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ,**

**and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.**

**This intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,**

**according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Ephesians 3:8-11)**

Remember that the Kingdom was prepared for man by God from the foundation of the world. The Church has been chosen by God to reveal this mystery of the Kingdom to the nations of the world. Through this, the eternal purpose of God will be accomplished:

**he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,**

**to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment to bring unity to**

**all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. (Ephesians 1:9-10)**

The Church is the visible corporate body through which the Kingdom of God is to be extended throughout the world. Study the following diagram:

**Universal Organization-----> The Kingdom**

**Local organization through which the Kingdom is extended----> The Church**

**Individuals of which the Church is composed-----> Believers**

Jesus left the Church with the responsibility:

**He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16:15)**

He equipped believers with the power to accomplish the task:

**"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)**

In the end, all things will be brought into subjection to the King, Jesus, who will return to establish the visible Kingdom.

### **THE PRESENT KINGDOM**

Jesus taught that "the Kingdom of God is within you." That is, where the King is and where His rule is acknowledged, the present Kingdom of God exists. The Kingdom of God is the sphere of God's rule. The Kingdom in the world is presently the sphere in which, at any given time, His rule is acknowledged.

Remember that from the time of Satan's rebellion in Heaven, war has existed between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan. The earth is the scene of this universal rebellion against God. Through the sin of man, a curse came upon the earth and Satan has taken advantage to try to establish his evil kingdom. It was evident that he controlled the earthly kingdoms when he tempted Jesus:

**"Gain, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.**

**"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."**

**Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Matthew 4:8-10)**

But God has not relinquished His sovereignty as King in the face of rebellion of man. He has declared His purpose to establish it:

**"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush**

**all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. (Daniel 2:44)**

The Kingdom of God is also here and now. It is not something in the future which we cannot know until it is visibly established at the end of the world. The rule of the King is presently acknowledged in the hearts of individual believers. The rule of the King is acknowledged in the true Church of Jesus Christ. The Kingdom is present wherever people love God, have been born into the Kingdom, adopt Kingdom principles as their lifestyle, and acknowledge the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ as King.

The Kingdom is said to be a "mystery" now (Mark 4:11) because it is not within the range of the natural powers of observation:

**Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, (Luke 17:20)**

The Kingdom is presently only spiritually discerned on earth. It has been spiritually, but not yet visibly, established. The present visible Kingdom of God is in Heaven. This is not the heaven of which we speak when we talk of the sky above us. This is the Heaven in which Jesus lived before He came to earth (John 17:5). It is the Heaven to which He ascended after His resurrection from the dead (Acts 1:9-11).

Heaven is the present residence of God, Jesus, and the angels in visible form. Heaven is where Jesus now waits until time for His return to earth to establish the Kingdom in its permanent, visible form. While He waits in Heaven, Jesus serves as an intercessor. He sits at the right hand of God and intercedes for believers still on earth (Hebrews 7:25).

### **THE FUTURE KINGDOM**

Although Jesus told His disciples the Kingdom was at hand and was actually in their midst, He also spoke of the Kingdom in its future form. He told the disciples to pray "Thy Kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10).

The disciples had expected Jesus to establish this "coming" or future Kingdom before Calvary. When Jesus died, their hope was lost. After His resurrection their hope revived. In the period of time between the resurrection and His return to Heaven, Jesus spoke many things about the Kingdom of God. This prompted the disciples to ask, "Wilt thou at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). Jesus answered:

**He said to them "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. (Acts 1:7)**

The coming of the Kingdom is certain, but the timing of its visible restoration rests with the Father. Jesus did share many things which must happen on earth before the Kingdom would be



established in its final form. These signs were revealed to help us recognize when the time is near. You can read of these signs in Matthew chapters 24 and 25, Mark chapter 13 and Luke 17:20-37; 21:8-36. Jesus told the disciples that when these things began to happen, they were a sign that the visible restoration of the Kingdom of God was near:

**Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. (Luke 21:31)**

#### **THE GOSPEL TO ALL NATIONS MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE END:**

**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)**

#### **JESUS WILL RETURN TO EARTH:**

**Men of Galilee, they said, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:11)**

#### **JESUS WILL DEFEAT ALL KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD:**

**When the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.**

**For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. (I Corinthians 15:24-25)**

**The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said**

**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11:15)**

#### **SATAN AND RESIDENTS OF HIS KINGDOM WILL BE CONQUERED:**

**And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)**

#### **ALL NATIONS WILL COME INTO THE KINGDOM:**

**I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 8:11)**

## **ALL PEOPLE WILL ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS AS KING:**

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

When I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing  
waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting

“Alleluia!”

For our Lord God Almighty reigns. (Revelation 19:6)

## **ALL MEN, LIVING AND DEAD, WILL BE JUDGED BY GOD:**

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and  
the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this  
charge Timothy

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books  
were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead  
were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the  
dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they  
had done.

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown  
into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:12, 13, 15)

Jesus told a parable about the Kingdom being like a great net cast into the sea which gathered  
every kind of fish. When the net was drawn in, the good fish were separated from the bad  
(Matthew 13:47,48).

He also spoke of the Kingdom as tares and wheat growing for a time together. But in the end,  
the good wheat were separated from the tares (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-42). By the example of  
tares among wheat Jesus taught that the Kingdom had come, but evil men were still present. For  
a time, the two would coexist. At judgment, they would be separated.

Both of these parables concern the separation which will occur at the time of judgment. Those who have entered the Kingdom through the new birth will be accepted into the visible Kingdom in its final form. All others will be cast out of the Kingdom:

**“There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. (Luke 13:28)**

#### **THE KINGDOM OF GOD WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN ITS VISIBLE FORM:**

**“He was given authority, glory and sovereign power over all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (Daniel 7:14)**

#### **TRUE BELIEVERS WILL REIGN WITH JESUS IN THE KINGDOM:**

**“To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. (Revelation 3:21)**

#### **THERE WILL BE A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH:**

You can read the descriptions of the new Heaven and earth in Revelation chapters 21 and 22. Jerusalem will be the throne of the Lord, and all nations will be gathered into it:

**“At that time they will call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the Lord. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts. (Jeremiah 3:17)**

### **A SUMMARY**

Now let us summarize the past, present, and future of the Kingdom of God.

Study the following chart and then study the summary which follows the chart.

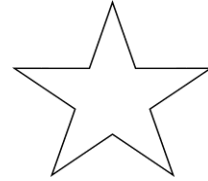
<----- THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN HEAVEN----->



Kingdom Of God On Earth



Return of  
the King  
End of time



Establishing of Kingdom  
of God in its final  
visible form

Extended by----->Man----->Israel---->The Church ----->

Note the dotted line at the top of the diagram. It shows that God's Kingdom existed in Heaven before the creation of the earth and will continue to exist eternally.

Note the arrows at the bottom of the diagram. God created the earth as an extension of His Heavenly Kingdom. He chose man as the instrument through which His Kingdom would be extended. Man failed in this responsibility.

Then God chose a nation through which His Kingdom would be extended. But Israel failed in the responsibility. They turned to heathen gods and accepted worldly standards instead of the Kingdom principles.

Then God sent His Son, Jesus Christ. Where the first man, Adam, failed, the second man, Jesus, succeeded. He ushered in the Kingdom of God on earth. Jesus provided a way, through spiritual rebirth, that man could live in the Kingdom of God and that Kingdom exist within him even though he still lived in the natural world. Because the King and His Kingdom were rejected, the visible establishment of the Kingdom was postponed until a second coming.

To extend the message or "Gospel" of the Kingdom, God has now chosen the Church. The Church is the instrument through which the Kingdom message is to be shared with the nations of the world. Where the first chosen people, Israel, failed, the Church will succeed. When the Gospel of the Kingdom has been preached throughout the world, the second return of the King will occur. The Kingdom of God will be established in its final, visible form. All other worldly kingdoms will be defeated.

## **FACTS ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

You have learned of the past, present, and future of the Kingdom of God. Here are some other basic facts about this Kingdom:

### **IT IS RULED BY GOD FROM HIS THRONE IN HEAVEN:**

**☐he ☐ord has esta☐lished his throne in heaven,  
and his kingdom rules over all. (Psalms 103:19)**

### **IT IS RULED BY A KING WHO IS UNCHANGING:**

**☐esus ☐hrist is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)**

### **THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS ETERNAL:**

**Thy Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and thy dominion endureth  
throughout all generations. (Psalms 145:13)**

**and he will reign over ☐aco☐s descendants forever☐his kingdom will never  
end.☐(Luke 1:33)**

**☐ut a☐out the ☐on he says,  
☐☐our throne, ☐ God, will last for ever and ever☐  
a sce☐ter of ☐ustice will ☐e the sce☐ter of your kingdom. (Hebrews 1:8)**

**☐ow great are his signs,  
how mighty his wonders☐  
☐is kingdom is an eternal kingdom☐  
his dominion endures from generation to generation.(Daniel 4:3)**

### **THE KINGDOM OF GOD CANNOT BE MOVED, SHAKEN, OR DESTROYED:**

**☐herefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot ☐e shaken, let us ☐e  
thankful, and so worshi☐ God acce☐ta☐ly with reverence and awe,  
(Hebrews 12:28)**

### **THE KINGDOM WAS PREPARED SINCE THE BEGINNING:**

**☐☐hen the ☐ing will say to those on his right, ☐☐ome, you who are ☐lessed ☐y  
my ☐ather☐take your inheritance, the kingdom ☐re☐ared for you since the  
creation of the world. (Matthew 25:34)**

## **GOD WANTS US TO INHERIT HIS KINGDOM:**

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, (Luke 22:29)

## **THE KINGDOM IS THE LORD'S:**

for dominion belongs to the Lord  
and he rules over the nations. (Psalms 22:28)

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.  
Matthew 26:66

The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name. (Zechariah 14:9)

## **GOD'S KINGDOM IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL OTHER KINGDOMS:**

The Lord has established his throne in heaven,  
and his kingdom rules over all. (Psalms 103:19)

## **THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS COMPOSED OF PEOPLE FROM ALL NATIONS:**

People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.  
(Luke 13:29)

## **GOD'S KINGDOM IS NOT A KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD:**

Jesus said, My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place. (John 18:36)

## **GOD'S KINGDOM IS BASED ON SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES:**

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, (Romans 14:17)

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.  
(I Corinthians 4:20)

## **GOD'S KINGDOM CANNOT BE INHERITED BY FLESH AND BLOOD:**

**☐declare to you, ☐rothers and sisters, that flesh and ☐lood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the ☐erisha☐e inherit the im☐erisha☐e. (I Corinthians 15:50)**

**☐esus re☐lied, ☐☐ery truly ☐tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are ☐orn again.**

**☐esus answered, ☐☐ery truly ☐tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are ☐orn of water and the ☐☐irit. (John 3:3 and 5)**

## **THERE ARE SPIRITUAL KEYS TO GOD'S KINGDOM:**

**☐will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven☐whatever you ☐ind on earth will ☐e ☐ound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will ☐e loosed in heaven.☐  
(Matthew 16:19)**

These "keys to the Kingdom" will be explained in the following chapter.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief summary of the past history of the Kingdom of God.
3. On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief summary about the present Kingdom of God.
4. On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief summary describing the future Kingdom of God.
5. Review the basic facts about the Kingdom of God given in this lesson, then see how many you can list from memory.

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)



## FOR FURTHER STUDY

As you have learned in this course, there are two spiritual kingdoms and each person alive is residing in one or the other. You are either a resident of the Kingdom of Satan or the Kingdom of God. As long as you live on earth you will also live in a kingdom of the world. This means you will live in a nation which is controlled by a human government.

Human government was originally ordained by God to maintain proper organization and administer His laws on earth. God was to be the sovereign ruler over human government and it was to operate on the basis of His Word, plan, and purposes. It is evident in the world today that governments have not followed the original plan of God. They have become evil and oppressive. They do not operate on the principles of God. Many of these governments and their rulers do not even acknowledge the existence of God. Such governments have become "kingdoms of the world" controlled by Satan.

Because you must live under human government it is important for you to know what the Bible teaches regarding this subject:

### Kingdoms Of The World

- I. God originates governments
  - A. Governments are ordained by God: Romans 13:1
  - B. Rulers are God's ministers: Romans 13:4,6
  - C. God sets up and takes down governments according to His will:  
Daniel 4:32; 5:21; Psalms 75:7
- II. God's plan for government
  - A. The original plan of God was for governments:
    - 1. To maintain and promote the good of the people: Romans 13:3,4
    - 2. To operate in righteousness and judge evil: Romans 13:3-4
  - B. Governments opposed to His plan:
    - 1. Use authority unrighteously to fulfill selfish desires: I Kings 21:7-14
    - 2. In such cases, God finally brings judgment upon the ruler or rulers:  
I Kings 21:19
- III. Responsibilities of government to the people
  - A. Must not lead people into sin: I Kings 12:28-30
  - B. Must promote the good of the people: Romans 13:1-5
  - C. Must judge evil: Romans 13:3-4
  - D. Must maintain internal peace: I Samuel 30:21-24
  - E. Must protect the rights of its citizens: Acts 22:25-30

- IV. Principles governing rulers:
  - A. The ruler is to be wise: Genesis 41:33; Deuteronomy 1:13
  - B. The ruler is to protect and help the poor and needy: Romans 12:4; Psalms 82:3-4
  - C. The ruler is to acknowledge God as God: Psalms 2:10,11
  - D. Rulers who do not recognize God are brought down:
    - 1. Nebuchadnezzar: Daniel 4
    - 2. Belshazzar: Daniel 5
    - 3. Herod: Acts 12:21-23
  - E. God may set a ruler who is obedient to Him in place of one who is not: I Kings 11:11
  - F. God may remove a family from a place of authority because of sin: I Kings 14:7-11
  - G. Because of one man's righteousness, God may allow him to maintain an heir or descendent on the throne: I Kings 11:13; Luke 1:32
- V. Relation of people to the government
  - A. Rulers and laws are not to be resisted: Romans 13:2
    - 1. Submit for the Lord's sake: I Peter 2:13-14
    - 2. Despising government is a sin of the flesh: II Peter 2:10
    - 3. People must obey laws: Mark 12:17
  - B. There is an exception to such obedience: Commands of rulers are not to be obeyed when they are opposed to God's commands or purposes:
    - 1. Exodus 1:17
    - 2. Daniel 3:18
    - 3. Acts 5:29
  - C. People are to pay tribute to government: Romans 13:6-7; Matthew 17:25-27
  - D. God sometimes permits some freedom in choice of government: I Samuel 8:4-9
  - E. People must pray for rulers: I Timothy 2:1-2
- VI. Human government is temporary. All governments will someday cease to exist: I Corinthians 15:24

# CHAPTER FOUR

## KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Identify the keys to the Kingdom.
- Identify to whom the keys were given.
- Recognize repentance from sin is necessary to gain access to the Kingdom.
- Realize that continued spiritual growth is necessary to assure entrance to the Kingdom.

### KEY VERSE:

**I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 16:19)**

### INTRODUCTION

You have learned about the existence of the eternal Kingdom of God and of the King, Jesus Christ. In this chapter you will discover how to gain access to the Kingdom of God as you study the "keys to the Kingdom."

### AN APPOINTED KINGDOM

Before Jesus returned to Heaven He told His disciples:

**And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, (Luke 22:29)**

Jesus also spoke of His Church which would extend the message of the Kingdom throughout the world:

**And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**

**I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 16:18-19)**

In this passage Jesus revealed that Peter would be one of the spiritual foundation stones of the first church. This meant he would be a vital part of its growth and development. Peter's name actually meant "a rock" or "stone."

Jesus then said of Himself, "...upon *this* rock I will build my Church" indicating that the Church would derive its existence from Him. He would be *the* rock upon which the Church was built. There would be many other lesser stones (people like Peter). These stones would be an important part of the Church. But Jesus Himself was the cornerstone on which the structure of the Church was to be built.

Jesus then made two comments regarding this Church.

*First*, He said that "the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." This implied that the Church would have enemies fighting it, but assured that the enemies would not overcome it.

*Second*, and most important to our study, Jesus promised to give the keys to His Kingdom to the Church.

