

THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S KINGDOM

INTRODUCTION

I. The word “kingdom” is an interesting word of the Old Testament. The first mention of one is found in Gen. 10:9-10, with Nimrod the mighty hunter being the king of Babel. After the confusion of tongues and the people were scattered throughout the earth, they obviously settled in regions with those of a common language, and a leader of the community developed, and he would be called the king, while the people under his domain would be a kingdom.

In Exo. 19:6 God desired to have a “kingdom of priests”, ultimately fulfilled in the New Testament age (Rev. 1:6; 5:10). Abraham was victorious in the battle of the kings (Gen. 14:1-17). He was blessed by Melchizedek, who was king of Salem and also a priest, who would be the type of Christ in the gospel age. A king was one who had *Territory, Throne, Subjects, Palace, and City*. *God's kingdom of Israel was established with David in the city of Jerusalem. God's kingdom in the New Testament age was established through and by Christ (Matt. 16:18-19). It is called the kingdom of God, kingdom of heaven, kingdom of the Father, kingdom of the Son, kingdom of Christ, heavenly kingdom, and kingdom of Christ and God. As king, Jesus has sovereignty, royal power and rule (Matt. 28:18) and dominion (Dan. 7:13-14). The word kingdom is used in the present tense regarding the entrance into it and suffering for it (Act 14:22); and in the future tense with regard to its reward and glory (Mat. 13:43; 25:34; 2 Thes. 1:5-10).*

II. This lesson will be a study of the “Fullness of God's Kingdom.”

A. The word “fullness” is from the Greek word *pleroma*, meaning “that of which something is full.”

B. We shall look at some features that give us a “fullness” of 18 major things said about the kingdom, each beginning with the letter “P”.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the PROPHECIES OF THE COMING KINGDOM.

A. Nathan foretold the coming kingdom with the seed of David ruling over it.
2 Sam. 7:12-17

1. The old kingdom of Israel was established with **David** as king, with those of the tribe of Judah (as was David) as his successors.
2. The new coming kingdom would be established with David's **seed** (Christ) as it's permanent king.

B. Daniel foretold the coming kingdom in the days of the Roman kings. Dan. 2:44

II. 2nd, the PROMISE OF THE COMING KINGDOM.

A. John the Baptist preached the “nearness” of the kingdom. Matt. 3:1

B. Jesus Christ promised it's coming in the near future. Matt. 4:17; 6:10; 16:18-19;
Mark 9:1

III. 3Rd, the POWER OF THE COMING KINGDOM.

A. The apostles were to see the kingdom “come” with power. Mark 9:1; Dan. 2:44

- B. The apostles were filled with the power of Spirit, which ushered in the kingdom. Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4

IV. 4th, the PLACE OF THE KINGDOM.

- A. The physical place of its establishment was to be the city of Jerusalem.
1. The church or house of God was to **begin** in Jerusalem. Isa. 2:3
 2. The foundation **for** the church was to be in Zion or Jerusalem. Isa. 28:16; cf 1 Cor. 3:11
 - a. Zion was “the S. W. hill of Jerusalem, the older and higher part of the city;; it is often called the city of David.” YOUNG'S Concordance of the Bible, p. 1089
 - b. Zion is another name for Jerusalem.
- B. The apostles were **in Jerusalem** when the kingdom began. Acts 2:4,5...
1. The kingdom or church began in Jerusalem, but was not to remain **only** IN Jerusalem.
 2. The kingdom was to spread into other parts of the world AS the “word” of the Lord (the “seed” of the kingdom) would be sown. Luke 8:10,11
 - a. This is the order the Lord gave.
 - b. This was to last until the end of the world. Matt. 18:18-20; Acts 8:4

