

**Kings and Kingdoms**  
**Living into the Kingdom Series - Part 1**  
**What is the Kingdom of God?**  
Jn 18:36-37; Ps 47:2-9; 1 Ti 1:17; 6:13-16  
**August 24-25, 2019**

**Introduction**

- **Recap of the Year of the King So Far**
  - **The King Series (23) - Who's Your King?** - we started the year with a 23-part series through the history of Israel's kings covering 1&2 Kings and 1&2 Chronicles, highlighting the good, the bad and the complicated. Not only was that to give you a foundation for the types of leadership that Israel had before Jesus came, but it was a time for us to examine at length, our loyalties, asking the question: Who is our King? Is it Jesus? Is it the world around us? Is it ourselves sitting in the throne of our heart?
  - **Cleaning Up the Kingdom Series (4) - Addressing and Redeeming Rebellion against the King** - We then went through a 4-part series in the book of Zechariah revealing that when it looks like evil is winning, it's not, God's still King. When it looks like you won't make it, you will because God's still King and ultimately God's going to stand tall and reveal that He's always been and always will be King.
  - **Living in the Kingdom Series** - we are now launching a 9-part series on understanding and living in the Kingdom of God. We know who our King is, or at least who He should be (King Jesus) and now it's time to understand more fully the Kingdom He built and leads today.
    - **Kingdom Parables** - many, most of the parables that Jesus told, were about explaining how things should work with the Kingdom of God interacting here on earth. So, we are going to teach through many of those parables in this series.
- **It's all about Kings and Kingdoms** - lots of vying for power. Wherever there is influence, fame, power, money or anything that elevates one person over others, there will be those grasping for it and trying to control it. We have had a world history full of people grappling for power and rule. We have had dictators, rulers, emperors, kings, Prime Ministers and Presidents. All of them have differing degrees of health and dysfunction. So, what kind of leader is God? What kingdom is Jesus running?
- **Thy Kingdom Come** - Lord's Prayer - *'your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'*
  - **That wasn't a call for the future as much as it was a prayer for now.**
- **So what is the Kingdom of God?** - well, in a few words...

## God's Kingdom is Where He RULES

### Lesson

- **Why this Series Matters so Much (future and NOW)** - Too many of us are living like all the real blessings of God are waiting for us in the future. But that's not true. Yes, there are glorious things awaiting us. But there are also glorious things available to us RIGHT NOW. I don't think that our Bridgeway Family has a clue about what Jesus Christ did on the cross when it comes to altering reality NOW. I don't think we understand or appreciate the power, authority, blessings, victory, freedom or purpose that we have because of what He did and the COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
  - **First 3 messages of This Series** = a concept, a revelation of truth, pieces to a bigger picture. Then we get into the parables and details.
    - **A New Way to Look at Reality** - so much of Living into the Kingdom is a shift in mindset.
  - **Just Like Jesus** - I'll cast a vision of what the Kingdom of God looks like being lived out with 1 word: It's JESUS. Until our lives start to visibly reflect the actual Biblically recorded life of Jesus Christ, we have yet to live into the Kingdom rightly. My dear friends, there is MORE, a ton MORE. We have only scratched the surface.
    - **Paul said**, "...the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power." (1 Co 4:20)
  - **Jesus goes Public with a Message** - "Repent, for the Kingdom of God...the Kingdom of Heaven...is near... has come."
    - **Jesus Demonstrates a Different Reality - Mt 4:23-25 (Page 809)** - "And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. <sup>24</sup> So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. <sup>25</sup> And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan."
    - **When Jesus sent out the 12 Apostles He said**, "proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons." (Mt 10:7-8)
    - **When Jesus sent out the 70 he said**, "Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" (Lk 10:8-9)
  - **Yeah, I know.** It's a paradigm shift, a mind bender.

- **JC & HS** - Jesus changed stuff and the Holy Spirit only makes it more intense.
- **Tame & Change** - You and I are only living a tame version of the Kingdom. It's time to change that.
- **Foundation First** - But we're getting ahead of ourselves. Let me lay the foundation for why I believe that we should be living radical, power-filled lives of victory.
- **The concept of a Kingdom** - it may be a foreign concept to us. Let's get a visual on what a 'kingdom' is and then we can talk about what kingdoms exist.
  - **We Americans are very used to Democracy and Representative Government** - we kinda left the Monarchy thing behind in 1776 Independence Revolution. We think in terms of Presidents. We think of Senators and the House of Representatives. We think of leaders who listen to us and try to carry out what is best for the American people. That is relatively new, at least in this form.
  - **A Different Way**
    - **A.) Kings, rulers** - sovereigns - what they say goes. Their agenda is the agenda of the land. They may have advisors but ultimately, it's them running the show. Dissenters are removed. It's not about what everyone else thinks, but about what one person thinks.
    - **B.) Kingdoms they rule - people and territory** - You aren't really a king if you don't have anyone to rule over or a location to be king of. So it involves ruling people and territory. The King is responsible for managing/ruling that area and those people and however they feel that is best done, they are free to do.
- **1 True King Over Creation** - I want to be clear, there is ONLY ONE true King of the Universe, the LORD GOD.
  - **Old Testament Knows It (Israel)** - Ps 47:2-9 ([page 472](#)) - *"For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth. <sup>3</sup> He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. <sup>4</sup> He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah <sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. <sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! <sup>7</sup> For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! <sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. <sup>9</sup> The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!"*
  - **New Testament Knows It (Church)** - 1 Ti 1:17 - *"To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."*