In the natural world if you possess the keys to a building, it means you have authority there.

The authority Jesus was speaking of in this passage is a spiritual authority. He gave the Church spiritual keys to the doors of His Kingdom. Jesus said "I" will give them. The power and authority of the Church was to flow from Jesus. The use of the word "will" (future tense) meant that the keys had not yet been given at the time Jesus spoke. This power was released in Acts 2 when the Holy Ghost was given to believers:

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)**

The keys to the Kingdom were the power to bind and loose. To bind something means to put fetters or a bond on it. It is like closing and locking the door to a room. To loose something is to release or set it free. It is similar to opening the door to a room.

The Church would have a position of authority. It would have the keys to God's Kingdom. It would be the instrument through which the spiritual doors to the Kingdom would be opened to the nations of the world. Peter would be the first to use these keys to the Kingdom. He would open the door of ministry to the Gentile nations of the world.

The Church would have the power to loose the spiritual forces of good and bind the spiritual forces of evil. In every difficulty faced by believers, binding and loosing would be the key to victory.

## **HOW TO ENTER THE KINGDOM**

The keys to the Kingdom were given by Jesus to the Church. But specifically, how was entrance to be gained to the Kingdom of God?

John 3:1-21 records the story of Nicodemus, a religious leader at the time of Christ's ministry on earth. He came to Jesus desiring to gain access to the Kingdom of God and, by doing so, inherit eternal life. Jesus told him:

**Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." (John 3:3)**

Nicodemus was confused. He asked Jesus:

**"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born?" (John 3:4)**

Jesus explained to Nicodemus that the "born-again" experience of which He spoke was not a physical birth. Through physical birth you are born into a kingdom of this world as a citizen of a nation.

At natural birth, you inherit the basic sin nature:

**"Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (Psalms 51:5)**

Because God's Kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, you must be born into it through spiritual rebirth. You must change your residency from the kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God. Jesus said:

**"Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit**

**"You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' (John 3:6-7)**

Paul explained that you could not enter the Kingdom with a flesh and blood body:

**☐declare to you, ☐rothers and sisters, that flesh and ☐lood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the ☐erisha☐le inherit the im☐erisha☐le.  
(I Corinthians 15:50)**

You enter the Kingdom of God and become heirs of the Kingdom through spiritual rebirth. The way to be born again is by believing that Jesus died to pay the penalty for your sins. You must confess your sins, ask forgiveness, and place your trust in Him:

**☐or God so loved the world that he gave his one and only ☐on, that whoever ☐elieves in him shall not ☐erish ☐ut have eternal life.**

**☐or God did not send his ☐on into the world to condemn the world, ☐ut to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)**

(Repentance from sin and having faith toward God is covered in a Harvestime International Institute course entitled "*Foundations Of Faith*." If you have not received the born again experience, we encourage you to obtain this course and study more in this area.)

It is through Jesus that you can move from the kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God:

**☐or he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and  
☐rought us into the kingdom of the ☐on he loves.  
(Colossians 1:13)**

### **REPENTANCE OR REVOLUTION?**

When Jesus came to earth to extend the Kingdom of God, some who acknowledged Him as King thought the Kingdom would come through revolution. They thought there would be an actual physical revolt against the existing ruling powers of the world. But Jesus taught that the key to His Kingdom was not revolution but repentance:

**☐esus said, ☐☐ y kingdom is not of this world. ☐f it were, my servants would fight to ☐revent my arrest ☐y the ☐ewish leaders. ☐ut now my kingdom is from another ☐lace.☐ (John 18:36)**

**☐fter ☐ohn was ☐ut in ☐rison, ☐esus went into Galilee, ☐roclaiming the good news of God.**

**☐☐he time has come,☐he said. ☐☐he kingdom of God has come near. ☐e☐ent and ☐elieve the good news☐☐ (Mark 1:14-15)**

**☐rom that time on ☐esus ☐egan to ☐reach, ☐☐e☐ent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.☐ (Matthew 4:17)**

When Jesus died on the cross two thieves were crucified on crosses near Him. One of them repented and asked:

**When he said, Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

**Jesus answered him, Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise. (Luke 23:42-43)**

Repentance is the only way to gain access to the Kingdom of God.

Jesus warned that there would be many false doctrines and false prophets claiming they were the way to the Kingdom:

**Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.**

**But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. (Matthew 7:13-14)**

There is only one way to enter the Kingdom and that is through Jesus Christ.

Jesus warned that you should enter the gate to eternal life now, because someday the entrance will be shut:

**I make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.**

**Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, Sir, open the door for us.**

**But he will answer, I don't know you or where you come from. (Luke 13:24-25)**

Now the door to the Kingdom is open. You can enter it by repenting from sin. In the time of God's judgment of the world, it will be too late. The door will be closed.

### **THREE PARABLES ABOUT ENTRANCE**

Jesus told a series of parables in Luke 15:1-32. You will learn more about parables later in this course. Parables were natural examples Jesus used to illustrate spiritual truths. Read the parables in Luke 15 about a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son. They all concern entrance to the Kingdom of God.

-The parable of the shepherd seeking the lost sheep illustrates how God seeks to bring those who are spiritually lost into His Kingdom.

-The parable of the woman looking for a lost coin illustrates the diligence with which you should seek for those lost in sin to guide them to the Kingdom.

-The parable of the lost son illustrates the principle of repentance through which you can gain your rightful place as an heir of the Kingdom of God.

### **ADDING TO FAITH**

It is through faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ that you enter the Kingdom of God:

**Listen, my dear brothers and sisters—as not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him (James 2:5)**

The Apostle Peter, however, speaks of spiritual qualities you should seek to develop in your life after the new birth experience:

**For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness—and to goodness, knowledge—**

**and to knowledge, self-control—and to self-control, perseverance—and to perseverance, godliness—**

**and to godliness, mutual affection—and to mutual affection, love.**

**For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.**

**Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,**

**and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen**

After you enter the Kingdom through faith, you must develop a lifestyle consistent with governing principles of the Kingdom of God. If you do not do this, you will soon forget God has cleansed you from sin and return to the old sinful lifestyle.



Peter says that if you go on to spiritual maturity your entrance to the Kingdom will be assured. Later in this course you will learn principles for living in the Kingdom of God which will help you achieve spiritual maturity.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. To whom were the keys of the Kingdom given?

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3. What are the keys to the Kingdom?

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4. What necessary action must one take in order to transfer from the kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God?

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5. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus he must do in order to enter the Kingdom of God?

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6. What does the passage in II Peter 1:5-11 teach? (You may use your Bible to read these verses again).

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7. What does it mean to bind something?

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8. What does it mean to loose something?

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

In a previous chapter you studied an outline of the life and teachings of Jesus organized on the basis of the King, the Kingdom, and principles of the Kingdom. The outline combined the four Gospel records of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Now you will study one of the Gospels in detail. The book of Matthew, although written for all believers, targeted the Jews as its original audience. Matthew presented Jesus as the promised Messiah and stressed the role of Jesus as King of the Jews. Matthew emphasized the Gospel of the Kingdom taught by Jesus. Because of this emphasis, Matthew is one of the most Kingdom-oriented books of the Bible. The word "kingdom" is found more than 50 times in Matthew's record and he uses the phrase "Kingdom of Heaven" throughout the entire book.

Use the following outline to study the book of Matthew in terms of the King, His Kingdom, and Kingdom principles.

### **Part One: The Genealogy Of The King 1:1-17**

- I. Introduction: 1:1
- II. People in the genealogy: 1:2-16
- III. The plan of the genealogy: 1:17

### **Part Two: The Birth Of The King 1:18-2:23**

- I. The conception: 1:18-23
- II. The birth: 1:24-25
- III. Events related to the birth: 2:1-23
  - A. Visit of the wise men and Herod's plot: 2:1-12
  - B. The flight into Egypt: 2:13-15
  - C. Herod's revenge: 2:16-18
  - D. Return to the Nazareth home: 2:19-23

### **Part Three: Preparation 3:1-4:11**

- I. Preparation for the King's coming: 3:1-17
  - A. The ministry and message of John the Baptist: 3:1-12

- B. The baptism of the King: 3:13-17
- II. Preparation of the King: 4:1-11
  - A. His humanity attacked by Satan: 4:1-4
  - B. His divinity attacked by Satan: 4:5-7
  - C. His Lordship attacked by Satan: 4:8-11

#### **Part Four: Ministry Of The King In Galilee 4:12-13:58**

- I. A call to repentance: 4:12-17
- II. Four fishermen called to discipleship: 4:18-22
- III. Early success and fame: 4:23-25
- IV. Principles of conduct for Kingdom citizens: 5:1-7:28
  - A. Attitudes that should characterize Kingdom citizens: 5:1-12
  - B. The witness of Kingdom citizens: Light and salt: 5:13-16
  - C. Kingdom principles in relation to the law and the prophets: 5:17-48
    - 1. God's law in general: 15:17-20
    - 2. The new law: 15:21-48
      - a. Killing: 15:21-26
      - b. Adultery: 15:27-30
      - c. Divorce: 15:31-32
      - d. Oaths: 15:33-37
      - e. Treatment of others: 15:38-48
  - D. Three attitudes of worship in the Kingdom: 6:1-18
    - 1. Giving: Outward look: 6:1-4
    - 2. Praying: Upward look: 6:5-15
    - 3. Fasting: Inward look: 6:16-18
  - E. Priorities for Kingdom citizens: 6:19-33
    - 1. In relation to values: 6:19-21
    - 2. In relation to service: 6:22-24
    - 3. In relation to material needs: 6:25-34
    - 4. The proper priority: The Kingdom: 6:33
  - F. Proper conduct for Kingdom citizens: 7:1-29
    - 1. Judging: 7:1-5
    - 2. Care for that which is holy: 7:6
    - 3. Prayer: 7:7-12
      - a. Three kinds of prayer: Asking, seeking, knocking: 7:7-8

- b. A comparison between the response of natural fathers and the Heavenly Father: 7:9-11
  - G. Special warnings to Kingdom citizens: 7:13-29
    - 1. Two gates: 7:13-14
    - 2. False prophets: 7:15-20
    - 3. The proof of God's man: Doing His will: 7:21-23
    - 4. A comparison of wise and foolish men: 7:24-27
  - H. Astonishment at the doctrine of Jesus: 7:28-29
- V. The authority of the King: 8:1-9:38
- A. Authority over disease: 8:1-17
    - 1. Healing of a leper: 8:1-4
    - 2. Healing of the Centurion's servant: 8:5-13
    - 3. Healing of Peter's mother-in-law: 8:14-15
    - 4. Healing of all types of diseases: 8:16-17
  - B. Authority over His disciples: 8:18-22
  - C. Authority over natural elements: 8:23-27
  - D. Authority over demons: 8:28-34
  - E. Authority over sin: 9:1-8
  - F. Authority over men: 9:9-17
    - 1. The calling of Matthew: 9:9
    - 2. Eating with sinners: 9:10-13
    - 3. Answering a challenge: 9:14-17
  - G. Authority over death: The ruler's daughter: 9:18-19, 23-26
  - H. Authority over physical conditions: 9:20-38
    - 1. Woman with the issue of blood: 9:20-22
    - 2. Blindness: 9:27-31
    - 3. Deafness and demon possession: 9:32-34
    - 4. The compassion of Jesus: 9:35-38
- VI. Commissioned by the King: 10:1-42
- A. The twelve missionaries and their authority: 10:1-4
  - B. Instructions for the journey: 10:5-42
    - 1. Where to go: 10:5-6
    - 2. The ministry: 10:7-8
    - 3. Material instructions: 10:9-15
    - 4. Spiritual instructions: 10:16-42
- VII. Attitudes towards the Kingdom: 11:1-30
- A. The Kingdom misunderstood: 11:1-11
  - B. The Kingdom perverted: 11:12-19

- C. The Kingdom rejected: 11:20-24
  - D. The Kingdom accepted: 11:25-30
- VIII. Controversies with the Pharisees: 12:1-14
  - A. Harvesting on the Sabbath: 12:1-8
  - B. Healing on the Sabbath: 12:9-13
  - C. The results: 12:14-21
- IX. The unpardonable sin: 12:22-37
- X. Christ's reply to demands of the Pharisees: 12:38-45
- XI. The priority of spiritual over physical relationships in the Kingdom: 12:46-50
- XII. Parables of the Kingdom: 13:1-53
  - A. Parable of the sower: 13:1-9
  - B. The reason for speaking in parables: 13:10-17
  - C. Interpretation of the parable of the sower: 13:18-23
  - D. Parable of the tares: 13:24-30
  - E. Parable of the mustard seed: 13:31-32
  - F. Parable of the leaven: 13:33
  - G. A summary concerning parables: 13:34-35
  - H. Interpretation of the parable of the tares: 13:36-43
  - I. Parable of the treasure hidden in a field: 13:44
  - J. Parable of the pearl of great value: 13:45-46
  - K. Parable of the dragnet: 13:47-50
  - L. Concluding remarks about parables: 13:51-52
- XIII. The King's reception in His home town: 13:53-58

#### **Part Five: Ministry In Regions Near Galilee 14:1-18:35**

- I. The death of John the Baptist: 14:1-12
- II. Jesus' withdrawal beyond the sea: 14:13-15:20
  - A. Feeding the 5,000: 14:13-21
  - B. Following for loaves and fishes: 14:22-23
  - C. Walking on the sea: 14:24-33
  - D. Ministry in Gennesaret: 14:34-36
  - E. Controversy with the Pharisees and Scribes: 15:1-20

- III. Jesus' withdrawal to the region of Tyre and Sidon: 15:21-28
  - A. The women of Tyre and Sidon: 15:21-28
- IV. Jesus' withdrawal to the vicinity of Decapolis: 15:29-38
  - A. Healing ministry near the Sea of Galilee: 15:29-31
  - B. Feeding the 4,000: 15:32-38
- V. Ministry in the regions of Magadan: 15:39-16:4
- VI. Warning the disciples concerning the Pharisees and the Sadducees: 16:5-12
  - A. Seeking for a sign: 16:1-4
  - B. Warning concerning their doctrine: 16:5-12
- VII. Withdrawal to Caesarea-Philippi: 16:13-17:21
  - A. Testing the disciples: 16:13-20
  - B. Announcement of His death, resurrection, and return: 16:21-28
  - C. The transfiguration: 17:1-13
  - D. Healing of a lunatic: 17:14-20
- VIII. A brief visit to Galilee: 17:22-18:35
  - A. A reminder of His death and resurrection: 17:22-23
  - B. Paying the temple tax: 17:24-27
  - C. A lesson in greatness: 18:1-6
  - D. Warnings concerning offenses: 18:7-9
  - E. Parable of the lost sheep: 18:10-14
  - F. Settling disputes among Kingdom citizens: 18:15-35
    - 1. How to settle disputes: 18:15-17
    - 2. The responsibilities and privileges of Kingdom citizens: 18:18-20
    - 3. A question on forgiveness: 18:21-22
    - 4. The King and his debtors: 18:23-35

### **Part Six: Ministry Of The King In Perea 19:1-20:34**

- I. Healing multitudes in Judea: 19:1-2
- II. The question concerning divorce: 19:3-12

- III. Children blessed by Jesus: 19:13-15
- IV. Interview with the rich young ruler: 19:16-22
- V. The peril of riches: 19:23-30
- VI. Parable of the householder: 20:1-16
- VII. Impending death and resurrection of Jesus: 20:17-19
- VIII. A mother's selfish request: 20:20-28
- IX. Two blind men healed near Jericho: 20:29-34

**Part Seven: The King's Last Week 21:1-27:31**

- I. The royal entry into Jerusalem: 21:1-11
- II. Cleansing the temple: 21:12-17
- III. The fig tree cursed: 21:18-22
- IV. The authority of Jesus challenged: 21:23-32
- V. Parable of the wicked husbandmen: 21:33-46
- VI. Parable of the marriage feast: 22:1-14
- VII. Attempts to discredit Jesus: 22:15-45
  - A. Question of paying taxes to Caesar: 22:15-22
  - B. Question concerning the resurrection: 22:23-33
  - C. Question of the great commandment: 22:34-40
  - D. Questions by Jesus: 22:41-46
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  - B. They impose burdens: 23:4
  - C. They covet praise: 23:5-7
  - D. Advice to His disciples: 23:8-12
  - E. Woes upon the Scribes and Pharisees: 23:13-36
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- IX. The future of the Kingdom: 24:1-25:46
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- X. Events prior to the crucifixion: 26:1-27:31
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  - B. The plot to kill Jesus: 26:3-5
  - C. Anointed for burial: 26:6-13
  - D. Agreement of Judas to betray Jesus: 26:14-16
  - E. The Last Supper: 26:17-29
    - 1. Preparations for the Passover: 26:17-19
    - 2. The Last Supper: 26:20-29
    - 3. Jesus' warning and Peter's boast: 26:30-35
  - F. Gethsemane: 26:36-46
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### **Part Eight: The King's Death And Triumph 27:27-28:20**

- I. The crucifixion and burial: 27:27-66
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# CHAPTER FIVE

## CAST OUT OF THE KINGDOM

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Identify Biblical passages which list sins preventing entrance to the Kingdom of God.
- Define sins which prevent entrance into the Kingdom of God.
- Provide a Biblical reference which explains how to eliminate sins preventing entrance to the Kingdom.