V. 5th, the PERIOD OF THE KINGDOM.

- A. The **period** of time for the **beginning** of the kingdom was to be in the days of the Roman kings. Dan. 2:(3 4-40) 44
1. The Roman empire **was** in power in the first century. Luke 2:1
 2. On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, everything was just right for the kingdom to be established.
 - a. The **men** to whom the promise was made were in Jerusalem waiting for the promise to be fulfilled. Acts 1:8
 - b. The **place** was right—Jerusalem. Isa. 2:11-3; Mic. 4:1-2; Acts 2:5
 - c. The **time** was right—the last days. Joel 2:28; Acts 2:15-17
 - d. The **power** to come with the kingdom was present. Acts 1:8; 2:5
 - e. The **message** of repentance was given. Luke 24:47-49; Acts 2:38
 - f. The **name** (authority) was right. Luke 24:47; Matt. 28:18; Acts 2:36-38
 - g. The **audience** (devout men from all nations) was right. Acts 2:5; cf Isa. 2:2
 3. These events marked **THE BEGINNING** of the kingdom. Acts 11:15
- B. The **period** of time for the **continuing** of the kingdom was that it was “not to be destroyed”, or to be everlasting. Dan. 2:44

VI. 6th, the PREACHING OF THE KINGDOM.

- A. John and Jesus both preached the coming of the kingdom. Matt. 3:1-2; 4:17
- B. Philip preached the things pertaining to the kingdom. Acts 8:12; cf John 3:3-5

VII. 7th, the PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM.

- A. Jesus gave many parables about the coming kingdom. Matt. 13:10-11
1. He gave the parable of the sower. Matt. 13:3-9
 2. He gave the parable of the tares. Matt. 13:24-30
 3. He gave the parable of the mustard seed. Matt. 13:31-32
 4. He gave the parable of leaven. Matt. 13:33
 5. He gave the parable of the hidden treasure. Matt. 13:44
 6. He gave the parable of goodly pearls. Matt. 13:45-46
 7. He gave the parable of the net. Matt. 13:47
 8. He gave the parable of the just householder. Matt. 21:1-16
 9. He gave the parable of the wicked husbandmen. Matt. 21:33-40
 10. He gave the parable of the marriage feast. Matt. 22:1-14
- B. These parables are recorded in Matt. 13,21,22; Mark 4, and Luke 8, and are based on real life situations and activities, to teach a spiritual lesson from them.

VIII. 8th, the PATTERN OF THE KINGDOM.

- A. God first declared that it was to be a “kingdom of priests”.
1. The old kingdom of Israel had its king from the tribe of Judah, and its priests from the tribe of Levi.
 2. The new kingdom of Christ is established on this pattern, as also shown in prophecy, where the King would also be the High Priest. Zech. 6:12-13; Psa. 110:1-4
- B. The kingdom of Christ is established in this manner, with Christ being the King AND High Priest. Heb. 8:1-5 (Read and explain fully)
1. He is king and priest after the order of Melchizedek of old, who was both king and priest. Gen. 15:18
 2. God's people **today** are a “kingdom of priests.” Rev. 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:5

IX. 9th, the PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM.

- A. The people of the kingdom are those citizens of the kingdom, who are of a royal priesthood. 1 Pet. 2:9
1. This first began with Jews who obeyed the gospel in Acts 2.
 2. It was later inclusive of the Gentiles who obeyed the gospel. Acts 11:18
- B. The people of the kingdom are those who have been born into it,. John 3:3-5

X. 10th, the PROVISIONS OF THE KINGDOM.

- A. We are delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of light, or of God's dear Son, and preserved for its future existence. Col. 1:13; 2 Tim. 4:18
- B. We are provided hope and anticipation of being taken up into heaven at the return of Christ at the end of the world. 1 Cor. 15:23-24

XI. 11th, the PERMANENCE OF THE KINGDOM.

A. The kingdoms of men pass away with its citizens, but the heavenly kingdom will never be destroyed. Dan. 2:44; Heb. 12:28

B. SONG: "The Kingdoms of Earth Pass Away."

The kingdoms of earth pass away one by one, But the kingdom of heaven remains; It is built on a rock and the Lord is its King, Till all foes Christ shall conquer He reigns.

