

# Establishing Kingdoms

Many are speaking or writing about the Kingdom of God these days, including myself. However, I have encountered a number of speakers who use the word “kingdom” without having any understanding about what they are saying. At least it appears that way to me. Just as, over the years, the word “church” has been imbued with meaning that is alien or contrary to its scriptural definition, so, also the word “kingdom” is now being imbued with meaning that does not lead to understanding but only blurs or even hides the scriptural definition.

A kingdom is a type of government structure that is ruled or administrated by a king. In America we have trouble with this because we don't operate as a kingdom but, supposedly, as a democratic republic. The way we understand government makes it difficult for us to realize that there are many “kingdoms” operating in America and around the world. It is important that we come to understanding concerning kingdoms because the government of God is structured as a Kingdom.

A “kingdom” has both physical and non-physical components. Some elements of a kingdom transcend both the invisible and the visible. The philosophy and methodology of a government is non-physical; but, it is manifested in a physical structure of offices and administration. Its operation is a *system* of interlocking parts that function together as a government. We interact with the structure but we are “ruled” by the invisible functions of the governmental system.

## Requirements for a Kingdom

There are a number of requirements that are necessary to have a functioning kingdom or government.

1. There must be a king; that is, a ruler of the kingdom.
2. There must be a principality; that is, a realm of jurisdiction.
3. There must be authority; that is, the right to rule.
4. There must be power; that is, the ability or force to act.
5. There must be territory; that is, the place of dominion.
6. There must be subjects; that is, citizens of the kingdom.

All of these requirements are necessary and the operations within each requirement must function together like cogs so that the system operates smoothly. We see all aspects of this in the various forms of natural governments that are in the earth.

God established His Kingdom by first establishing His King and then placing the government upon Him.

### Isaiah 9:6-7 NASB

- (6) For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
- (7) There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

That is why Jesus is called King of kings. His Kingship is over all other kings. He is called Lord of lords because He is Lord over all principalities, over all realms of jurisdiction. The Kingdom of God has been established as the government of God in the earth. Right now we experience it in its “mystical” form; that is, the invisible, non-physical aspects of the rulership of Jesus. Later we will experience it in its physical form as the 1000 year reign of Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God has been established in the earth. It is located in the hearts of men through the Holy Spirit<sup>1</sup> and results in righteousness, peace and joy. As the Kingdom increases, it is extended outward from our hearts to our families, our community, our work, etc. We are to extend the dominion (territory) of the Kingdom to all areas of our life and pray for the physical coming of the Kingdom.<sup>2</sup>

## The Kingdom of Darkness

Our enemy has also established his kingdom in the heavenlies and operates from that position as he seeks to disrupt God's plans and purposes.

### Ephesians 6:12 NASB

- (12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

When Lucifer was removed from the heaven of heavens, that is, the throne room of God, he established his headquarters in the mid-heavens from which he directs the work of the fallen angels and demons. [*For further study on this topic see “A Call to Spiritual Warfare” available on the website: [www.lifestreamteaching.com](http://www.lifestreamteaching.com).*]

Due to popular books and movies, many seem to think that the devil is in hell or even ruling hell, but this is simply not true. That idea is only a traditional legend. Actually, the devil is not in hell and never will be. His destiny is the Lake of Fire.

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1 Romans 14:17

2 Matthew 6:10

### Revelation 20:10 NASB

- (10) And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

This is the fire that has been especially prepared by God for the devil and his angels.<sup>3</sup>

After establishing his kingdom of darkness in the heavenlies, Satan began to extend it into the earth. His goal is to cause the kingdom of the world to become fully identifiable and compatible with his kingdom of darkness.

Why is our enemy doing this? Because he knows that there is coming a time when he and his angels will be completely pushed out of heaven and into the earth. When this occurs, the devil will no longer have access to anything in the heavenlies.

### Revelation 12:9 NASB

- (9) And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

The kingdom of this world is being prepared in such a way that when the devil is thrown down into it, the systems and processes of the world will be fully compatible with the devil's plans and *modus operandi*. He is preparing his puppet king, the Antichrist, so that he can take full control of the world systems when this occurs.

## The Kingdom of the World

The Scriptures clearly identify Satan as the god and ruler of this world.

### John 12:31 NASB

- (31) "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

### John 16:11 NASB

- (11) and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

### 1 John 5:19 NASB

- (19) We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

### 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NASB

- (3) And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,  
(4) in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

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<sup>3</sup> Matthew 25:41

From the time of the Garden of Eden till now, the enemy has concentrated on bringing the world into a fully functioning system within his kingdom of darkness. When Eve contemplated the fruit on the forbidden tree, she "...saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise...".<sup>4</sup> The way she thought on the words of the serpent caused the enemy to understand how the nature of man functions. He began to incorporate this understanding into his plans so that he could make the world to be attractive to the nature of man. The result of this is expressed by John.

#### 1 John 2:16 NASB

(16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

Do you see how close and how thoroughly the enemy has done this? All that is in the world that appeals to the three aspects of the thought processes of Eve have been incorporated by Satan so that it would be fully attractive to man.

Through out the generations, the enemy has fine tuned and tested the appeal of the world to men. Now, the world system and its processes are alien to God.

#### 1 John 2:15 NASB

(15) Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

We have now reached the point where we can measure our lack of love of the Father by how much we love the world and the things that are in it because we cannot love both. James said it very plainly.

#### James 4:4 NASB

(4) You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

We stand between God and the world. We can be a friend to one or the other but not to both. The people of God need to get this into their heads.

Some will say, "what about John 3:16?", where it says that God loved the world. Obviously, the word, "world", means something different in these scriptures. Just like when I say that I love peanut butter and I love my wife, I mean two different things by the meaning of the word "love".