### KEY VERSE:

**Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.  
(Matthew 7:21)**

### INTRODUCTION

In the last chapter you learned spiritual keys which permit access to the Kingdom of God. This chapter concerns things which prevent entrance into the Kingdom of God. It deals with the tragic reality that some people will be cast out of the Kingdom.

### CAST OUT OF THE KINGDOM

There are many who profess to be part of God's Kingdom who are not actually Kingdom residents. The Bible speaks of the Kingdom being filled with good seed and tares resulting from bad seed:

**The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.**

**As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.**

**The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.**

**They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

**When the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.  
Whoever has ears, let them hear. Matthew 13:43**

At the present time there are those who claim to be Kingdom residents who still live in sin. There will come a future day of judgment when God will separate these people from the true residents of the Kingdom. Those who are evil will be cast out of the Kingdom of God.

The Bible also compares the present Kingdom to a big net thrown into the sea which gathers many kinds of fish:

**Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.**

**When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. When they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.**

**This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous**

**and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 13:47-50)**

The Bible tells of a day in the future when...

**I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 8:11)**

But Jesus warns that...

**There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. (Luke 13:28)**

Before the final establishment of the Kingdom, God will judge all men, those alive at the return of Jesus and those who previously died:

**In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge Timothy**

At the time of final judgment there will be division made between all men. Some will enter the Kingdom and some will be cast out:

**When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.**

**All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.**

**He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.**

**When the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. (Matthew 25:31-34)**

### **GAINING PERMANENT RESIDENCY**

Because the Bible reveals some people will be cast out of the Kingdom, it is important to understand how to gain permanent residency in the Kingdom of God. Jesus said:

**Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 7:21)**

Acknowledging Jesus is Lord does not assure permanent residency in the Kingdom of God. Jesus said verbal commitment was not enough. You must do the will of the Father. It is God's will that you repent of your sins and receive Jesus Christ as Savior:

**The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (II Peter 3:9)**

After accepting Jesus as Savior you must continue to do the will of God. You must live by the principles of the new Kingdom into which you have entered. These principles will be explained later in this course.

Becoming a resident of the Kingdom of God requires more than a verbal commitment. It involves changes in thought and action patterns. You must develop a new lifestyle consistent with the patterns and principles of God's Kingdom.

The importance of doing God's will is stressed in a story told by Jesus in Matthew 21:28-32. Read this story in your Bible. It reveals that personal response to the Gospel is necessary. Verbal commitment is not enough. You must take action.

## SINS PREVENTING ENTRANCE

Sin prevents entrance to the Kingdom of God. Sin is breaking the law of God:

**Everyone who sins breaks the law—in fact, sin is lawlessness.  
(1 John 3:4)**

There are many sins identified in the New Testament. In another Harvestime International Institute course entitled *"Foundations Of Faith"* there is a complete listing of these sins.

Two specific passages identify sins which prevent entrance to the Kingdom of God:

**For do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived—neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men**

**nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)**

**The acts of the flesh are obvious—sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery—**

**idolatry and witchcraft—hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions**

**and envy—drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.  
(Galatians 5:19-21)**

Some sins are listed in both of these passages, and each passage contains sins not listed in the other reference.

**The following sins are mentioned in both Corinthians and Galatians:**

### UNRIGHTEOUS:

The first listing in the Corinthians passage states that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Galatians repeats that the unrighteous are not heirs to the Kingdom. Galatians calls it "uncleanness" which is spiritual or moral unrighteousness.

Many nations of the world have a system whereby a person, upon their death, can pass on possessions to other people. The people who are to inherit are called heirs. If you are the heir to something it means you are to inherit it; something is being given to you from someone else.

But in order to receive, you must meet certain requirements. You must be a rightful heir according to the laws of the nation.

You are an heir of the Kingdom of God. Jesus made you an heir at the time of His death. Through His death for your sins, you can gain entrance to the Kingdom. But to be a rightful heir you must receive forgiveness for past sins, trust Jesus to change your lifestyle, thoughts, and actions, and begin to live righteously. These are the requirements set by the Scriptures.

The word "righteous" means to be just, right, and holy. It means to conform to the will of God as revealed in His written Word with holiness in thought, word, and action.

Righteousness cannot be obtained by obedience to any law. It is only obtained through faith in Jesus. The person who trusts in Jesus becomes "the righteousness of God in Him." He becomes all God requires a man to be and all that he could never be in himself:

**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (II Corinthians 5:21)**

The scribes and Pharisees, religious leaders during the time of Christ's earthly ministry, tried to be righteous by conforming to religious traditions. But Jesus warned:

**For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 23:23**

Jesus told the religious leaders:

**Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to. (Matthew 23:13)**

Anyone who adopts religious creeds, traditions, rules, or regulations to try to obtain righteousness is in the same class as the scribes and Pharisees. Such things are false righteousness. They involve outward conformity to rules rather than an inward change of heart. If someone teaches such traditions are the way to obtain righteousness, then they prevent the entrance of others into the Kingdom.

The terms "unrighteousness" and "uncleanness" are very inclusive. Although all the sins identified in God's Word are not listed in the Galatians and Corinthians passages, these two terms include all sin. Anyone living unrighteously in any sin will not enter the Kingdom. Note that the Corinthians passage warns "do not be deceived." To believe you can live as you please and still enter the Kingdom of God is a deceptive lie of Satan.

## **FORNICATORS:**

Fornication is sexual intercourse by two people who are not married to each other. This sin includes adultery, which is sexual intercourse by a married person with someone who is not their mate. Fornication also includes sexual intercourse between people who are not married. It includes sexual sins such as homosexuality (sex with someone of the same sex) and incest (sex with a blood relative).

## **IDOLATERS:**

Idolatry is the worship of idols. This does not just mean the worship of images out of stone, wood, or precious metals. An idol is anything that is more important to us than God.

Idolaters are those who practice idolatry or worship something other than the true God. Idolatry is the lack of acknowledgment of God's rightful position in your life.

## **ADULTERERS:**

Adultery is sexual intercourse by a married person with someone who is not their mate.

## **DRUNKARDS:**

In the Galatians passage this sin is called drunkenness. It is the condition of having mental and physical faculties affected by drinking of strong drink, usually alcoholic beverages.

**The following sins are listed only in the Corinthians passage:**

## **EFFEMINATE:**

This not only applies to a male who practices lewd sexual sins, but those guilty of sexual sins of the flesh.

## **ABUSERS OF THEMSELVES WITH MANKIND:**

To abuse means to take unfair advantage or mistreat. People who "abuse themselves with mankind" commit wrong sexual acts with others. In doing so, they are abusing their own bodies.

## **THIEVES:**

Thieves are people who steal. They take things that belong to other people without their permission or knowledge. They are also called robbers.

**COVETOUS:**

When you covet something you long for something with intense desire, wishing you had something instead of the person who has it. You might covet someone's money, property, position, or power. You might also covet someone's husband or wife.

**EXTORTIONERS:**

Extortion means to take a thing by force, to make someone give you something by exercising power over them.

**REVILERS:**

Revile means to speak profanely, speak against, or talk back to someone in an unholy manner.

**The following sins are listed only in the Galatians passage:**

**LASCIVIOUSNESS:**

Lasciviousness is the sin of lust, sinful emotions, lewd, filthy, and shameless conduct.

**WITCHCRAFT:**

Witchcraft is the practice of witches, including white and black magic, sorcery, astrology, voodoo, use of potions, spells, enchantments, and drugs. It includes all Satanic practices and worship.

**HATRED:**

Hatred is the opposite of love. It is an emotion of intense dislike for another person.

**VARIANCE:**

Variance is disagreement, disharmony, and dissension. It is similar to strife.

**EMULATIONS:**

Emulations is the desire to copy others and to equal or excel them. It is a spirit of rivalry and a form of jealousy.

**WRATH:**

Wrath is violent anger, an angry act, or rage.



**STRIFE:**

Strife is quarreling, fighting, or conflict. It means a clash or dispute.

**SEDITIONS:**

Sedition is the stirring up of unrest or discord.

**HERESIES:**

Heresies are beliefs contrary to the Word of God. They are self-willed opinions which are in error and lead to division in the church.

**ENVYINGS:**

Envy is jealousy excited by the success of others, resenting their financial, spiritual, or material blessings.

**MURDERERS:**

To murder is to take the life of another with willful malice and forethought. Murder is not the same as self-defense or an accidental killing.

**REVELLINGS:**

This means to engage or delight in worldly living, riotous, or boisterous behavior.

**ENTRANCE DENIED**

In addition to these lists of specific sins, there are other things mentioned in the Bible which result in entrance to the Kingdom being denied:

**FLESH AND BLOOD:**

Paul warned:

**☐declare to you, ☐rothers and sisters, that flesh and ☐lood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the ☐erisha☐le inherit the im☐erisha☐le.  
(I Corinthians 15:50)**

This relates back to the keys to the Kingdom discussed in the previous chapter. The Kingdom of God is a spiritual Kingdom. You cannot enter it with your flesh and blood body. As discussed in the last chapter, you must make a spiritual decision to enter the Kingdom by being born again:

**Jesus replied, "I truly tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."**

**Jesus answered, "I truly tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. (John 3:3 and 5)**

**and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (II Peter 1:11)**

### **LACK OF CHILDLIKE FAITH:**

Jesus said...

**"And he said "I truly tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3)**

**"I truly tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." (Mark 10:15)**

It is necessary to become like a little child in order to enter the Kingdom of God. This does not mean you become physically or emotionally like a child, any more than being born again means entering again into your mother's womb. It means you must enter the Kingdom by simple, childlike faith. If you do not do so, you cannot enter the Kingdom.

### **RICHES:**

On one occasion during the earthly ministry of Jesus, a certain ruler said he wanted to follow Him as a disciple. (Read this story in Luke 18:18-25). This ruler was a righteous man, but Jesus said...

**"When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."**

**"When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. (Luke 18:22-23)**

The rich ruler would not follow Jesus because His riches were more important than the Lord...

**Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:24)**

**hardly Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God"**

**“The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God’**

**“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” (Mark 10:23-25)**

Jesus did not mean that riches would keep men out of the Kingdom. It is the love of riches that keep men from the Kingdom because...

**“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (I Timothy 6:10)**

When riches are more important than following Jesus they prevent entrance to the Kingdom.

### **THE REMEDY FOR SIN**

If you are guilty of any sin, there is only one remedy: Forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Paul said:

**“And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (I Corinthians 6:11)**

No matter what you have done in the past, no matter what you are doing in the present, you can be forgiven:

**“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

**“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:8-9)**

When you are cleansed from all unrighteousness, you are forgiven of all sins which prevent entrance to the Kingdom of God.

### **PLUCK IT OUT**

Open your Bible to Mark 9:43-48. In this passage Jesus teaches that if your hand or foot offends you, you are to cut them off. He says if your eye offends you, pluck it out:

**And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, (Mark 9:47)**

Jesus means that anything which causes sin in your life must be removed. Even though it is something you consider needful or precious, it must be removed. He uses the example of the hand, foot, and eye. In the natural these are needful and precious body parts. But Jesus says if they cause you to sin, it is better to remove them than to let them prevent your entrance into the Kingdom.

There is nothing...no sin, pleasure, or possession worth the penalty of being cast out of the Kingdom.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. List two references which list specific sins that prevent entrance into the Kingdom of God.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read each statement below. If the statement is true, write the letter T on the blank in front of it. If it is false, write the letter F on the blank in front of it.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ If you are rich, you cannot gain entrance into the Kingdom of God.

b. \_\_\_\_\_ Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.

c. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus indicated you are to remove anything in your life which might prevent entrance into the Kingdom.

d. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus said you must become like a little child in order to enter the Kingdom of God.

e. \_\_\_\_\_ You must receive Jesus as Savior in order to enter the Kingdom of God.

f. \_\_\_\_\_ All you must do is say "Jesus is Lord" and you will be assured entrance into the Kingdom of God.

g. \_\_\_\_\_ There will be a final time of judgment and some people will be cast out of the Kingdom.

4. Give a Biblical reference which explains how to eliminate sins preventing entrance to the Kingdom of God.

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5. Read the list of sins which prevent entrance to the Kingdom given in Column One. Then read the definitions in Column Two. Write the number of the correct definition on the blank in front of the sin which it describes. The first one is done as an example for you to follow.

**Column One**

**Column Two**

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <u>  2  </u> a. Unrighteousness       | 1. Worldly living, riotous behavior.                |
| <u>     </u> b. Fornicators           | 2. This includes all sin.                           |
| <u>     </u> c. Idolaters             | 3. Jealousy of success of others.                   |
| <u>     </u> d. Adulterers            | 4. To take the life of another.                     |
| <u>     </u> e. Drunkards             | 5. Sex between people not married to each other.    |
| <u>     </u> f. Effeminate            | 6. Affected by strong drink.                        |
| <u>     </u> g. Abusers of themselves | 7. People who steal.                                |
| <u>     </u> h. Thieves               | 8. To speak against someone in an unholy manner.    |
| <u>     </u> i. Covetous              | 9. Worship of idols.                                |
| <u>     </u> j. Extortioners          | 10. Male who practices lewd sexual sins.            |
| <u>     </u> k. Revilers              | 11. Sex with someone other than your own mate.      |
| <u>     </u> l. Lasciviousness        | 12. Abuse their own bodies.                         |
| <u>     </u> m. Witchcraft            | 13. Desiring something belonging to another person. |
| <u>     </u> n. Hatred                | 14. To take a thing by force.                       |
| <u>     </u> o. Variance              | 15. Sinful emotions, filthy conduct.                |
| <u>     </u> p. Emulations            | 16. Violent anger.                                  |
| <u>     </u> q. Wrath                 | 17. Beliefs contrary to the Word of God.            |
| <u>     </u> r. Strife                | 18. Intense dislike.                                |
| <u>     </u> s. Seditions             | 19. Disagreement, disharmony.                       |
| <u>     </u> t. Heresies              | 20. Desire to copy others and equal or excel them.  |
| <u>     </u> u. Envyings              | 21. Quarreling, fighting.                           |
| <u>     </u> v. Murderers             | 22. Stirring up discord.                            |
| <u>     </u> w. Revellings            | 23. Practice of witches.                            |

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Study references to the Kingdom of God and summarize the Kingdom principles taught in the book of Mark:

**Mark:**

1:14-15

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3:24

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4:11,26,30

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9:1,47

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10:14-15, 23-25

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11:9-10

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13:8

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14:25

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15:43

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# CHAPTER SIX

## PATTERNS AND PRINCIPLES: AN INTRODUCTION

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Define the word "pattern."
- Define the word "principle."
- Explain what is meant by a "Biblical pattern."
- Explain what is meant by a "Biblical principle."
- Explain what is meant by "Kingdom patterns and principles."

### KEY VERSE:

**□□ll this, □□avid said, □□have in writing as a result of the □ord's hand on me,  
and he ena□led me to understand all the details of the □lan.□  
(I Chronicles 28:19)**

### INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapter you learned of spiritual keys which provide entrance to the Kingdom of God. When you take up residency in the Kingdom of God you must learn the patterns and principles of Kingdom living. It is similar to learning the lifestyle of a new country to which you have immigrated.