The tempest may rage and the hurricane roar, Yea, the wind and the torrents descend, And the strong gates of hell may assail it in vain, For the kingdom shall stand till the end.

C. Just as Jesus' death did not prevent Him from **establishing** the kingdom, nothing can prevent its **continuance**, as long as we have the eternal **seed** of the kingdom, the eternal word of God. Luke 8:10-11; 1 Pet. 1:25A

XII. 12th, the PRESENCE OF THE KINGDOM.

A. Some have the mistaken idea that the kingdom is yet future and will be established when Jesus comes again.

1. Premillennialists (those who believe this) argue that it is yet to come.

a. They claim that Christ came to establish the kingdom on earth, but the Jews were not ready to receive it, so God had to postpone its beginning until such time the Jews would be ready.

b. Was God's foreknowledge unaware this was about to happen, and how do we know the Jews will EVER be ready for it?

c. Jews today ARE looking for the coming Messiah and the setting up of an earthly kingdom, but God NEVER promised to build such.

d. God **knew** that the Jews as a nation would "reject" His Son, and the kingdom would be set up with a new type of people—believers of all nations. Isa. 53:3; John 1:10-11; Matt. 21:42-46

1) Jesus said HIS kingdom was NOT to be earthly or physical in nature. John 18:33-37

2) Jesus is not qualified to **ever** be an earthly king in a restored earthly kingdom, for He is not OF the royal tribe of Judah. Cf Heb. 8:1-4

3) Jesus is **now** reigning in HEAVEN, where He is also our High Priest (not of the Levitical order but after the order of Melchizedek. Cf Zech. 6:12-13

2. Then there are so-called "Jehovah's Witnesses" who make the claim the kingdom is yet to come, ONLY for 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in heaven, while many of them will remain on earth as their eternal inheritance.

B. The kingdom of God WAS established in the world, just as God prophesied and promised, and is **present** in the world today. Heb. 12:28; Rev. 1:4,9

XIII. 13th, the PREMINENCE OF THE KINGDOM.

- A. It is preeminent in that it was **established by God**, rather than men. Dan.2:44
- B. It is preeminent over the kingdoms of the world established by the working of men through carnal wars and conquests.
 - 1. It would be established in the days of the Roman kings, which was the last part of the kingdoms of Nebuchadnezzar's vision.
 - 2. It will ultimately triumph over the kings of the world which pass away one by one.
- C. It's preeminence is seen in it's **endurance**, as it will "stand forever."
- D. It's preeminence is seen in the **blessings** it provides—providing for the soul and not physical protection.
- E. It's preeminence is seen in the **King** it has—Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, making it superior to other kingdoms—such as worldly or pretended spiritual kingdoms, with Jesus being King of kings and Lord of lords. 1 Tim. 6:15
- F. It's preeminence is seen in its **conquest**, in that it was to prevail over the other kingdoms of the world. Dan. 2:44

XIV. 14th, the PHASES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

- A. There is presently the **earthly** phase of the kingdom which exists while its citizens are ON earth—before the end of time.
- B. The **heavenly** phase of the kingdom will be when the righteous on earth will be transferred TO heaven at the return of Jesus at the end of the world. 2 Tim. 4:18; 2 Pet. 1:10; 1 Cor. 15:23-24
 - 1, Jesus is now King of kings and Lord of Lords, but will "end" His role as king upon His return. 1 Cor. 15:25-26
 - 2. All authority will be turned back to God the Father. Vss. 27-28

