

# The Kingdom of God

## 1 Corinthians 4:18-21

### I. Intro

#### ● Anecdote

- Kingdom Theology
- When it comes to the Kingdom of God - many Christians seem to be confused about this controversial subject.
- And while it's true that the phrase "Kingdom of God" is used over 70 times in the New Testament...
- ...it's also true that there are different ideas and interpretations about these verses.
- For example - there are those who insist that the Kingdom of God is a future state of bliss - which we will enjoy in Heaven.
- There are also those who would have us to believe that the Kingdom of God is only a present reality - which is experienced in our hearts.
- And then there are those who would have us to believe that the Kingdom of God is already present - partially...
- ...and yet - we're still waiting for the complete fulfillment of God's kingdom to be realized.

### II. Outline

#### ● Points

- Analysis
- As we consider these three interpretations regarding this Biblical doctrine...

- ...we're going to spend our time today considering what the Bible says about God's Kingdom.
- And as we study these scriptures - we'll begin to see that...
  1. ...the Kingdom of God is Present
  2. ...the Kingdom of God is Powerful
  3. ...the Kingdom of God is Prophetic
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 4...
  - ...where we find Paul - raising the topic of God's kingdom.

### III. Present

#### ● Set up

#### • Kings

- As we make our way to the fourth chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.
- I should take a moment to remind you that - it was in our study last week...
- ...when Paul challenged the carnal Christians in Corinth - who claimed to be kings - who were reigning over the congregation.
- And as we consider their claims - I can't help but to wonder if those Christians had embraced an early form of amillennialism...
- ...which is based on the belief that the Kingdom of Christ has already come - symbolically speaking.
- If so - then - the chances are - Paul was correcting those who were beginning to believe that they were already reigning with Christ.

- With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians chapter 4 - beginning there at verse 18 - where he declared...

## ● Text

1Co 4:18     Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you.  
 1Co 4:19     But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know,  
 not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.  
 1Co 4:20     For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.  
 1Co 4:21     What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love  
 and a spirit of gentleness?

## • Kings

- Here in the final verses of this chapter - we find Paul - addressing the carnal Christians who were claiming to be kings.
- And while we can't say for sure what they meant - when they claimed to be kings - who were ruling and reigning with Christ...
- ...we can rejoice in knowing that those who have placed their faith in the King of kings...
- ...will also become kings and priests of God most high - to Whom belongs glory and dominion forever and ever.
- And you better believe that there is coming a day - when we will rule and reign with our King - during the days of His millennial kingdom.
- And with this as our focus - let's take some time for consider what we mean - when we refer to the Kingdom of God.

## • Kingdom

- I should first point out that the word - Kingdom - found there in verse 20 - was translated from a Greek word...
- ...which was used in reference to the royal power that results in the right to rule.

- Not only that - but - the same Greek word was also used in referent to the dominion - or territory - which is subject to the King.
- And so - when we refer to the Kingdom of God - - I can assure you that we're not referring to...
- ...an anarcho-syndicalist commune - in which people take turns to act as a sort of executive officer for the week.
- No - instead - the Kingdom of God is the domain that is subject to rule of our sovereign God.
- And with that being the case - we should take a moment to ask - what is the extent of this domain?
- Corinth
- Let's begin with the church in Corinth - - there should be no doubt that the Kingdom of God included the church in Corinth.
- With this as our focus - let's consider the authority Paul exercised here in our text today - look with me again at verse 18 - where he declared...
 

1Co 4:18      Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you.  
 1Co 4:19      But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.
- Here in these verses - we find Paul - exercising his authority over the Christians in Corinth...
- ...and he did this by warning them that he was coming to correct those who were puffed up with pride.
- Paul was planning to test those carnal Christian to see if they were all talk - or if they were truly walking in the power of the King.
- And we must not fail to notice - there in verse 21 - where Paul also threatened to bring a rod of correction...