The Bible is the written record of the patterns and principles by which the Kingdom of God operates. Before you study the principles in the following chapters, you must understand their importance.

### PATTERNS AND PRINCIPLES

A pattern is an original or model of something created for the purpose of imitation. It is something designed to be copied or imitated. For example, in the western world clothing is created from patterns. A dress pattern is placed on material and the material cut according to the pattern. Many dresses can be created from the same pattern and they will all be identical because they came from the same pattern.



A principle is a truth, method, or rule adopted as the basis for action or conduct. It is a general truth composed of other subordinate truths. "Subordinate" truths are related to the general truth. For example, a basic principle of the constitution of the United States of America provides for freedom of expression. The subordinate truths include the rights to write and speak freely, conduct lawful assemblies, express beliefs, etc.

### **BIBLICAL PATTERNS AND PRINCIPLES**

A Biblical pattern is a spiritual model or example given in Scripture for purposes of imitation. For example, the life of Jesus Christ is given as a pattern or model which believers are to follow.

A Biblical principle is a spiritual truth taught in Scripture. Such principles often incorporate additional subordinate principles which apply to many different situations. For example, one Biblical principle taught by Jesus is "Give and ye shall receive." Its subordinate truths apply to giving money, material goods, friendship, etc. In each of these, spiritual benefits are received as a result of the act of giving.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF PATTERNS AND PRINCIPLES**

Read Ezekiel 43:7-12. This passage stresses the importance of patterns and principles. God established specific patterns for the nation of Israel to follow which included spiritual patterns of conduct as well as material patterns for their places of worship.

But Israel set up their own patterns. This is what God means when He says they have "set up their thresholds by my thresholds" and "their posts by my posts." Because Israel created their own patterns, they erected a wall of separation between them and God which stopped the flow of God's power. It prevented their worship and service from being acceptable to Him.

The prophet Ezekiel told the people to look at God's pattern and measure the pattern of their lives accordingly:

**Pattern of man, describe the temple to the people of Israel, that they may  
be ashamed of their sins. Let them consider its perfection,  
(Ezekiel 43:10)**

When people set up their own patterns of conduct, their own denominational, religious, or cultural rules, they set up a false standard of measurement. They begin to teach as Biblical doctrine things that are nothing but commandments of men.

Jesus said of such people:

**They worship me in vain  
their teachings are merely human rules. (Matthew 15:9)**

It is important to understand Biblical patterns and principles because otherwise your worship of God can be in vain.

There are many worldly standards of measurement. There are different patterns for worldly conduct and success which men pattern themselves after. Men measure themselves by other men instead of by God's standard. The Apostle Paul wrote:

**We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.  
(II Corinthians 10:12)**

When Moses was given instructions for building the tabernacle, he was cautioned to do everything according to the pattern given by God:

**Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.**

**See that you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain. (Exodus 25:9, 40)**

**They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven.  
This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle  
See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain. (Hebrews 8:5)**

King David was careful to follow God's pattern when he planned for the construction of the temple:

**All this, David said, I have in writing as a result of the Lord's hand on me, and he enabled me to understand all the details of the plan.  
(I Chronicles 28:19)**

These men were careful to follow the pattern of God in the physical world. How much more careful we should be to follow the spiritual patterns and principles found in the Bible.

## **EXAMPLES OF BIBLICAL PATTERNS**

Jesus was the great example by which believers are to pattern their lives:

**He has set you an example that you should do as He has done for you.  
(John 13:15)**

The lives of men and women of God are recorded in the Bible as patterns for us to follow:

**Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. (I Corinthians 10:6)**

**These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. (I Corinthians 10:11)**

The record of the nations in the Bible provide positive examples for other nations to follow and negative examples to avoid:

**if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by turning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly  
(II Peter 2:6)**

Christian leaders are to be examples to their followers:

**Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve**

**not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (I Peter 5:2-3)**

The Apostle Paul wrote:

**Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.  
(Philippians 3:17)**

**We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. (II Thessalonians 3:9)**

Believers are to be spiritual patterns themselves. They are to provide a positive spiritual example for others to follow:

**Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. (I Timothy 4:12)**

**And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Thracia.  
(I Thessalonians 1:7)**

**¶n everything set them an e¶am¶le ¶y doing what is good. ¶n your teaching show integrity, seriousness (Titus 2:7)**

If you are to provide a positive spiritual pattern for others, then you must understand and incorporate Biblical principles into your life.

### **EXAMPLES OF BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES**

In Hebrews 5:12 Paul refers to the "first principles of the oracles of God." In Hebrews 6:1-3 he lists these principles. Because of their importance, Harvestime International Institute has devoted an entire course, *"Foundations Of Faith,"* to these principles.

We suggest you obtain the course, *"Foundations Of Faith,"* as a companion to this course. It explains in detail the importance of basic Biblical principles. These basic principles provide the spiritual foundation for incorporating Kingdom patterns and principles into your life.

### **KINGDOM PATTERNS AND PRINCIPLES**

In the following chapters you will learn patterns and principles which govern life in the Kingdom of God as you study *"The Culture Of The Kingdom."*

These patterns and principles differ from worldly standards and from the patterns and principles of the kingdoms of this world.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Define the word "pattern."

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3. Define the word "principle."

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4. What is meant by a "Biblical pattern?"

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5. What is meant by a "Biblical principle?"

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6. What is meant by "patterns and principles of Kingdom living?"

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

In the next few chapters you will study basic principles governing life in the Kingdom of God. These principles are based upon commandments given by Jesus. Use the following outline to study these commands.

### COMMANDS OF THE KING

#### REPENTANCE:

-Repent:	Matthew 4:17; Revelation 2:5
-Come unto Me:	Matthew 11:28
-Seek first God, and His righteousness:	Matthew 6:33
-Forgive if ye have ought against any:	Mark 11:25
-Deny yourself:	Matthew 16:24
-Ask...seek...knock:	Matthew 7:7
-Strive to enter in at the strait gate:	Luke 13:24

#### BELIEF:

-Believe the Gospel:	Mark 1:15
-Ye believe in God, believe also in Me:	John 14:1
-Believe on Him whom He (God) hath sent:	John 6:28-29
-Believe Me that I am in the Father He in Me:	John 14:11
-Believe the works...I do:	John 10:37-38
-While ye have light, believe in the light:	John 12:36
-Believe that ye receive:	Mark 11:24

#### THE NEW BIRTH:

-Ye must be born again:	John 3:7
-Cleanse first that which is within:	Matthew 23:26
-Make the tree good, and his fruit good:	Matthew 12:33
-Abide in Me, and I in you:	John 15:4
-Have salt in yourselves:	Mark 9:50
-Labor...for that meat which endures:	John 6:27
-Rejoice, your names are in heaven:	Luke 10:20

#### RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT:

-Receive ye the Holy Spirit:	John 20:22
-Let the children first be filled:	Mark 7:27
-If any man thirst, let him come to me:	John 7:37-39

- Keep My commandments; another comforter: -
- Ask...with importunity:
- Tarry...until you be endued with power:
- The comforter will testify of me and you also:

John 14:15-17  
 John 16:24; Luke 11:5-13  
 Luke 24:49  
 John 15:26-27

### **FOLLOWING JESUS:**

- Follow Me:
- Be baptized:
- This do in remembrance of Me:
- You also ought to wash one another's feet:
- If any man come after Me...let him take His cross:
- Learn of Me:
- Continue in My love:

John 12:26  
 Matthew 3:13-15; 28:19  
 Luke 22:17-19  
 John 13:14-15  
 Luke 9:23  
 Matthew 11:29  
 John 15:9

### **PRAYER:**

- Pray always:
- Pray that you enter not in temptation:
- Pray...the Lord of the harvest for laborers:
- Pray for them which despitefully use you:
- Pray to the Father...in My name:
- After this manner therefore pray:
- When you pray, dont use vain repetitions:

Luke 21:36  
 Luke 22:40-46  
 Luke 10:2  
 Luke 6:28  
 Matthew 6:6; John 16:24-26  
 Matthew 6:9-13  
 Matthew 6:7-8

### **FAITH:**

- Have faith in God:
- Be not faithless:
- Neither be of doubtful mind:
- Take no thought for your life:
- Let not your heart be troubled:
- Be of good cheer:
- Be not afraid:

Mark 11:22  
 John 20:27  
 Luke 12:29  
 Matthew 6:25-34  
 John 14:1-27  
 Matthew 14:27  
 Mark 5:36; Luke 12:4-7

### **FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH:**

- Be faithful unto death:
- Hold that fast which you have:
- When men revile you and persecute you, be glad:
- When they persecute you in this city, flee to another: -Take no thought what you shall speak:

Revelation 2:10  
 Revelation 3:11  
 Matthew 5:11-12;  
 Luke 6:23  
 Matthew 10:23  
 Matthew 10:19

- Murmur not among yourselves:
- Look up, and lift up your heads:

John 6:41-43  
Luke 21:28

### **PREACHING THE GOSPEL:**

- Preach the Gospel to every creature:
- Repentance should be preached in Christ's name:
- Baptize in the name of the Trinity:
- Teach them...all things I have commanded you:
- What I tell you...that speak:
- Feed My sheep:
- Heal the sick:

Matthew 10:7; Mark 16:15  
Luke 24:46-47  
Matthew 28:19  
Matthew 28:20  
Matthew 10:27; Mark 4:22  
John 21:15-17  
Matthew 10:8

### **COVETOUSNESS:**

- Take heed and beware of covetousness:
- Lay not up treasures upon earth:
- Ye pay tithe...and not leave (them) undone:
- Give to him that asks you:
- Give alms of such things as you have:
- When you make a dinner...call the poor:

Luke 12:15  
Matthew 6:19-20  
Matthew 23:23  
Matthew 5:42  
Luke 11:41  
Luke 14:12-13

### **HYPOCRISY:**

- Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees:
- Beware of the scribes:
- Do not do what they do:
- Make not My Father's house a house of merchandise:
- Do not show your alms before men:
- Enter into your closet and pray in secret:
- When you fast...appear not to fast to men:

Luke 12:1  
Luke 20:46-47  
Matthew 23:2-3  
John 2:16  
Matthew 6:1-4  
Matthew 6:5-6  
Matthew 6:16-18

### **MEEKNESS:**

- Take My yoke upon you:
- Do not exercise dominion as the Gentiles do:
- Whoever will be the chief shall be servant of all:
- Be not ye called Rabbi:
- Sit not down in the highest room:
- Rejoice not, that the spirits are subject:
- Say "We are unprofitable servants":

Matthew 11:29  
Matthew 20:25-26  
Mark 10:43-44  
Matthew 23:8  
Luke 14:8-11  
Luke 10:20  
Luke 17:10



### **OUR LOVE TO THE BRETHREN:**

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| -Love one another as I have loved you:            | John 15:12                    |
| -Despise not one of these little ones:            | Matthew 18:10-14              |
| -Have peace one with another...and be reconciled: | Matthew 5:23-24; Mark 9:50    |
| -Resolve offenses with your brother:              | Matthew 18:15-17              |
| -Forgive your brother seven times a day:          | Matthew 18:21-22; Luke 17:3-4 |
| -Judge not according to appearance:               | Matthew 7:1-5; John 7:24      |
| -Condemn not:                                     | Luke 6:37                     |

### **PERFECT LOVE:**

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| -Be you therefore perfect:               | Matthew 5:48                 |
| -Sell that you have, and give alms:      | Matthew 19:21; Luke 12:32-33 |
| -Love your enemies:                      | Matthew 5:44; 26:52          |
| -Do good to them which hate you:         | Luke 6:27-28                 |
| -Lend, hoping for nothing again:         | Luke 6:35                    |
| -Resist not evil:                        | Matthew 5:39-41              |
| -In your patience possess ye your souls: | Luke 21:19                   |

### **SUPREME LOVE TO GOD:**

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| -You shall love the Lord your God with<br>all your heart...soul...mind...strength: | Mark 12:30   |
| -God, and Him only shall you serve:  | Matthew 4:10 |
| -Worship the Father in spirit and truth:   | John 4:23-24 |
| -Call no man your father upon the earth:   | Matthew 23:9 |
| -You shall not tempt the Lord your God:  | Matthew 4:7  |
| -Fear Him (God):   | Luke 12:5    |
| -All men should honor the Son:   | John 5:22-23 |

### **OUR DUTY TO GOD AND MAN:**

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| -Render to Caesar the things that are his:      | Mark 12:17                 |
| -Swear not at all:                              | Matthew 5:34-37; Mark 4:22 |
| -What God hath joined, let not man put asunder: | Matthew 19:5-6             |
| -Agree with thine adversary quickly:            | Matthew 5:25               |
| -Do not forbid others casting out devils:       | Mark 9:38-40               |
| -Eat such things as are set before you:         | Luke 10:38                 |
| -Gather up the fragments that nothing be lost:  | John 6:12                  |

## **OUR DUTY TO OUR NEIGHBOR:**

-Love your neighbor as yourself:	Matthew 19:17-19
-You shall do no murder:	Matthew 19:18
-You shall not commit adultery:	Matthew 19:18
-You shall not steal:	Matthew 19:18
-You shall not bear false witness:	Matthew 19:18
-Honor your father and your mother:	Matthew 19:19
-Do to others as you want them to do to you:	Luke 6:31

## **WISDOM:**

-Be wise as serpents, harmless as doves:	Matthew 10:16
-Beware of men:	Matthew 10:17
-Let (the blind leaders) alone:	Matthew 15:12-14
-Give not that which is holy to dogs or swine:	Matthew 7:6
-He that has a purse, let him take it:	Luke 22:35-36
-Inquire who is worthy and there abide:	Matthew 10:11-13; Luke 10:5-7
-Shake off the dust from your feet when not received:	Luke 9:5; 10:10-11

## **SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES:**

-Search the Scriptures:	John 5:39
-Remember the word that I said:	John 15:20
-Let these sayings sink into your ears:	Luke 9:44
-Take heed therefore how you hear:	Luke 8:18
-Take heed what you hear:	Mark 4:24
-Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees:	Matthew 16:6-12
-Beware of false prophets:	Matthew 7:15-17

## **LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE:**

-Let your light shine:	Matthew 5:16
-Make sure the light in you is not darkness:	Luke 11:35
-Go and bring forth fruit:	John 15:16
-Be merciful:	Luke 6:36
-Tell the great things the Lord has done for you:	Mark 5:19
-Lift up your eyes, look on the fields:	John 4:35
-Walk while you have the light:	John 12:35

## **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:**

-Hold fast till I come:	Revelation 2:25; 3:2-3
-Be you ready: the Son of man comes:	Luke 12:40
-Let your loins be girded about, your lights burning:	Luke 12:35-36
-Take heed...lest...your hearts be overcharged:	Luke 21:34
-Remember Lot's wife:	Luke 17:31-32
-Take heed that you are not deceived:	Mark 13:5-6; Luke 21:8
-Watch:	Mark 13:34-37

# CHAPTER SEVEN

## THE CULTURE OF THE KINGDOM:

### KINGDOM PRINCIPLES - PART I

#### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Explain the importance of knowing Kingdom principles.
- Recognize basic principles governing life in the Kingdom of God.
- Identify the foundation upon which Kingdom principles are based.
- List two Kingdom laws upon which all other principles are based.

#### KEY VERSE:

**And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me,  
(Luke 22:29)**

#### INTRODUCTION

The Gospel of the Kingdom is an invitation for man to return to the realm of life God originally intended. But God does not set up a standard of morality and declare that when you have achieved it you can enter the Kingdom. There is one requirement for entrance: Repenting from sin which results in spiritual rebirth. Through repenting and accepting Jesus Christ as Savior you are born into the Kingdom and become a Kingdom resident.

Residency in the Kingdom of God requires a new lifestyle governed by the laws of the Kingdom. Life in the spiritual Kingdom affects the quality of life in the visible world. The lifestyle of the Kingdom is exactly opposite of the lifestyle of the kingdoms of the world. It is different in both structure and principles. When you enter the Kingdom of God it is like immigrating to a new country. You must learn a different culture.