We have to distinguish the different meaning of "world". When God says "world" He means the people. When John and James said "world" as used in the scriptures above, they mean the "world system", which has been created by Satan for his own purposes.

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4 Genesis 3:6

Satan is building the world system into something that will contain the fullness of the kingdom of darkness and this will express itself as fully opposed to the plans and purposes of God. We find the culmination of this in Revelation.

**Revelation 11:15 NASB**

(15) Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

Other translations have the word, “world”, as plural; but, the NASB correctly uses the singular as reflected in the original language. The process is that the kingdom of darkness becomes the kingdom of the world, which will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. I think that this process is completed when Jesus returns and sets up His 1000 year reign on the earth.

**Kingdom Comparisons**

It would be helpful to compare the kingdom of the world and the Kingdom of God so that we can see how the enemy manipulates man and entices him with the attractiveness of the world.

<b>Kingdom of the World</b>	<b>Kingdom of God</b>
<p>The behind the scenes ruler is Satan. He is ruling from the mid heavens. The fallen angels and demons are his helpers to infiltrate and control the hearts and minds of men. The kingdom of darkness is the “hidden” power behind the world system and it exploits the sinfulness of man.</p>	<p>God's Kingdom is “hidden” in plain sight so that unbelievers cannot see it. Only the effects of the Kingdom can be seen through the actions and attitudes of men who have been changed or conformed to the image of Christ. Jesus rules His Kingdom from Heaven as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.</p>
<p>The attractiveness of the world system is based on the 1) lust of the flesh, 2) lust of the eyes, and 3) the boastful pride of life. Since the fall man has felt the need to provide for himself and protect himself in order to be secure from his enemies. The world system provides opportunity and justification to do this. One is to gather as much as possible for provision because an enemy might come tomorrow to take it from you. You must protect it from your enemies at all cost. The boastful pride of life is the boasting of what you have done and what you will do to make sure that you and yours are fully provided for and protected. The world maximizes your soul and its desire.</p>	<p>The only thing attractive about the Kingdom of God is Jesus—His love, provision, and protection. He provides the opportunity for us to participate in the plans and purposes of the Father for which we have been predestined and prepared. Jesus gives meaning, order, and direction to all lives. The Kingdom of God maximizes your spiritual life and your union and communion with the Lord. You gain your life (spiritually) by losing your life (soulishly).</p>

Kingdom of the World	Kingdom of God
<p>Because it has been prepared to be attractive to men, the world is driven by fallen man's desire to buy, sell and accumulate things. Things become the deciding factor because the world measures our success by how many things we have accumulated.</p>	<p>God's Kingdom does not value things, but, instead, values people. Relationships are the most valuable commodity of the Kingdom not things as in the world. The goal of any conflict between believers is to save the relationship. That is why resolution of conflict involves regaining our brother. In the world system, conflict is usually over the ownership of things and relationships are destroyed in the process. Our values are expressed in giving, receiving and holding things in common.</p>
<p>The world uses an orderly array of systems and the manipulation and control of witchcraft to maintain power and control of people.</p>	<p>God's Kingdom uses the Holy Spirit and love to transform our minds so that we can serve one another.</p>
<p>Because of buying, selling and accumulating, money becomes a powerful force in the world system. Money becomes the savior because, if one has enough money, he can do anything—fully provide for all desires and fully protect from all enemies and fully boast of one's self-made ability to do that. Once money, by practice, is recognized as savior, it will eventually become a lord and master. This is a principle of spiritual things.</p>	<p>The King is the savior of God's Kingdom and becomes Lord to those who serve Him. Jesus referred to money as “mammon”. Many only think of this word as an old English word for money, but, actually, “mammon” was a Babylonian god of finances—sacrifices were made to insure wealth and success. To serve money is to serve a false god, that is, to become an idolater. That is why Jesus said that you CANNOT serve God and mammon. They are mutually exclusive. The Church is full of, so called, “prophets and teachers” whose only emphasis is money, turning giving into some form of spiritual investment plan. They are operatives of the world system and not ambassadors of Christ.</p>
<p>The world is marked by <i>taking</i> what is yours. It is based on ambition and strife, on dissatisfaction with who you are, where you are, and what you are doing. You need to take dominion over as many things and people as possible in order to achieve your goals.</p>	<p>God's Kingdom is marked by <i>receiving</i> what Jesus has done for us. All that we are and all that we have, we have received from Christ. We function in Christ according to His gifting and calling as it relates to His purpose. However, as the world system comes into the Church, there comes a striving to <i>take</i> one's position of authority and to take dominion so that one can be <i>promoted to higher positions</i>.</p>

Kingdom of the World	Kingdom of God
	All of which are contrary to the nature of the Kingdom of God.
Based on an orderly array of systems, all aspects of the world are arranged around a hierarchal structure with each layer or system controlling those below it. Worldly leadership and authority are based on this fundamental concept.	Since the Kingdom of God is based in the Holy Spirit, there is NO hierarchal structure in the Kingdom. All leadership and authority come from Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Jesus specifically told the twelve that leadership and authority among them would not be like it is among the gentiles, that is, the world. <sup>5</sup> Any leadership structure modeled after the world is NOT the leadership structure of the Kingdom.

The Lord has established His Kingdom; so has the enemy. Each works from a different set of criteria. We are in the kingdom of this world, the kingdom of darkness, by default. We have to actively believe and enter the Kingdom of God. When this occurs, we are rescued from the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of His beloved Son.<sup>6</sup> Our citizenship changes and so does our allegiance.

We live in a kingdom, whether we want to or not. We need to choose the right kingdom, the everlasting Kingdom of God for it will endure beyond this age and the ages to come.

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<sup>5</sup> Luke 22:25-26

<sup>6</sup> Colossians 1:13