- **Rebel Kings** - anyone that is claiming to be king other than God is a fraud. Although they are technically kings because people let them rule them, they don't have the right as Creator God and Universal King. They are temporary and local in nature. That doesn't mean they aren't dangerous. Any kings being followed have the ability to lift up and tear down the people of their kingdoms.
  - **Satan is a competitor king** -
  - **We are competitor kings** -
  
- **The 2 Main Territorial Kingdoms in Play** - Heaven and Earth. Earth is supposed to be an outpost of heaven, but something went wrong.
  - **1.) Kingdom of Heaven** - the Supernatural Perfect Rule of God up in Heaven (where things are perfect and right)
    - **God, The Original** - Only Perfection
    - **The Cosmic Rebellion** - Lucifer falls & is sent to earth.
  
  - **2.) Kingdom of Earth** - God Rules Over All the Earth (Ps 29:10; 47:2-9; 1 Ti 1:17; 6:13-16), However, the inhabitants don't all agree on obediently following that rule. Temporarily they are allowed to remain in rebellion as the King sorts things out, then He will return to Clean it all up.
    - **The Perfect Start** - The Garden of Eden
    - **A Competing Ruler** - Satan's Kingdom and rule (Rev 12:7-12)
    - **Conflicting "Kings" on Earth** - two kings in play, the earth is the kingdom. What will the inhabitants of the Kingdom do? Who will they follow?
    - **Heavenly Embassies on Earth** - God established two primary embassies to live on earth but are to have the full control and rule of heaven. The rest of the world is being vied for (Current response of people on earth: good & bad - Ps 5:1-3) but in these places it was ONE King and Only One.
      - **1.) Jews: The Old Kingdom** - God's Rule Through Israel as a Nation
      - **2.) Church: The New Kingdom** - Jesus arrives and is establishing His Kingdom
  
  - **The Broken Now** - How the world works today and the multiple conflicts we observe.
    - **Break It Down Jesus** - We live in an era where Jesus is dismantling the Kingdom of Satan and putting down the enemies of sin and death as well. Jesus is setting people free. That's the GOOD NEWS.
      - **Jesus' Kingdom not of this world** - Jn 18:36-37 - *"Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."* <sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a

*king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”*

- **Bad = Enemies of God:** Kingdom of the world, the kingdom of Satan (world, flesh, devil)
- **Good = Kingdom of God** (led by his kingdom of priests) - Rev 1:4-6
- **There’s a Future Plan** - we aren’t going to get into it right now, but God is working out a multi-level plan that comes in phases. Jesus is going to come back and make things right, but He’s doing so in stages. It ultimately results in Eternal Life in Heaven for God’s Kids and Eternal Punishment for God’s Enemies.
  - **Jesus goes to prepare a kingdom for His followers** - Jn 14:1-31
  - **Coming Reign (return of Christ)** - Mt 24:14; Re 1:7-8
    - **The Millennial Kingdom** - Fulfilling promises to the Jews first (Eze 37:21-28; Da 2:31-45; 7:13-18)
  - **Permanent New Heavens and New Earth** - 2 Ti 4:18; Heb 12:25-29
- **Living in the Now But Not Yet - clash of kingdoms era**
  - **1 Tim 6:13-16** ([page 993](#)) - *“I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, <sup>14</sup> to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.”*
  - **Kingdom Now** - most of this series and most of the Parables of Jesus are about the present Kingdom of God operating here on earth now.
  - **Kingdom Come** - But there are kingdoms to come for sure and Jesus talked about those as well.
    - **Parables of a Coming Kingdom**
      - **Be Ready Parables:** Popular Parables of Being Ready for the Return -
        - **Ten Virgins with Oil** (Mt 25:1-13).
        - **Parable of the Faithful Servant** - Be alert and doing your job rightly for the Coming of the Kingdom will happen suddenly (Mk 13:33-37; Mt 24:42; Lk 12:35-48)
      - **Signs of the Coming Parables** -
        - **Parable of the Budding Fig Tree** - Signs of the Coming Kingdom (Mk 13:28-32; Mt 24:32-36; Lk 21:29-33) (cf. Lk 12:54-57 - signs of the times)
  - **This Revelation Provokes the Questions:**

- **How do we live in a kingdom of now but not yet?**
- **What did Jesus do when He came here?**
- **What is our new reality you keep talking about?**
- **That's why it's a series...**(Don't miss one part).

### **Conclusion**

- **If the Kingdom of God is any location where God rules, then you know where God rules by the level of obedience.**
- **Hope for More**
  - **Children of God** - In Jesus we have been given the right to become children of God. (Jn 1:12)
  - **Father God is King** - If God is the King and we are His children (not just His subjects), then we not only have access to Him, we have authority in His name and can exercise His power in His name.
- **Brand New Folks** - bring cards to the Welcome Center.
- **6 mths or Less** - Introducing Bridgeway to hang with us.
- **Prayer Team** - if anyone would like prayer or the Lord has moved on your heart and you are ready to commit your life to Jesus Christ as your King, your Savior, your Lord, please come up to the altar.