In the natural world, "culture" is the behavior patterns which govern life in a given society. In this and the following chapter you will learn about the culture of the Kingdom

of God. In a later chapter, additional truths about the Kingdom revealed through parables will be presented.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF KINGDOM PRINCIPLES\***

It is important to know the principles which govern life in the Kingdom of God because:

#### **YOU MUST LIVE BY KINGDOM PRINCIPLES TO MAINTAIN RESIDENCY:**

Although repentance is the only requirement for entrance to the Kingdom, there are definite requirements to maintain residency. Jesus said:

**Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.  
(Matthew 7:21)**

The will of the Father, revealed by Jesus Christ, was that believers be governed by the laws of the Kingdom.

#### **JESUS SAID KINGDOM PRINCIPLES ARE IMPORTANT:**

In Luke 12:22-31 Jesus taught that the Kingdom should be the primary concern of life. He concluded with this statement:

**But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.  
(Luke 12:31)**

If you seek the Kingdom first...its principles, its lifestyle, its Gospel...then all other necessary things in life will be provided.

#### **FRUITS OF THE KINGDOM ARE THE TEST OF POSSESSION:**

Jesus told the Jews that the test of possessing the Kingdom was bringing forth the fruits thereof (Matthew 21:43). The fruit of the Kingdom is that which is outwardly produced by the inward life flow, just as fruit on a natural tree is the outward product of the flow of life within. If you are a resident of the Kingdom of God it will be apparent in your visible lifestyle.

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\* Everything Jesus taught concerned the Gospel of the Kingdom. In another Harvestime International Institute course entitled "*Teaching Tactics*" the complete teachings of Jesus organized by subject matter are presented. Study of "*Teaching Tactics*" as a companion course to this one is suggested since this list is not repeated in this manual. The student may also study the teachings of Jesus by using a red letter edition of the Bible. This is a Bible which has everything Jesus taught printed in red ink, while the remainder of the text is printed in black ink.

## **TO REIGN IN THE FUTURE KINGDOM WE MUST KNOW ITS PRINCIPLES:**

II Timothy 2:12 indicates that believers will reign with Jesus in the future Kingdom of God. To "reign" means to "rule with power and authority." If you are to reign with Him, you must know the laws which govern the Kingdom.

### **THE FOUNDATION OF KINGDOM PRINCIPLES**

A foundation in the natural world is the underlying structure on which something is built. Whenever men erect a building they must first lay a proper foundation. The foundation supports the superstructure or the visible building.

The foundation of the Kingdom of God and its governing principles is righteousness:

**But about the throne he says,**

**Our throne, O God, will last for ever and ever**

**a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. (Hebrews 1:8)**

A scepter is a rod or wand held in the hand as an emblem of power or authority. The authority or power of the Kingdom of God is righteousness. It is not the righteousness of self-improvement or religion. Jesus said:

**For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:20)**

The Scribes and Pharisees were religious leaders in the time of Christ's earthly ministry. Their spiritual experience was founded in their own attempts to be righteous. They had many rules, regulations, and traditions which governed every area of life.

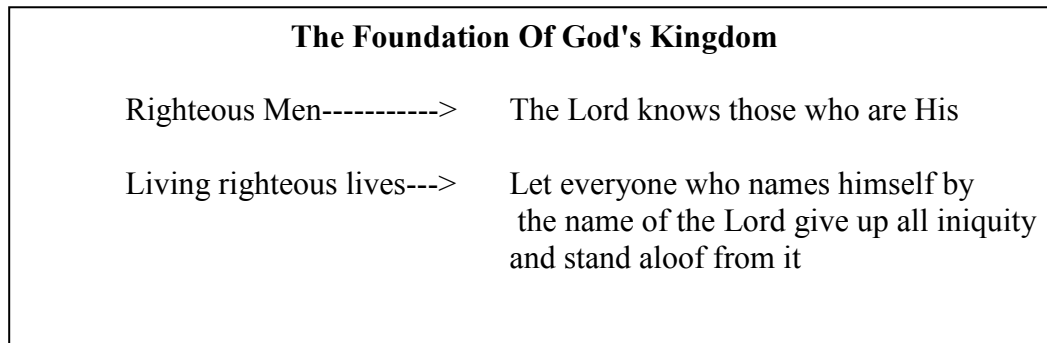
The righteousness upon which the Kingdom is built is the righteousness of God. We are told:

**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)**

The foundation of God's Kingdom stands on righteous men living righteous lives:

**Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription  
The Lord knows those who are his, and, everyone who confesses the  
name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.  
(II Timothy 2:19)**

This is illustrated by the following diagram:



There are two levels of commitment to this righteousness. These are evident in the following passage:

**Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?**

**Why do you ask me about what is good? Jesus replied. There is only one who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.**

**All these I have kept, the young man said. What do I still lack?**

**Jesus answered, If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.**

**When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. (Matthew 19:16-17; 20-22)**

There is one level of righteousness necessary to "enter into life." This is the righteousness that comes through the new birth experience when man is cleansed from sin and begins to live by God's commandments. But there is another level of righteousness known as perfection (spiritual maturity). To achieve perfection requires total consecration of worldly values, standards, or possessions which are precious to you.

This does not mean we all have to sell what we own and give it to the poor. Jesus required this of this man only because his riches were more important to him than God. Nothing in the world can be more important to us than the King. To achieve perfection we must abandon the principles of the world and embrace the principles of God's Kingdom.

## THE TWO GREATEST KINGDOM PRINCIPLES

There are two great Kingdom principles upon which all other principles are based. When asked what were the greatest commandments, Jesus replied:

**Jesus replied "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."**

**This is the first and greatest commandment.**

**And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."**

**All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. (Matthew 22:37-40)**

Mark recorded the same statement in the following way:

**The most important one, answered Jesus, is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."**

**The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:29-31)**

Jesus stated the second commandment in another way:

**So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:12)**

**So to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31**



To summarize, the two greatest principles of God's Kingdom are:

1. Loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
2. Loving and doing to others as you love yourself and want others to do to you.

All other Kingdom principles are based upon these two key principles. Each Kingdom principle relates either to your relationship with God or others.

### **THE KINGDOM INTRODUCED**

From the time of the introduction of the Kingdom, it was apparent that its structure was exactly opposite to the structure of the kingdoms of this world. After the angel appeared to the virgin Mary and proclaimed her to be the mother of the coming King, Mary praised God. The words of her worship were prophetic and revealed the new world order of the Kingdom of God:

**for the mighty one has done great things for me  
holy is his name.**

**His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.**

**He has performed mighty deeds with his arm  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.**

**He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty. (Luke 1:49-53)**

The proud and mighty of the world were to be brought down, and those of low degree exalted. The hungry were to be filled, while the rich were to be sent away empty.

When John introduced the Kingdom of God, this same order was revealed:

**Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.**

**The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.**

**And all people will see God's salvation. (Luke 3:5-6)**

The first miracle Jesus performed was turning water into wine. This illustrated that laws governing the Kingdom would be contrary to those of the natural kingdoms of the world.

## **GENERAL PRINCIPLES: CULTURE OF THE KINGDOM**

The basic principles upon which the Kingdom of God operates are exactly opposite of the common thinking of man and the accepted structure of earthly kingdoms. These principles include:

### **A GENERAL PRINCIPLE:**

Jesus established a basic Kingdom principle: "It shall not be so among you."

**Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.**

**Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,**

**and whoever wants to be first must be your slave"**

**Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:25-28)**

**But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. (Luke 22:26)**

**Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,**

**and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. (Mark 10:43-44)**

Although Jesus was dealing with a specific matter of leadership here, He also established a general principle of the Kingdom: "It shall not be so among you." Although worldly standards and earthly kingdoms accept certain principles, the principles of God's Kingdom are different..."It shall not be so among you."

### **THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY:**

There are many earthly kingdoms, all divided from one another. There are also divisions within earthly kingdoms which result in coups and revolutions. God's Kingdom is a united Kingdom. It is described as one spiritual body with many parts:

**Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.**

**For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.**

**Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.  
(I Corinthians 12:12-14)**

The residents of God's Kingdom are united together in God and Jesus:

**that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.  
May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

**have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—**

**in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.  
Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:21-23)**

God's Kingdom has no relationships with the kingdom of Satan:

**Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.**

**If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand—**

**and if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.**

**But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Matthew 12:25-28. See also Mark 3:23-26 and Luke 11:17-20)**

One of the main purposes of unity in the Kingdom of God is the unlimited power it produces. Jesus promised:

**I gain, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.**

**For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.  
(Matthew 18:19-20)**

Because the residents of God's Kingdom are still in fleshly bodies, division may arise from time to time. Jesus gave instructions for handling such divisions in Matthew 18:15-35.

### **THE PRINCIPLE OF PENETRATION:**

The Kingdom of God is to penetrate the world in two ways: As light and as salt:

**You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.**

**You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.**

**Neither do you light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.**

**In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)**

**No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light.**

**Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness.**

**See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness.**

**Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.  
(Luke 11:33-36)**

**Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?**

**It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile—it is thrown out.  
Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear. (Luke 14:34-35)**

**He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a  
ed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand" (Mark 4:21)**

**"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt  
among yourselves, and be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)**

In the natural world, salt works silently. It is used to preserve food, heal wounds, and add flavor. A little salt affects a great amount of food.

In the spiritual world, Kingdom residents are to penetrate the world as salt. They are to preserve the values and quality of the Kingdom, be a healing balm to others, and like the flavor of life. They are to spread the Kingdom steadily. As salt, they can affect a great mass of humanity. In another passage, Jesus compared the penetration of the Kingdom to leaven (Matthew 13:33). Like salt, a little leaven works silently to penetrate a great lump of bread.

In the natural world, light exposes darkness. It shows the way out of darkness. Light in darkness cannot escape notice. The Kingdom resident is to be a spiritual light in the world. He is to expose and show the way out of darkness. He is not to allow anything in his life (bushel) to conceal the light of the Kingdom. Believers are to live the life of the Kingdom in a visible way, steadily penetrating the kingdoms of the world with the Gospel of the Kingdom.

### **PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER:**

Prayer in the Kingdom is based on three principles: Asking, seeking, and knocking:

**"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door  
will be opened to you.**

**For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who  
knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)**

Each level of prayer speaks of greater intensity in seeking God.

Jesus also gave a model prayer for Kingdom residents. You can read it in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4.

### **PRINCIPLES OF WORSHIP:**

The basic principles of worship in the Kingdom are described in Matthew 6:1-18. Read this passage in your Bible. The basic principles of worship include:

Giving:	Outward look	Matthew 6:1-4
Praying:	Upward look	Matthew 6:5-15
Fasting:	Inward look	Matthew 6:16-18

All three areas of worship are to be done in secret in order to be blessed of God.

### **THE PRINCIPLE OF SINGLENES OF VISION:**

The single vision of Kingdom residents is to seek first the Kingdom of God. Read Matthew 6:19-34 and compare it to Luke 12:22-34:

- Jesus speaks of singleness of heart in Matthew 6:19-21.
- He speaks of singleness of vision in Matthew 6:22-23.
- He speaks of singleness of devotion in Luke 16:13.
- He speaks of singleness of service in Matthew 6:24 and Luke 9:60 and 62.
- He speaks of singleness in thought in Matthew 6:25-32 and 34.

The following verse summarizes this principle of singleness of vision:

- ut seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will**
- e given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)**

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. What is the foundation upon which all other Kingdom principles rest?

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3. What are the two Kingdom laws upon which all other principles are based?

First: \_\_\_\_\_

Second: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Give four reasons why it is important to know Kingdom principles.

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5. You may use your Bible to match each verse with the principle it teaches. Look up a verse in Column One. Choose the general principle from Column Two which is taught by that verse. Write its number in front of the reference in Column One. The first one is done as an example for you to follow.

### Column One

- a.   2   Matthew 5:13-16
- b.        I Corinthians 12:12-14
- c.        Matthew 20:26
- d.        Matthew 7:7-12
- e.        Matthew 6:1-18
- f.        Matthew 6:19-34

### Column Two

- 1. Principle of unity
- 2. Principle of penetration
- 3. Prayer principles
- 4. A general principle: Kingdom principles differ from the world
- 5. Singleness of vision
- 6. Principles of worship

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Summarize the Kingdom principles taught in the book of Luke:

Luke 1:33

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4:43

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6:20

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7:28

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8:1,10

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9:2,11,27,60

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10:9-11

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11:2, 17-20

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12:31-32

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13:18-29

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14:15

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16:16

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17:20-21

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18:16-29

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19:11-15

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21:10,31

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22:16-30

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23:42, 50-51



# CHAPTER EIGHT

## THE CULTURE OF THE KINGDOM:

### KINGDOM PRINCIPLES - PART II

#### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Identify contrasts of structure between the Kingdom of God and kingdoms of the world.

#### KEY VERSE:

**Listen, my dear brothers and sisters—as not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him (James 2:5)**

#### INTRODUCTION

In this chapter you will learn more about the culture of the Kingdom of God as you continue your study of Kingdom principles. You will learn specific principles of this spiritual Kingdom which rest on the general principles discussed in Chapter Seven.

#### SPECIFIC CONTRASTS: CULTURE OF THE KINGDOM

Now let us study about specific principles of the Kingdom which rest on the general principles already discussed. Many of these contrasts are found in Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6. Read these chapters before you continue with your study.

These passages are part of the teachings of Jesus which have come to be known as the "Sermon On the Mount" because He first taught it on a mountainside in Israel. This sermon contains many specific Kingdom principles. The sermon does not cover every life situation, but the principles are representative. They establish a pattern for ethics and behavior applicable in all situations.

The first part of the sermon, Matthew 5:1-12 has come to be known as the "Beatitudes" and deals with basic Kingdom attitudes which are blessed by God. Those who are blessed do not hold the conventional values of society. The word "blessed" used in this passage means to be

approved by God. There is a difference between being blessed and being happy. Being blessed depends on God and is unaffected by circumstances. Being happy depends on circumstances of life.

Here are some of the specific contrasts in the culture of the Kingdom of God.

### **THE KINGDOM BELONGS TO THOSE WHO ARE POOR IN SPIRIT:**

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
(Matthew 5:3)**

The world honors those with material wealth. God chooses the poor of the world and makes them rich in faith:

**Listen, my dear brothers and sisters! Was not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? (James 2:5)**

**Looking at his disciples, he said  
Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God. (Luke 6:20)**

### **THE POOR ARE RICH AND THE RICH ARE POOR:**

The world emphasizes the spirit of self reliance, self- expression, and self-improvement. But God approves those who are poor in spirit who realize they have no ability to save themselves, to satisfy their spiritual needs, or to solve their own problems.

**But woe unto you that are rich! For you have received your consolation.  
(Luke 6:24)**

### **SORROW BRINGS JOY:**

There are two kinds of sorrow. The sorrow of the world is sorrow resulting *from* sin. It is a sorrow which comes through suffering the penalties of sin. But this sorrow does not result in a change in lifestyle. Godly sorrow is sorrow *for* sin. Godly sorrow results in repentance:

God approves of such sorrow. He says those who experience it will receive comfort:

**Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)**

**Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be satisfied.**

**Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh. (Luke 6:21)**

**Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You  
will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. (John 16:20)**

In the Kingdom, those who mourn are comforted and sorrow brings joy. Joy is turned to sorrow for those in the kingdoms of the world:

**Blessed are you who are well fed now,  
for you will go hungry.**

**Blessed are you who laugh now,  
for you will mourn and weep. (Luke 6:25)**

### **THE MEEK ARE CONQUERORS:**

Meekness is not weakness or passiveness. To be meek means to be gentle in nature, not easily provoked, and to have a mild temperament. It is the opposite of worldly principles which advise "assert yourself, stand up for your rights."

Meekness is not a natural quality of fleshly man. It is one of the spiritual fruits of the Kingdom:

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness,**

**gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)**

Each of these qualities should be characteristic of Kingdom residents. They are spiritual fruit which are a result of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. (These are discussed in detail in another Harvestime International Institute course entitled "*Ministry Of The Holy Spirit.*")

The world does not consider meek people as conquerors, but God promises the meek will inherit the earth:

**Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:6)**

### **THE HUNGRY ARE FILLED:**

Men hunger after many things in the kingdoms of the world. They hunger after power, wealth, success, and happiness. Kingdom residents should not hunger for such material things. They should seek righteousness which is the basic principle of the Kingdom:

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled. (Matthew 5:6)**

**Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be satisfied.**

**Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh. (Luke 6:21)**

Some believers go from religious meeting to meeting seeking "blessings" from God. They are never satisfied spiritually. In this Kingdom principle, Jesus reveals that only those who hunger for righteousness will be spiritually filled.