- ...which was commonly used by shepherds - as a way to keep unruly sheep in place.
- Steward
  - Now - as we consider this waning - we should take moment to ask - did Paul have the authority to punish the carnal Christians in Corinth?
  - With this question in mind - I should remind you that - it was back in the beginning of this chapter...
  - ...where Paul referred to himself as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God.
  - That word - Steward - was used of the servants - who were called to manage the household affairs of their master.
  - And in the case of a Kingdom - a royal steward would manage the King's affairs...
    - ...including His personal estates, finances, provisions, and staff within the palace.
    - And in this way - the royal steward would ensure smooth operations and the efficient use of Kingdom resources.
- Present?
  - In light of this position - there should be no doubt that Paul had the authority of a royal steward...
  - ...to manage the affairs that pertain to the kingdom of Christ - which is present - partially speaking.
  - In order to understand how the Kingdom of God is partially present - we should consider how the Lord Jesus addressed this subject...
    - ...after a group of Israelites asked Him to show them a sign from Heaven.

- With this as our focus - hold your place here in 1st Corinthians and let's turn in our bibles to Luke chapter 11.
- And as we make our way to the 11th chapter of Luke's gospel account...
  - ...I wanna take a moment to consider one theory - regarding the kingdom of God.
- Partial
  - This theory is known by a few names - which included - partially realized eschatology - as well as the "already but not yet" kingdom.
  - This theological theory of the Kingdom is also known as - Inaugurated eschatology...
    - ...and it's based on the belief that the kingdom of God was inaugurated during the first advent of Jesus Christ.
    - At the same time - the theory also includes the belief that the Kingdom of God won't be fully consummated until His second coming.
    - In other words - - the Kingdom of God is present - - and yet - it won't be fully realized...
    - ...until the day when the Lord Jesus returns - and establishes His Millennial Kingdom.
      - And with that being the case - the Kingdom of God is presently here in the context of the Christian church.
- Has Come
  - In order to make my case - let's consider the way Jesus responded to a group of Jews - who asked Him for a sign from heaven.

- Look with me - there at Luke chapter 11 - beginning at verse 17 - where the Lord declared...

Luk 11:17b “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls.

Luk 11:18 “If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub.

Luk 11:19 “And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.

Luk 11:20 “But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - assuring His audience that the kingdom of God had come upon them.
- The proof of Christ’s claim was based on the fact that - He was able to cast out demons - by the power of God.
- And while it’s true that they were accusing Christ Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Satan...
  - ...He assured them that it wouldn’t make sense for Satan - to destroy his own kingdom.
  - Therefore - His power over the demons was proof that the Kingdom of God was already present.
- At Hand
- We find the Lord Jesus - presenting a similar statement in Mark chapter 1 - it’s there where we learn that...
 

Mar 1:14b Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

Mar 1:15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”
- So - according to Mark - the Lord Jesus was not only preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God...

- ...but - He was also encouraging every person to Repent - and believe in this gospel message...
- ...and the reason why was due to the fact that - the appointed time for the kingdom of God was at hand.
- In other words - it was there at the beginning of our Savior's earthly ministry...
- ...when the Lord Jesus assured the children of Israel - that the Kingdom of God was at hand.
- Limitations
  - At the same time - it's also important for us to realize that - the Kingdom of God was only partially present at that point in time.
  - Let's consider how the Lord Jesus explained it - in Luke chapter 17 - where we learn that...

Luk 17:20 (Jesus) was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation;

Luk 17:21 "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

- Now - just to be clear - when Jesus said - the kingdom of God is within you...
- ...He wasn't trying to tell them that the Kingdom is present in the hearts of people — in some sort of mystical sense.
- No - instead - He was informing them that the kingdom of God was presently right there - within their midst.
- That's' right - - the Kingdom of God was at hand - and in their midst - because the King Himself was standing in their presence.

- And yet - this wasn't something that they could observe with their natural eyes.
- Observation
  - Christian - listen - when Christ Jesus informed His audience that the kingdom of God does not come with observation...
  - ...He was assuring them that - the kingdom of God can't be seen with our natural eyes.
  - And in order to further grasp what Jesus was saying - let's consider the way that He explained it to a Pharisee named Nicodemus.
  - With this as our focus - continue holding your place there in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to John chapter 3.
  - You see - it's here in the third chapter of John's gospel account - where we find the Lord Jesus...
    - ...helping Nicodemus to understand how the Holy Spirit helps us to see the Kingdom of God.
- See
  - Let's consider John's account of this conversation - - look with me there at John chapter 3 - beginning there at verse 1 - where we learn that...