XV. 15th, the PERFECTION OF THE KINGDOM.

- A. In the kingdom, we do not reach the point of being without sin, but we have the kind of perfection that is not available outside of the kingdom—**salvation**, or **forgiveness of sins**. Col. 1:13-14 (explain fully)
 - 1. No such perfection was available under Moses' law. Heb. 7:19
 - 2. Our king is the perfect king and provides perfection. Heb. 5:8-9
 - 3. In the kingdom, we can attain the kind of perfection Jesus provides. Heb. 12:23
- B. In the heavenly phase of the kingdom, we will have the perfect relationship with God and all the redeemed.
 - 1. There we will have no more temptation and sin.
 - 2. There we will have no pain or sorrow or disappointment. Rev. 21:4
 - 3;. There we will have access to the perfect food—the tree of life. Rev. 22:1-2

XVI. 6th, the PEACEFUL KINGDOM OF GOD.

- A. The prophet Isaiah spoke of the coming peaceful kingdom.
1. It would be ruled by the one born of a virgin, who would ultimately “sit upon the throne of David and over His **kingdom**” (Isa. 7:14; 9:7).
 2. **In** that kingdom there was to be **peace** as described in Isa. 11:6-9, where the figurative picture of animals who are wild by nature are dwelling peacefully with other animals and people of the world.
 - a. Some in the world take this language literally, and are anxiously awaiting the day when the nature of wild animals will be changed so as for everyone and every animal to be at peace with all.
 - b. They fail to realize that the peace described here is one of spiritual peace in God's “holy mountain” (II:9), which is the church of the living God (Heb. 12:23).
- B. In the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, there is one of many paintings by Edward Hicks, who lived in the 18th and 19th centuries as a Quaker preacher and an artist.
1. The painting is entitled, “The Peaceable Kingdom”.
 2. It paints the animals Isa. 11 as living peacefully with other animals and children.
- C. Melchizedek was a king of a kingdom in old Salem in the days of Abraham, as revealed in Gen. 14.
1. He was king of righteousness and king of **peace** (Heb. 7:2).
 2. Christ's role as OUR king and high priest is patterned after that of that ancient king, making HIM our “peace”, as we live in the kingdom.
 3. In introducing the “kingdom” to the world in the Sermon on the Mount, He spoke of the **kingdom** and **peace**. (Matt. 5:9)
 4. Jesus IS our peace (Eph. 2:14) as we live in His glorious kingdom.
- D. Jesus made it plain to Pilate that **His** kingdom was not to be one which depended on carnal warfare for its existence, but with the peaceful use of the weapon of the word of God, as believers allow the sword of the Spirit to prick the hearts of unbelievers to convert them. John 18:35-36; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:10-17

XVII. 17th, the PREPARED KINGDOM OF GOD.

Matt. 25:34: “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

- A. Note that Jesus HAS “prepared” a place in heaven for the blessed citizens of His kingdom. Cf John 14:1-3
1. He purchased the church with His blood, at the time of its beginning, the kingdom was established. Acts 20:18; Matt. 16:18-19
 2. He gives us citizenship **in** the kingdom when we are born into it, by the

means of the Spirit's teaching, and our arising from the waters of baptism. John 3:5

- a. Under the first covenant, when one was born physically into the Hebrew nation, he was automatically a citizen of that kingdom.
- b. Under the second covenant, when one is born again by means of the Spirit and the water, he is automatically in the new kingdom.

B. We now have citizenship in heaven as our names are written there, where we shall enter at the return of Jesus at the end of time. Phil. 3:20; 1 Cor. 15:22-23

CONCLUSION

I. This brings us to **number 18** in our study of the Fulness of God's kingdom, or the 18 P's in the garden of the kingdom.

A. This final "P" stands for **PRESENTED**, as the righteous in the kingdom will be "presented" unto God, as a bride is presented to the groom at a wedding ceremony. 1 Cor. 15:23-28

B. Those "presented" must be "presentable", as they are clothed in righteousness. Eph. 5:26-27; cf Rev. 19:7-9

II. If Jesus returns tomorrow, will you have taken oil for your lamps and remained prepared for His arrival?

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