When you are hungry in the natural world, you do not sit down and passively wait for food. You take action to satisfy your hunger by obtaining food and preparing a meal. In the spiritual world you cannot sit and passively wait for God to satisfy your spiritual hunger. You must actively seek spiritual food by communicating with God in prayer and studying His written Word.

The hungry are filled in the Kingdom of God. Those in the kingdoms of the world are left hungry:

- ☐ **oe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.**
- ☐ **oe to you who laugh now,  
for you will mourn and wee** ☐ **(Luke 6:25)**

#### **THE MERCIFUL OBTAIN MERCY:**

Worldly principles warn that if you are too merciful with others, they will abuse you. If you show too much kindness, they will take advantage of you. Kingdom principles teach the opposite. If you show mercy you will obtain mercy instead of abuse:

- ☐ **lessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy. (Matthew 5:7)**

#### **INWARD RATHER THAN OUTWARD STRESSED:**

The religious leaders of Jesus' day stressed the outward keeping of law and tradition rather than inward heart attitudes. They observed the Sabbath strictly, fasted regularly, prayed openly, and gave alms to the poor.

But Jesus stressed the inward attitudes of the heart rather than the outward sacrifices. He said:

- ☐ **lessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God. (Matthew 5:8)**

It is not those with the outward signs of religion that will see God. It is those who are pure in heart.

#### **PEACE INSTEAD OF REVOLUTION:**

Revolution is the method of change in the kingdoms of the world. Peacemakers are those who bring change in the Kingdom of God. Jesus said:

- ☐ **lessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God. (Matthew 5:9)**

Peace is not running away from problems or the absence of war and strife. The peace of which Jesus spoke is different from worldly peace:

**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.  
(John 14:27)**

In the peace of the world there is fear. Will they keep the peace treaty? Will they abide by their promises? In God's peace, there is no fear. He has promised to keep believers in perfect peace. They can have the peace of God even while living in chaotic circumstances in the kingdoms of the world.

### **THE PERSECUTED ARE REWARDED:**

This Kingdom principle pronounces blessing on those who suffer for a specific reason: For righteousness sake.

**Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:10)**

**Blessed are you when people hate you,  
when they exclude you and insult you  
and reflect your name as evil,  
because of the Son of Man.**

**Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in  
heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.  
(Luke 6:22-23)**

**Rejoice to you when everyone speaks well of you,  
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets. (Luke 6:26)**

It is not a general blessing on all who suffer, because some people suffer for their own faults:

**But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and  
endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is  
commendable before God. (1 Peter 2:20)**

Sin is behind some suffering:

**Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray  
over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.**

**And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.**

**Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5:14-16)**

### **THE LEAST ARE GREATEST:**

In the world, greatness is exalted. People are considered great if they are successful, famous, have great wealth or power. In the Kingdom of God, those who are great live and teach Kingdom principles. They may be considered the least in the kingdoms of the world, but they are greatest in the Kingdom of God:

**Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:19)**

### **THE HUMBLE ARE EXALTED:**

**For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. (Luke 14:11)**

**For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. (Matthew 23:12)**

### **SERVANTS ARE LEADERS:**

The kingdoms of the world hold leaders in high esteem. They are honored and exalted. They are waited upon by servants and considered in a social class far above all others.

In the Kingdom of God, to lead you must become a servant:

**Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.**

**Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,**

**and whoever wants to be first must be your slave"**

Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:25-28)

But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. (Luke 22:26)

Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. (Mark 10:43-44)

The greatest among you will be your servant. (Matthew 23:11)

### THE LAST ARE FIRST:

Those who are first in the kingdoms of the world are last in God's Kingdom:

But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first. (Matthew 19:30)

For the last will be first, and the first will be last. (Matthew 20:16)

Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last. (Luke 13:30)

### SMALL BECOMES GREAT:

Jesus illustrated this principle by the natural examples of a mustard seed, leaven, and a widow's mite:

He told them another parable: The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.

He told them still another parable: The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a great quantity of flour until it worked all through the dough. (Matthew 13:31-33. See also Mark 4:30-32)

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury.

He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins.

Truly I tell you, he said, this poor widow has put in more than all the others.

For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had. (Luke 21:1-4)

#### **THAT WHICH IS HIGHLY ESTEEMED IS LOWLY VALUED:**

He said to them, You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. That people value highly is detestable in God's sight. (Luke 16:15)

#### **ADULTS BECOME AS CHILDREN:**

In the Kingdom of God, adults must become as children. This means they must accept the Gospel of the Kingdom in the same way as a child: In simple faith.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them.

And he said, Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:1-4)

But Jesus called the children to him and said, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. (Luke 18:16-17)

#### **LOSE YOUR LIFE TO SAVE IT:**

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (John 12:24)

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. (Mark 8:35)

Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. (Matthew 10:39)



You lose your life by denying of worldly pleasures and standards in order to follow the King:

**When Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."**

**For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. (Matthew 16:24-25)**

#### **HATE LIFE INSTEAD OF LOVING IT:**

**Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (John 12:25)**

#### **GIVE TO RECEIVE:**

**Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (Luke 6:38)**

#### **THE IMPOSSIBLE IS POSSIBLE:**

**Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." (Luke 18:27)**

**Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)**

**Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God—all things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27)**

#### **THOSE WITHOUT SIGHT SEE AND THOSE WITH SIGHT ARE BLIND:**

**Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." (John 9:39)**

Jesus came to give spiritual vision to those lost in spiritual darkness. Those who thought they had spiritual vision through religious tradition were actually blind.

#### **TAKE A YOKE AND BURDEN TO REST:**

A yoke is a piece of equipment used to pair up two animals to pull a plow. It speaks of labor. A burden is something that is carried. It is a weight. Jesus said:

**“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**

**“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

**“For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)**

You find true rest by being yoked together with Jesus to carry His burden. His burden is that the Gospel of the Kingdom be extended to the nations of the world.

### **HEAVENLY RATHER THAN EARTHLY TREASURES ARE EMPHASIZED:**

**“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.**

**“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

**“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21**

Jesus compared those who emphasize earthly treasures to a fool:

**“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:21)**

### **HEAVENLY RATHER THAN EARTHLY GLORY IS SOUGHT:**

**“Whoever seeks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth—there is nothing false about him.” John 7:18**

**“How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? (John 5:44)**

**“Jesus replied, ‘If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. (John 8:54)**

### **DIVISION INSTEAD OF PEACE RESULTS:**

Jesus is peace. When He came to the world in fleshly form, peace was on earth. But Jesus brought division instead of peace to the kingdoms of the world. Families, cities, and kingdoms were divided because of Him. Some believed and accepted Him as King. They became residents

of the Kingdom through spiritual rebirth. Others did not accept Jesus as King and did not become part of the Kingdom. This resulted in division:

**Who you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, I bring division.**

**From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three.**

**They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.**  
**(Luke 12:51-53)**

**a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.** (Matthew 10:36)

#### **THAT COVERED IS REVEALED:**

**Who do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.**

**What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.** (Matthew 10:26-27)

#### **THE KINGDOM IS EXTENDED TO SINNERS INSTEAD OF RIGHTEOUS:**

**But go and learn what this means: I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.** (Matthew 9:13)

#### **SPIRITUAL RATHER THAN NATURAL IS EMPHASIZED:**

**For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,** (Romans 14:17)

**For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power**  
**(I Corinthians 4:20)**

## **ADDITIONAL CONTRASTS**

Use the following chart to study additional contrasts between the Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of the world:

Two paths and two gates:	Matthew 7:13-14
Two prophets:	Matthew 7:15
Two trees:	Matthew 7:17-20; Luke 6:43-44
Two claims:	Matthew 7:21-23
Two houses:	Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. On each blank supply the correct word to complete the sentence:

### Specific Kingdom Principles

- a. The poor are\_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Sorrow brings\_\_\_\_\_.
- c. The meek are\_\_\_\_\_.
- d. The hungry are\_\_\_\_\_.
- e. The merciful obtain\_\_\_\_\_.
- f. Inward rather than\_\_\_\_\_ is stressed.
- g. Division instead of\_\_\_\_\_.
- h. The persecuted are\_\_\_\_\_.
- i. The least are\_\_\_\_\_.
- j. The humble are\_\_\_\_\_.
- k. Servants are\_\_\_\_\_.
- l. The last are\_\_\_\_\_.
- m. Small becomes\_\_\_\_\_.
- n. That which is highly esteemed is\_\_\_\_\_.

- o. Adults become as \_\_\_\_\_.
- p. You die to \_\_\_\_\_.
- q. You lose your life to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- r. You hate life instead of \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- s. You give to \_\_\_\_\_.
- t. The impossible is \_\_\_\_\_.
- u. Those without sight \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. You take a yoke and a burden in order to \_\_\_\_\_.
- w. Heavenly rather than \_\_\_\_\_ treasures are emphasized.
- x. That covered is \_\_\_\_\_.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

To continue your study of the contrasts in the Kingdom of God review those listed in II Corinthians 6:8-10 and list them below.

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# CHAPTER NINE

## THE CULTURE OF THE KINGDOM:

### KINGDOM PRINCIPLES - PART III

#### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Explain the relation between Old Testament law and New Testament Kingdom principles.
- Identify New Testament principles expanded from Old Testament laws.

#### KEY VERSE:

**But the crowds learned and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing. (Luke 9:11)**

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter continues study of the culture of the Kingdom of God by examining the relation between Old Testament law and New Testament principles.

#### TREASURES OLD AND NEW

One of the examples Jesus gave of the Kingdom of God stressed the combination of old and new in Kingdom principles:

**He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." (Matthew 13:52)**

Kingdom principles taught by Jesus were both old and new. Jesus called them "old and new treasures." The law given by God to Moses and recorded in Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy became the foundation for the new principles of life in the Kingdom. The Old Testament law was specific and concerned with outward actions. The new Kingdom principles taught by Jesus were more inclusive and concerned with inward attitudes.



Jesus' teachings did not eliminate the law, but fulfilled it:

**Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.**

**For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the law until everything is accomplished. (Matthew 5:17-18)**

**I said to them, This is what I told you while I was still with you; everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets and the psalms. (Luke 24:44)**

Jesus expanded the principles of the Kingdom on the Old Testament foundation. He did not eliminate the old principles. He simply stripped them of the outward trappings of religion which resulted in the tendency to miss the inner reality of the Kingdom.

The teaching of Jesus was in harmony with the Old Testament, but it was in disharmony with the religious leaders of the time. The Scribes and Pharisees added their own traditions and interpretations to God's law. They were concerned with the "letter of the law," that is, keeping every detail of the law, plus their own man-made traditions and interpretations. Jesus emphasized the "spirit of the law," the general principles behind the laws.

### **THE OLD COULD NOT CONTAIN THE NEW**

These Kingdom principles taught by Jesus could not be contained in the old religious structure. Jesus told two stories illustrating this. He spoke of old and new garments:

**No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. (Matthew 9:16)**

**No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. (Mark 2:21)**

**I told them this parable: No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. (Luke 5:36)**

He also spoke of old and new wine:

**Neither do ye pour our new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. So, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.** (Matthew 9:17)

**And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. So, they pour new wine into new wineskins.** (Mark 2:22)

**And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined.**

**So, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.**

**And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, "The old is better."** (Luke 5:37-39)

The old religious systems could not contain the "new wine" of Kingdom principles. The new wine must be poured into new vessels. This is why entrance into the Kingdom was by spiritual rebirth. It was necessary to allow time for these old religious structures to change because those who had experienced them would say, "The old is better."

Jesus did not destroy the old religious structure. He allowed it to be preserved while at the same time pouring "new wine" into the new spiritual vessels of men and women reborn in Christ Jesus. He allowed time for the transition from the old to the new.

This is an important key in introducing the Gospel of the Kingdom into societies with pre-existing religions. Emphasis should be on pouring the "new wine" into new vessels, not expending effort on destroying traditional religious structure. The old will be eliminated as men and women find the "new wine" to be better.

## **A PATTERN OF IDENTIFICATION**

Throughout the Gospels you can identify the "old and new treasures" by watching for the following pattern:

1. Jesus introduces these teachings with the phrases "It has been said," "It is written" or "Have ye not read?"
2. The Old Testament law is stated.
3. Then Jesus adds, "But I say unto you."
4. The New Testament Kingdom principle, expanded on Old Testament law, is then stated.

## TREASURES OF THE KINGDOM

The following chart summarizes some "old and new treasures" of the Kingdom revealed by Jesus. Look up each reference to study these Kingdom principles.

	<b>Old Treasure "It has been said"</b>	<b>New Treasure "But I say unto you"</b>
Matthew 5:21-26	You shall not kill.	Anger without cause is the same thing.
Matthew 5:23-24; 6:1-8; 23:14,23-27 Mark 7:6-8; 11:25-26 Luke 18:10-14	Worship depends on outward actions.	Worship depends on inward attitudes.
Matthew 5:27-32	You shall not commit adultery.	Thought the same as the act.
Matthew 5:33-37 23:16-22	Do not swear by yourself.	Do not swear by anything.
Matthew 5:38-42	Return evil for evil.	Return good for evil.
Matthew 5:43-47 Luke 6:27-35	Love your neighbor.	Love your enemy.

	<b>Old Treasure "It has been said"</b>	<b>New Treasure "But I say unto you"</b>
Matthew 15:3-9 Mark 7:7-13	Holiness comes by following traditions of man.	Holiness is keeping commandments of God
Matthew 12:3-14 Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-6; Luke 6:1-11; John 5:1-47	Man was made for the Sabbath and must keep its detailed laws.	Sabbath made for man.
Matthew 15:10-20; Mark 7:14-23	Emphasis on outward holiness.	Emphasis on inward holiness.
Matthew 5:31-32; 19:1-9 Mark 10:2-12	Divorce for every cause.	Divorce not originally God's plan but permitted only for limited causes.

The chart you just studied does not include all the "old and new treasures." It focuses on major examples to establish a pattern which will enable you to continue the study on your own.

Read through the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and watch for this pattern. Use the "For Further Study" section of this chapter to make other additions to this chart of old and new treasures of the Kingdom.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Write the word "old" on the blank in front of each statement which describes the Old Testament law. Write the word "new" on the blank in front of each statement which describes New Testament Kingdom principles.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ Concerned more with inward attitudes.

b. \_\_\_\_\_ Concerned more with outward actions.

c. \_\_\_\_\_ More specific.

d. \_\_\_\_\_ More inclusive.

e. \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of the law.

f. \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit of the law.

g. \_\_\_\_\_ You shall not kill.

h. \_\_\_\_\_ Anger without cause is the same thing.

i. \_\_\_\_\_ Do not swear by anything.

j. \_\_\_\_\_ Do not swear by yourself.

k. \_\_\_\_\_ Return good for evil.

l. \_\_\_\_\_ Return evil for evil.

m. \_\_\_\_\_ Love thy neighbor.

n. \_\_\_\_\_ Love thy enemy.

o. \_\_\_\_\_ Worship depends on inward attitudes.

- p. \_\_\_\_\_ Worship depends on outward actions.
- q. \_\_\_\_\_ Sabbath made for man.
- r. \_\_\_\_\_ Man made for Sabbath.
- s. \_\_\_\_\_ Holiness is keeping man's traditions.
- t. \_\_\_\_\_ Holiness is keeping God's commandments.
- u. \_\_\_\_\_ Emphasis on outward holiness.
- v. \_\_\_\_\_ Emphasis on inward holiness.
- w. \_\_\_\_\_ Divorce for limited cause.
- x. \_\_\_\_\_ Divorce for every cause.
3. Circle the correct answer to complete this sentence:
- Jesus came to \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Destroy the Old Testament law.
  - b. Fulfill the Old Testament law.
4. What is the relationship between Old Testament law and New Testament Kingdom principles?
- 

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. There are not many direct references to the Kingdom in the book of John, but those few made are important:

John 1:45-49: Nathanael acknowledges Jesus as King and the living fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.

