

Kingdom of God Part 2

Steve Berger April 10, 2016

Review three definitions of The Kingdom of God from last week

- The Kingdom of God is the Rule and Reign of God
- The Kingdom of God is a future realm where the fullness of Kingdom glory happens (*heaven*)
- The Kingdom of God is the realm of God we enter now, through our new birth, in order to experience the blessing of God's reign now (*today's focus*)

Today

- Declaration and Demonstration of the Kingdom Age upon Us Now
- Declaration and Illustration of the Kingdom Age upon Us Now
- Deliverance of Believers Now from this Present Evil Age

Declaration and Demonstration of the Kingdom Age upon Us Now

- **Matthew 4:13-17**

And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI, BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES: THE PEOPLE WHO SAT IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT, AND UPON THOSE WHO SAT IN THE REGION AND SHADOW OF DEATH LIGHT HAS DAWNED." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

- Jesus declared the Kingdom of God was at hand, present, upon us!
- **darkness** and the **region and shadow of death**, Satan's realm, has been **penetrated** by a **Great Light, Light has dawned** — that Light is Jesus — bringing the Kingdom of God to a dark, devilish, dying world... **notice the imagery**.

Demonstration of declaration — *Jesus doesn't just talk, He demonstrates!*

- **Matthew 4:23**

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. (*Matthew 9:35 repeats*)

**Preaching the gospel of the Kingdom,
then healing all kinds of sickness, disease, possessions,
demonstrates that the Kingdom is at hand, present, NOW!**

- **Matthew 10:7-8**

And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. (Luke 10:9 "...heal sick, say, 'Kingdom of God has come near you.'")

**Jesus brought the Kingdom at His appearing —
penetrating this dark, devilish, dying world.
Jesus demonstrated that by healing and delivering people.
Jesus still does that.
Jesus is still sending His disciples to do the same!**

Problem — some thought kingdom was only future, didn't understand Kingdom is now, mission! Some have subtly settled for...

- **2 Timothy 3:5**

having a form of godliness but denying its power. (resisting)

John Wimber — (evangelist in S. CA) taught church weekly for one year before seeing first miracle — rest history ("google" John Wimber)

IMPERATIVE — ***we have to want, wait, welcome*** greater Kingdom revelation and demonstration NOW!

Declaration and illustration of the Kingdom Age upon Us Now

- **Matthew 12:22-29**

Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house."

- **demonstration-** healing of possessed, blind and mute man.

Illustration — *how the deliverance and healing happened...*

- Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit... did it by the Spirit of God upon Him
- Jesus did it by the Kingdom of God... Spirit of God empowers actions of the Kingdom!

- Jesus entered strong man's house... remember imagery of Light penetrating darkness — Satan is strong man, house is this evil age — Jesus entered this evil age
- Jesus binds, hinders, minimizes realm of Satan by bringing the Kingdom of God into the situation — and exercising the authority and power of the Kingdom
- Jesus plunders and seizes Satan's goods. Jesus sets people free from Satan's tyrannical oppression — all by His appearing, bringing and demonstrating the Kingdom of God, *the rule and reign of God into the situation... He still does that!* Things change!

Deliverance of Believers Now from this Present Evil Age

- **Galatians 1:3-4**

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father

**Jesus dying for our sins has delivered us from this present evil age,
the god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:3),
and the rulers of the darkness of this age (Ephesians 6:12).
We must understand and appropriate the deliverance
that has already happened.**

- **Romans 12:2**

And do not be conformed to this world (age), but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Question — How can we not be conformed to this evil age while living in the midst of it?

Answer — By being transformed by the renewing of our mind through the power and deliverance of the Kingdom of God upon us... God's kingdom overrules Satan's kingdom.

Paul speaks of believers who...

- **Hebrews 6:4-5**

...have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come...

**We have the opportunity to taste heavenly gifts,
partake of the Holy Spirit, taste the good word of God,
and the powers of the age to come — NOW!**

Result — deliverance, healing, transformation, freedom, fruit, power, victory!

No more — forfeiting, squandering, neglecting the powers of the age to come

Jesus' prayer gave us permission and instruction on praying with purpose and power

- **Matthew 6:13**

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

- deliver from evil... poneros, porno, human depravity
- **FOR...** because, our reason for asking You... (*He told us to pray this way*)
- Yours is the Kingdom... rule, reign, good pleasure to give Kingdom, (*Luke 12:32*)
- power... dunamis, dynamite miracle-working power
- glory... eternal, transcendent, majesty... God's glory changes people!

**If there is enough power and glory in the Kingdom to heal the sick,
cleanse the leper, raise the dead, cast out demons...**

...

**there's enough power and glory for you,
your marriage, your family, your sons, your daughters...**

...

**kingdom suffers violence,
you are going to have to take it by force, Matthew 11:12!**

Discussion Questions

1. In Matthew 4:13-17, quoting from Isaiah, “people who sat in darkness... who sat in the region and shadow of death...” — this was Satan’s realm before the coming of Jesus. “Great light... light has dawned” is Jesus bringing the kingdom of God to a dark, devilish, dying world. Discuss how Jesus began inserting the Kingdom of God into the affairs of men.
2. In Matthew 10:7-8, and Luke 10:9, Jesus gave instructions to his disciples (and to us). Do we believe that He really intends for us to follow His words/works?
3. What “forms of godliness” but “denying its power” would Paul be referring to in 2 Timothy 3:5?
4. Jesus sets people free from Satan’s tyrannical oppression — all by His appearing, bringing and demonstrating the Kingdom of God, the rule and reign of God into the situation. How can we be His instruments in doing that today?
5. How can we not be conformed to this evil age while living in the midst of it?
6. If there is enough power and glory in the Kingdom to heal the sick, cleanse the leper, raise the dead, cast out demons..... is there enough power and glory for you, your marriage, your family, your sons, your daughters? What can’t He do in your world?