John Chapter Three: This is one of the most important chapters explaining how to gain entrance to the Kingdom of God.

John 18:36: An important reference on the Kingdom: Establishes the principle that the Kingdom is not a kingdom of this world.

2. Continue your study of "old and new treasures" in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Record your discoveries on the chart below:

**Old Treasure**  
**"It has been said"**

**New Treasure**  
**"But I say to you"**

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# CHAPTER TEN

## KINGDOM PARABLES

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Define the word "parable."
- Explain why Jesus used parables to teach Kingdom principles.
- Identify the main subject of the parables of Jesus.
- Study the parables of Jesus to learn Kingdom principles.

### KEY VERSE:

**Ye received, because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.  
(Matthew 13:11)**

### INTRODUCTION

In previous chapters you learned basic principles governing life in the Kingdom of God. During His earthly ministry, Jesus used a unique teaching method called "parables" to reveal other spiritual truths about the Kingdom.

In this chapter you will learn what parables are and why Jesus used them to teach Kingdom principles. You will also study selected parables to learn Kingdom principles.

### WHAT IS A PARABLE?

A parable is a story which uses an example from the natural world to illustrate a spiritual truth. The actual meaning of the word "parable" is "to lay beside to compare." In parables, Jesus used a natural example and compared it to a spiritual truth. A parable is an earthly story with a Heavenly meaning. That which is natural is something you can observe with your senses. You can see, hear, or touch it. That which is spiritual can only be observed with spiritual senses.



## THE SUBJECT OF THE PARABLES

The main subject of the parables of Jesus was the Kingdom of God. Before telling some of these parables Jesus clearly stated this as the subject:

**Again he said, What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? (Mark 4:30)**

**When Jesus asked, What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? (Luke 13:18)**

**Again he asked, What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? (Luke 13:20)**

Even when the parable was not introduced by such a direct statement, the subject was still the Kingdom of God. Every parable told by Jesus related in some way to the Kingdom.

## WHY PARABLES?

Why did Jesus choose this unique teaching method of parables to reveal spiritual truths about the Kingdom of God? The disciples asked this same question:

**The disciples came to him and asked, Why do you speak to the people in parables? (Matthew 13:10)**

Jesus answered:

**I replied, because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. (Matthew 13:11. See also Luke 8:10)**

Knowledge of the spiritual truths of the Kingdom was given to the disciples because they had spiritual minds. Those without spiritual minds heard the parables and failed to understand them because spiritual truths can only be understood by a spiritual mind:

**The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. (I Corinthians 2:14)**

Those with spiritual minds understand the Kingdom principles revealed in parables. Those with carnal, sinful minds cannot understand them. Jesus used parables to conceal these great spiritual principles from unbelievers:

so that,  
□they may □e ever seeing □ut never □erceiving,  
and ever hearing □ut never understanding□  
otherwise they might turn and □e forgiven□(Mark 4:12)

(A "spiritually minded" man is one who has been born again spiritually as explained in Chapter Four of this manual.)

## PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

All the parables told by Jesus reveal various facts about the Kingdom of God. The subject, references, and Kingdom truth taught by each are listed. Look up each reference in your Bible and read the parable.

### PARABLES CONCERNING THE OFFER OF THE KINGDOM:

The following parables concern the offer made by Jesus of the Kingdom of God.

**The Patched Garment:** Matthew 9:16; Mark 2:21; Luke 5:36  
**The Wine Bottles:** Matthew 9:17; Mark 2:22; Luke 5:37

These two parables teach that Jesus offered a Kingdom that was new and unique. It could not be confined to the old patterns of religious tradition. It is not possible to understand the Kingdom of God by trying to fit it into old thought patterns and lifestyles.

**The Good Shepherd:** John 10:1-16

King Jesus is compared to a shepherd. He would lead His sheep out of religious bondage and bring them into the liberty of His Kingdom. His sheep would know His voice and respond to His offer of the Kingdom.

**The Lost Sheep:** Matthew 18:12-14; Luke 15:4-7  
**The Lost Coin:** Luke 15:8-10  
**The Lost Son:** Luke 15:11-32

These parables illustrate how the Father seeks lost sheep for the Kingdom, how His followers should seek the lost, and how repentance is the key to becoming an heir to the Kingdom.

**The Wedding Banquet:** Matthew 22:1-14  
**The Great Banquet:** Luke 14:16-24

Through these parables, Jesus invited the present generation to enter the Kingdom. The original announcement was sent to a special group of people, the nation of Israel. Not all those chosen responded, so another invitation was extended to the Gentile nations.

**The Two Builders:** Matthew 7:24-27

In this parable Jesus taught that the Kingdom was built on Him. He compared Himself to a rock on which a person may build their life. A house built on such a secure foundation will stand through every storm. Jesus offered men and women the opportunity to build their lives on the eternal foundation of the Kingdom of God.

**The Two Gates:** Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 13:24-28

Only one gate leads to the Kingdom. That gate is the Lord Jesus Christ.

**PARABLES CONCERNING THE REJECTION OF THE KING:**

**The Murderous Husbandmen:** Matthew 21:33-44; Mark 12:1-11; Luke 20:9-18

Jesus used parables to reveal that the nation of Israel would reject Him as Messiah and King. This was illustrated in the parable of the murderous husbandmen. God sent prophets to earth with the offer of the Kingdom but Israel killed the prophets. Then God sent His own Son. He, too, was rejected and killed.

**The Barren Fig Tree:** Luke 13:6-9

Jesus told a parable about a barren fig tree. The fig tree is a natural symbol of the nation of Israel. God raised up Israel as the nation through which He could reveal the Kingdom to the world. Time and time again God tried to get the "tree" of Israel to bring forth "fruit" among heathen nations by sharing their knowledge of the true God, but Israel remained barren and unfruitful.

**The Wedding:** Matthew 22:2-14

Jesus also used a parable of a wedding to illustrate His rejection. Servants were sent to call people to the wedding but the people killed the servants and rejected the invitation. This revealed how the offer of the Kingdom was to be rejected.

**PARABLES CONCERNING THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE KINGDOM:**

**The Talents:** Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27

**The Man On A Long Journey:** Mark 13:34-37

**The Servants:** Matthew 24:43-51; Luke 12:39-46

**The Watching Servants:** Luke 12:36-38

Jesus told several parables which revealed the Kingdom of God would be established in its final form in the future. The Kingdom would not come at the present time because Israel rejected

Jesus as King. These parables also revealed Jesus would be absent for a time from the realm in which the Kingdom would finally be instituted. They stressed that His followers should be faithful over the task given them, using their talents and abilities to extend the Kingdom of God.

**The Fig Tree:** Matthew 24:32-34; Mark 13:28-30; Luke 21:29-32

Jesus told a parable about a fig tree which revealed the approximate timing for the final establishing of God's Kingdom. He said one can tell when summer is near because the fig tree puts out growth in leaves and blossoms. As already mentioned, the fig tree is a natural example of the nation of Israel. Jesus was revealing that when Israel was restored to her own land and began to "blossom" again as a nation, the time of the return of the King was near. (This event has already happened...Israel has been restored to her own land as a nation!)

### **PARABLES CONCERNING THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM:**

Jesus told several parables which illustrated how the Kingdom of God would extend throughout the world.

**The Talents:** Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27

This parable reveals that the Kingdom will be spread by wise use of the spiritual talents and abilities God has given believers.

**The Sower:** Matthew 13:3-8; Mark 4:3-8; Luke 8:5-8

The Gospel of the Kingdom will be spread by the sowing of the seed of the Word of God. To this sowing there will be varied responses, depending on the attitude of the hearers. The fruit depends not on the sower but on the life that is in the seed itself and the condition of the soil (man's heart).

**The Tares And Wheat:** Matthew 13:24-30

Satan will try to defeat the spread of the Kingdom by sowing people described as "weeds" among the good seed of God's Kingdom. The weeds Satan sows resemble good wheat. At the time of harvest wheat can be identified by the grain it produces, however, while weeds produce no useable grain.

**The Net:** Matthew 13:47-50

The Kingdom is also compared to a great net thrown into the sea. All kinds of fish are caught, but when the net is drawn to shore the good fish are separated from the bad. The Kingdom will draw in men and women from all nations. Prior to the final establishing of the Kingdom, there will be judgment to determine those who must be excluded.

**The Mustard Seed:**

Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:31-32; Luke 13:19

The Kingdom of God will grow like a mustard seed. The seed is very small and has an insignificant beginning, but in maturity grows to great size.

**The Leaven:**

Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:21

Like leaven in a lump of dough, the Kingdom of God will spread throughout the whole "lump" of the world. The power of the Kingdom is not external but internal.

**PARABLES CONCERNING KINGDOM JUDGMENT:****The Ten Virgins:**

Matthew 25:1-12

**The Sheep And The Goats:**

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus told several parables concerning future judgment in the Kingdom. At the time of judgment, those who are sheep of the true shepherd, Jesus Christ, will be accepted. All others will be denied entrance into the Kingdom.

**PARABLES CONCERNING THE VALUE OF THE KINGDOM:**

Jesus used several parables to illustrate the great value of the Kingdom of God.

**The Pearl Of Great Price:**

Matthew 13:45-46

**The Hidden Treasure:**

Matthew 13:44

These parables show that the Kingdom of God is of such great value that nothing else compares with it. It is more valuable than any possession of man. If you must give up everything you possess in order to obtain the Kingdom, it is worth the sacrifice.

**The Householder:**

Matthew 13:52

In this parable Jesus compared Himself to the custodian of a storehouse who brings forth items needed by the household. A custodian is a person in charge of something. The custodian may bring out new grain or old grain, new wine or old wine. By what he brings, the needs of the household are fully met. In some ways the Kingdom Jesus brought was like the previous form of the Kingdom. In other ways, it was entirely new. But both the old and new had value in meeting needs of residents of the Kingdom of God.

## **PARABLES CONCERNING LIFE IN THE KINGDOM:**

Many parables Jesus told illustrated principles of Kingdom living.

**The Two Sons:** Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus taught that obedience is the test of sonship within the Kingdom family.

**The Good Samaritan:** Luke 10:30-37

The Kingdom principle of love to all is taught in this parable. Our neighbor is anyone in need, whose need we know, and whose need we are able to meet.

**The Two Debtors:** Luke 7:41-43

This parable teaches that love will be shown by the one who has experienced the love of the Kingdom.

**The Pharisee And The Publican:** Luke 18:10-14

The Pharisee approached God on the basis of his own righteousness. The tax collector recognized there was nothing in himself worthy to stand before the Lord. In this parable Jesus taught how people should approach God to offer worship, praise, thanksgiving, petition, and intercession in the Kingdom. It also taught humility in prayer and warned of the sin of self-righteousness.

**The Persistent Widow:** Luke 18:1-8

**The Persistent Friend:** Luke 11:5-10

These two parables illustrate the importance of persistence in prayer.

**The Faithful Manager:** Matthew 25:14-30

This parable stresses the importance of wise and righteous stewardship of Kingdom treasures which God entrusts to believers.

**Seats At The Wedding Feast:** Luke 14:7-11

This parable illustrates the importance of humility and that promotion in God's Kingdom comes from the Lord.

**The Vine And The Branches:** John 15:1-6

This parable describes the relationship of Jesus to the Church.

**The Laborers In The Vineyard:** Matthew 20:1-16

This parable teaches that eternal rewards are not made on the basis of worldly standards.

**The Servant's Office:** Luke 17:7-10

This parable teaches that it is our responsibility to serve and do those things commanded by the King.

**The King Going To War:** Luke 14:31-33

**The Man Building A Tower:** Luke 14:28-30

These parables emphasize the importance of proper understanding of commitment to the Kingdom.

**The Wedding Garment:** Matthew 22:10-14

This parable emphasizes the necessity of being clothed in righteousness to remain in the Kingdom. It is through Jesus' righteousness, not self-righteousness, that this is achieved.

**The Rich Man's Meditation:** Luke 12:16-21

This story illustrates the folly of relying on temporal material wealth. The priority of life is the eternal Kingdom of God.

**The Mote And The Beam:** Matthew 7:1-5; Luke 6:41-42

This parable teaches that we should judge ourselves rather than others.

**The Harvest:** Matthew 9:37-38; Luke 10:2

It was the story of a harvest, ripe and ready to gather, which Jesus used to focus the attention of His disciples on the need for extending the Kingdom. It was the vision conveyed by this parable that changed them from "fishermen" to "fishers of men."

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. What is a parable?

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3. Why did Jesus use parables to teach spiritual truths about the Kingdom of God?

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4. What was the main subject of the parables of Jesus?

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)



## FOR FURTHER STUDY

The book of Revelation is just as its name reflects: It reveals that which was not previously known. God revealed to the Apostle John events which will happen in the future. These were things John could not possibly know by natural wisdom. As God revealed these things, John wrote them in the book called "Revelation."

This revelation concerns events that are to happen prior to the ending of this world and time as we now know it. Like parables, Revelation is difficult to understand with the natural mind. It must be discerned with a spiritual mind.

Revelation reveals much about the future of the Kingdom of God.

1. Study the following references to the Kingdom of God in the book:  
Revelation 1:9; 11:15; 12:10
2. The following references deal with the kingdoms of the world and of Satan: Revelation 16:10; 17:17
3. Revelation 20:10-15 reveals the final destiny of Satan and residents of his kingdom.
4. Revelation chapters 21-22 describes the destiny of residents of the Kingdom of God.

Summarize what you learn from these passages regarding the Kingdom of God:

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# CHAPTER ELEVEN

## AMBASSADORS OF THE KINGDOM

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Define the word "ambassador."
- Define the word "witness."
- Explain the importance of extending the Gospel of the Kingdom throughout the world.

### KEY VERSES:

**As you go, proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven has come near.**

**Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. (Matthew 10:7-8)**

### INTRODUCTION

You have learned many things about the Kingdom of God in this course. You have learned of the existence of the spiritual kingdoms of Satan and of God. The past, present, and future of the Kingdom of God was reviewed. You studied the life and teachings of King Jesus. You have been given the keys for entrance into the Kingdom of God and warned of things which result in being cast out of the Kingdom. You studied Kingdom parables and learned important principles of Kingdom living.

In this final chapter you will receive a special assignment. This assignment will take a lifetime to complete. You will be commissioned as an ambassador of the Kingdom of God.

### THE MISSION OF JESUS

Jesus came to this earth with a special mission to establish the Kingdom of God:

**After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.**

**“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news” (Mark 1:14-15)**

**“From that time on Jesus began to preach, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Matthew 4:17)**

The commitment of Jesus to the Kingdom of God was evident throughout His entire ministry:

**“But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” (Luke 4:43)**

After His death and resurrection, Jesus remained on earth for a short period of time and appeared to many people. His message had not changed. It focused on the Kingdom of God:

**“After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)**

Jesus began His ministry by declaring the message of the Kingdom (Matthew 4:17). He ended His earthly ministry by speaking of things pertaining to the Kingdom (Acts 1:3). Between the start and conclusion of His ministry, His chief concern was the extension of God's Kingdom.

## **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

Even before His death, Jesus prepared His disciples to continue the extension of the Kingdom. First, the disciples were observers of how the message of the Kingdom was to be presented:

**“After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. He was with him, (Luke 8:1)**

Next, Jesus trained the disciples by participation. He sent them throughout Israel with directions to...

**and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:2)**

Finally, He commissioned them with the responsibility of extending the Gospel of the Kingdom to the nations of the world:

**“When Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**

**Matthew 28:19-20**

**He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16:15)**

## **AMBASSADORS OF THE KINGDOM**

Before Jesus returned to Heaven, He said to His followers:

**And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, (Luke 22:29)**

The Kingdom God gave Jesus was passed on by Jesus to His followers and we are privileged to be part of this eternal empire. But God chooses for purpose, not just privilege. Jesus left His followers with a responsibility of extending the Kingdom of God throughout the world. They were to be ambassadors of the Kingdom.

An ambassador is a representative sent by one kingdom to represent and transact business in another. He is a messenger and authorized agent of the kingdom he represents. Paul said:

**We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf to be reconciled to God. (II Corinthians 5:20)**

We are the ambassadors sent by the King to represent and transact the business of the Kingdom of God in the kingdoms of the world.

Our assignment as ambassadors of the Kingdom is a lifetime commitment. Once we have accepted this commission, we cannot look back:

**Jesus replied, No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God. (Luke 9:62)**

## **WE ARE WITNESSES**

As ambassadors, we are to be witnesses for the Kingdom of God. A witness is someone who can testify and present evidence of something experienced first hand. He is one who personally sees, observes, experiences, and produces proof of what he has experienced. Jesus said to His disciples:

**And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. (John 15:27)**

The witness of the ambassadors of the Kingdom was to extend throughout the earth:

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)**

The message of the witnesses was to be...

**We told them, this is what is written the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,**

**and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

**You are witnesses of these things. (Luke 24:46-48)**

As the disciples went out as witnesses, God also witnessed through them:

**God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. (Hebrews 2:4)**

We are to be ambassadors of the Kingdom, giving witness to its message, with God confirming our witness by the demonstration of His power.

### **AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY**

Why is this responsibility to extend the Kingdom so important?

Because Jesus said...

**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)**

The final establishment of the Kingdom of God will not come until the Gospel of the Kingdom is preached to all the world. Note that it is not just the Gospel...it is the Gospel of the Kingdom. In these verses Paul gives the elements of the Gospel:

**Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.**

**By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.**

**For what we received we passed on to you as of first importance—that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,**

**that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures, (I Corinthians 15:1-4)**

The basic Gospel message is that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, He was buried, and He rose again according to the scriptures.

The Gospel must be preached, but it must include the message of the Kingdom. Men must be informed of its existence and taught how to enter and live as Kingdom residents.

### **SHARING THE KINGDOM**

Specific guidelines were given by Jesus on how the message of the Kingdom is to be shared. The message of the Kingdom must include the call to repentance from sin:

**After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.**

**The time has come, he said. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news! (Mark 1:14-15)**

**From that time on Jesus began to reach, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. (Matthew 4:17)**

The message of the Kingdom is to be spread through both teaching and preaching:

**Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. (Matthew 9:35)**

Jesus told His followers...

**As you go, proclaim this message—the kingdom of heaven has come near. (Matthew 10:7)**

The message of the Kingdom is not to be in words only. The demonstration of God's power is to accompany the verbal presentation of the Kingdom. This was evident in the example set by Jesus:

**Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. (Matthew 9:35)**

**But the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing. (Luke 9:11)**

Jesus instructed His disciples to not only teach and preach the Kingdom, but in every city to...

**Heal the sick who are there and tell them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." (Luke 10:9)**

**and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:2)**

The demonstration of power...miracles and healings...is the Kingdom of God in action. Paul said:

**For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. (I Corinthians 4:20)**

### **FULFILLING THE COMMISSION**

The Apostle Paul, a great ambassador of the Kingdom during the period of the early Church, said:

**My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,**

**so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. (I Corinthians 2:4-5)**

The first Church fulfilled the commission of extending the Kingdom of God not only by teaching and preaching. It was not extended by educated theologians, parties, programs, or building great buildings. The commission was accomplished by combining the message of the Kingdom with the demonstration of the power of the King.

The extension of the Kingdom became the central purpose of the early Church. Despite persecution, believers continued to fulfill their commission as ambassadors of the Kingdom:

**In that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.**

**Those who had been scattered reached the word wherever they went.  
(Acts 8:1,4)**

Part of the follow-up plan for establishing churches was instruction regarding the Kingdom of God:

**They reached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples.  
When they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch,  
strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the  
faith. We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,  
they said. (Acts 14:21-22)**

The Kingdom of God was the message of the laymen of the Church:

**But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom  
of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and  
women. (Acts 8:12)**

The Kingdom of God was the focus of great leaders of the Church:

**Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months,  
arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. (Acts 19:8)**

The Kingdom of God was the central focus of Paul's ministry. Towards the end of his ministry Paul told believers...

**Now know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the  
kingdom will ever see me again. (Acts 20:25)**

In the final Biblical mention of Paul, he is continuing the extension of the Kingdom even though captive in Rome:

**We proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus  
Christ with all boldness and without hindrance  
(Acts 28:31)**

## **BUILDING UP THE KINGDOM**

In many cases, the modern Church has lost this emphasis on building the Kingdom of God. We build great churches, beautiful buildings, and large denominations. We emphasize the building of orphanages, schools, and hospitals.

While these things are good and a legitimate part of the ministry of the Church, they are not to be the central focus. Fund raising and construction are not our commission. The products of such



can result in the building of personal kingdoms rather than the worldwide extension of the Kingdom of God.

Paul warned of this when he said...

**For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.  
(Philippians 2:21)**

Each ministry project considered should be judged by this question: *How will this help fulfill the commission to extend God's Kingdom?* We preach and teach on many subjects...marriage, family, prophecy. These are good subjects and much needed in our world today. We train great orators to fill our Church pulpits. But each message should be judged by this question: *How does this message communicate the principles of the Kingdom of God?*

Ask yourself these questions...

- How long has it been since I heard a message on the Kingdom of God?
- How is my Church fulfilling the commission to extend God's Kingdom?
- How am I personally fulfilling my role as an ambassador of the Kingdom of God?

Jesus taught that we are to focus our prayers on the Kingdom. We are to pray:

**your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10)**

We are to seek the Kingdom as our highest priority in life:

**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will  
be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)**

**But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.  
(Luke 12:31)**

The Church was raised up by God as an instrument through which the Kingdom can be extended to the nations of the world. Many churches have lost the vision of this calling. They have emphasized building their membership and denomination instead of building the Kingdom.

Competition between pastors, churches, and denominations has broken the unity of the Body of Christ. We have lost the vision of one united Kingdom of God of which each local Church is a part. Instead of helping one another in the mission to extend the Kingdom, we compete for greater buildings, larger membership rolls, and increased finances to build our own kingdoms.

The plan of God was that the Church not only preach the Kingdom but that it should be a living example of the Kingdom. Are we meeting that challenge?

The Church needs to lose itself in a greater cause than its membership rolls. It needs to dedicate its efforts to more than building programs and membership drives. The Church needs to seek first the Kingdom of God which transcends denominational, cultural, and national boundaries. If the Church will seek first the Kingdom, then all these other things will be added.

### **AN OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLE**

God's first commission to man was to "multiply and replenish the earth" (Genesis 1:28). The emphasis was on people. The goal was to fill the earth with men and women created in the image of God with a personal relationship with God. But in Genesis 11:1-9 we find the emphasis changed by man. Read this passage in your Bible.

At Shinar the emphasis was on building a city and a great tower instead of populating the earth. Projects rather than people had become the focus of attention. The purposes were selfish: To make a great name and congregate a great number of people.

At the tower of Babel God came to view the work of the people. God had not appointed their task, so He came to see what they were doing. This is the condition of many of our churches. We have ignored the commission to extend the Kingdom and we are building great towers of denomination and membership. We are building great buildings. What would God say if He came down to view what we are doing?

The people of Shinar said, "Let us build a city." There is a difference between a city built by man and a city whose builder and maker is God. These people were building by self-effort to accomplish their own selfish desires.

God took action and confounded their language:

**“Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”**

**“So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.”**

**“That is why it was called Babel because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth. (Genesis 11:7-9)**

With everyone speaking different languages the project halted.

We hear many conflicting voices in the Church today. When communication becomes confused, we should examine our tower. It may be that the projects we are working on are not of God. Sometimes, as in the case of Babel, extending the Kingdom involves tearing down instead of building up. But some people will not end their own projects to extend the Kingdom because their work has become an idol.

### **A NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE**

Jesus commissioned the early Church to reproduce disciples throughout the earth, not build a great Church at Jerusalem. Yet we find the Church reproducing so rapidly that organization and administration systems were strained (Acts 6). They were creating a great mass of believers in Jerusalem instead of going out to the nations of the world as they had been commanded. Because of this, God allowed persecution to come and the believers were scattered:

**On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.  
(Acts 8:1)**

Through this they returned to their original commission as ambassadors of the Kingdom:

**Those who had been scattered reached the word wherever they went.  
(Acts 8:4)**

When "great churches" are gone, God's people live on. The Kingdom of God will not be extended throughout the world by the building of great buildings. It will not advance through projects. It will spread by ambassadors bearing witness to the Gospel of the Kingdom and disciples reproducing disciples.

The previous chapter, "*Kingdom Parables*," explained how the Kingdom will spread throughout the world. The parable of the talents in Luke 19 and Matthew 25 reveals that the Kingdom will be spread by wise use of the spiritual gifts and abilities.

The parable of the leaven (Matthew 13:33) reveals that the Kingdom would have a small beginning, but as leaven in bread it would continue to steadily spread. The parable of the net cast into the sea reveals that the Kingdom of God will draw men and women of all nations.

The Kingdom is also spread as men cast the seed of the Gospel into the hearts of men and women. Like seed in the natural world, the Gospel of the Kingdom grows, although the growth process is not fully understood by the one sowing the seed (Mark 4:26-27).

## **THY KINGDOM COME**

There will come that great day when the Kingdom of God is permanently established and the Kingdom of Satan finally defeated:

**When I heard a loud voice in heaven say**

**Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God,  
and the authority of his Messiah.**

**For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,  
who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.  
(Revelation 12:10)**

**When the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the  
Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.  
(I Corinthians 15:24)**

**The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven,  
which said**

**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his  
Messiah,  
and he will reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11:15)**

**and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever his kingdom will  
never end. (Luke 1:33)**

Until that great day you can claim this promise...

**The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to  
his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.  
(II Timothy 4:18)**

Our final prayer for you is...

**encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who  
calls you into his kingdom and glory. (I Thessalonians 2:12)**

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

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2. What is the meaning of the word "ambassador"?

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3. What is the meaning of the word "witness"?

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4. Paul said his preaching was not just with words but accompanied by what?

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5. Why is the extension of the Gospel of the Kingdom an important responsibility?

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6. What was the central theme of the ministry of Jesus?

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

The books of Acts through Jude in the New Testament record the first efforts of believers as they responded to this commission to be ambassadors. Study the following passages to see how this was accomplished:

Acts 1:3,6,9-11; 8:12; 14:22; 19:8 20:25; 28:23,31

Romans 14:17

I Corinthians 4:20; 6:9-10; 15:24,50

Galatians 5:19-21

Ephesians 5:5

Colossians 1:13; 4:11

I Thessalonians 2:12

II Thessalonians 1:5

I Timothy 6:15; 17:14; 19:16

II Timothy 4:1,18

Hebrews 1:8; 11:33; 12:28

James 2:5

II Peter 1:11

# ANSWERS TO SELF-TESTS

## CHAPTER ONE:

1. And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations: and then shall the end come. (Matthew 24:14)
2. The division of all things into either that which is natural or that which is spiritual. See I Corinthians 15:44-49.
3. The Kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God.
4. Satan rules the Kingdom of Satan. The Trinity (God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit) rule the Kingdom of God.
5. The residents of the Kingdom of Satan are Satan, demons, and all men who live in sin and rebellion to God.
6. The residents of the Kingdom of God are God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, angels, and all men who live in righteous obedience to God.
7. There is no difference between the two.
8. A kingdom is the territory and people over which a king rules.

## CHAPTER TWO:

1. And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His Kingdom there shall be no end. (Luke 1:33)
2. A king is a sovereign ruler of a nation, tribe, or country. The word "sovereign" means he has the supreme power, highest authority, and is free from outside control.
3. Jesus.
4. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

### **CHAPTER THREE:**

1. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (Matthew 25:34)
2. Compare your summary with the description of the past history of the Kingdom of God in Chapter Three.
3. Compare your summary with the description of the present Kingdom of God in Chapter Three.
4. Compare your summary with the description of the future Kingdom of God in Chapter Three.
5. Review the basic facts about the Kingdom of God in Chapter Three.

### **CHAPTER FOUR:**

1. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven. (Matthew 16:19)
2. The Church.
3. They are the spiritual powers to bind the powers of evil, loose the powers of good, and open the door to the Kingdom by extension of the Gospel.
4. Repentance from sin; the born-again experience.
5. Experience spiritual birth; be born again.
6. After receiving the new birth by faith we should go on to spiritual maturity in order to assure entrance into the Kingdom of God.
7. To bind something means to put fetters or a bond on it. It is like closing and locking the door to a room.
8. To loose something is to release it or set it free. It is similar to opening the door to a room.



## CHAPTER FIVE:

1. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven. (Matthew 7:21)
2. I Corinthians 6:9-10 and Galatians 5:19-21.
3. a. False; b. True; c. True; d. True; e. True; f. False; g. True
4. I John 1:8-9.
5.

a.	2	m.	23
b.	5	n.	18
c.	9	o.	19
d.	11	p.	20
e.	6	q.	16
f.	10	r.	21
g.	12	s.	22
h.	7	t.	17
i.	3	u.	3
j.	14	v.	4
k.	8	w.	1
l.	15		

## CHAPTER SIX:

1. All this, said David, the Lord made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern. (I Chronicles 28:19)
2. A pattern is an original or model of something created for the purpose of imitation. It is something designed to be copied or imitated.
3. A principle is a truth, method, or rule adopted as the basis for action or conduct. It is a general truth composed of other subordinate truths.
4. A Biblical pattern is a spiritual example given in Scripture for purposes of imitation.
5. A Biblical principle is a spiritual truth taught in Scripture. Such principles often incorporate additional subordinate principles.
6. These are Biblical patterns and principles which govern life in the Kingdom of God.

## CHAPTER SEVEN:

1. And I appoint you a Kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me. (Luke 22:29)
2. Righteousness.
3. First: Loving God. Second: Loving your neighbor as yourself.
4. -You must live by them to maintain residency in the Kingdom.  
-Jesus said they are important.  
-Fruits of the Kingdom are the test of possession.  
-To reign in the future Kingdom you must know its principles.
5.     a. 2                      d. 3  
       b. 1                    e. 5  
       c. 4                    f. 6

## CHAPTER EIGHT:

1. Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the Kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him? (James 2:5)
2. Review the principles given in this chapter:  

a. rich	f. outward	k. greatest	p. live	u. see
b. joy	g. peace	l. first	q. save	v. rest
c. conquerors	h. rewarded	m. great	r. loving	w. earthly
d. filled	i. leaders	n. lowly valued	s. receive	x. revealed
e. mercy	j. exalted	o. children	t. possible	

## CHAPTER NINE:

1. And the people when they knew it, followed Him: and He received them, and spake unto them of the Kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing. (Luke 9:11)
2.     a. new  
       b. old  
       c. old  
       d. new  
       e. old

- f. new
- g. old
- h. new
- i. new
- j. old
- k. new
- l. old
- m. old
- n. new
- o. new
- p. old
- q. new
- r. old
- s. old
- t. new
- u. old
- v. new
- w. new
- x. old

- 3. The answer is b.
- 4. New Testament Kingdom principles are expanded on the foundation of Old Testament law.

## **CHAPTER TEN:**

- 1. He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it is not given. (Matthew 13:11)
- 2. A parable is a story which uses an example from the natural world to illustrate a spiritual truth. The actual meaning of the word "parable" is to "lay beside to compare." In parables, Jesus used a natural example and compared it to a spiritual truth. It is an earthly story with a Heavenly meaning.
- 3. Jesus used parables to teach Kingdom truths so only those with spiritual minds would learn these important principles. Those with carnal, sinful minds could not understand. Jesus used parables to conceal these spiritual principles from unbelievers.
- 4. The Kingdom of God.

## **CHAPTER ELEVEN:**

1. And as ye go, preach, saying, The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.  
  
Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. (Matthew 10:7-8)
2. An ambassador is a representative sent by one kingdom to represent and transact business in another. He is a messenger and authorized agent of the kingdom he represents.
3. A witness is someone who can testify and present evidence of something experienced first hand. He is one who personally sees, observes, experiences, and produces proof of what he has experienced.
4. The demonstration of power.
5. Because the end will not come and God's Kingdom will not be established in its final form until the Gospel of the Kingdom is preached throughout the world.
6. Spreading the message of the Kingdom of God.