Jhn 3:1        There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

Jhn 3:2        This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Jhn 3:3        Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Jhn 3:4        Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jhn 3:5        Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - helping a Pharisee named Nicodemus to understand that...
- ...we must be born of the Spirit - in order to enter the kingdom of God.
- And not only that - but - we must also be born again to even see the kingdom of God.
- It's for this reason that those who were here during the days of Jesus Earthly ministry...
  - ...were unable to observe the Kingdom of God - despite the fact that - the King was standing right there in their midst.

#### ● Application

- Paul
- I like the way that Paul confirmed this in Romans chapter 14 - it's verse 17 - where he declared...

Rom 14:17 ...the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

- From this - we can see that the Kingdom of God wasn't removed at the time of Christ's ascension into heaven.
- No - instead - the Kingdom of God continues to exist in the context of the Christian church...
- ...as those who are born of the Spirit - continue to walk in the righteousness - the peace - and the joy of Jesus.
- And it's for this reason that Paul continued to preach the kingdom of God until the end of his life...
  - ...so that sinners might enter in - by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## ● Transition

### • Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...

1. ...the Kingdom of God is not only Present - - partially speaking...

2. ...but - the Kingdom of God is also Powerful.

- And in order to understand the power of the Kingdom - let's continue to consider the way that Paul rebuked the carnal Christians in Corinth.
- Let's make our way back to 1st Corinthians chapter 4 - where we find Paul - referring to the Power of the Kingdom.
- Let's back up - and begin reading again - there at verse 18 - where Paul declared...

## IV. Powerful

### ● Text

1Co 4:18      Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you.

1Co 4:19      But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.

1Co 4:20      For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

### • Power

- As we take another look at these verses - we can see that Paul was less concerned about the words of those who were judging him...
- ...and he was more interested in the power of those who were puffed up with pride.
- Just to be clear - that word - power - found there in verses 19 and 20...
- ...was translated from the Greek word - doo'-nam-is - which is the basis for our word - dynamite.

- And while the original Greek word was used in reference to the inherent power that resided in a thing by virtue of its nature...
- ...the same word was also used in reference to the supernatural power necessary for performing miracles.

- Miraculous

- As a matter of fact - this is the same Greek word that Jesus used in reference to the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit.
- For example - it's in Acts chapter 1 - verse 8 - where the Lord Jesus declared...

Act 1:8 "...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- According to the Lord Jesus - the Holy Spirit was sent - to provide every believer with the supernatural power that we need...
- ...so that we can accomplish the great commission of Christ.
- And while it's true that this supernatural power was initially poured out on the day of Pentecost - after the ascension of our Savior...
  - ...it's also true that the same supernatural power of the Holy Spirit...
    - ...is now provided to everyone Who is born of the Spirit - by faith in Jesus Christ.

- Test

- With that being the case - Paul informed the Christians in Corinth - that he was prepared to test the power of those - who were puffed up with pride.
- I like the way that the scholars who gave us the New Living Translation rendered verses 19 - and 20 - they put it like this....

1Co 4:19 I will come—and soon—if the Lord lets me, and then I'll find out whether these arrogant people just give pretentious speeches or whether they really have God's power.

1Co 4:20 For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power.

- From this - we can see that Paul wasn't planning to test the natural powers of those who were puffed up with pride.
  - No - instead - he was ready to test the supernatural powers - in order to see if those carnal Christians...
  - ...were truly walking in the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - And with this as the goal - Paul assured his audience that it wasn't enough to talk the talk...
  - ...those who are the royal stewards of God's kingdom must also walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - Example
  - In order to further grasp Paul's point - I should remind you of how he described the way he ministered to the people in Corinth.
  - It was back in 1st Corinthians chapter 2 - verses 4 and 5 - where he declared...
- 1Co 2:4 ...my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,  
1Co 2:5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.
- Here in these verses - we find the basis for the point that Paul was making here in our text today.
  - You see - when Paul informed his audience that the kingdom of God is not in word but in power...

- ...he was suggesting that the Kingdom of God cannot be described with words.
- No - instead - he was helping the Christians in Corinth to realize that those who are called to serve as stewards of the Kingdom...
- ...will demonstrate the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit - as they confirm their calling.

- Gospel

- Now - when we get to the 12th chapter of this epistle - we're going to learn more about the spiritual gifts by which born-again believers are empowered.
- And while it's true that the power of the Holy Spirit is manifest - in the lives of the Christians who use their spiritual gifts to serve our Savior...
- ...it's also true that Paul referred to the gospel message is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.
- In other words - the gospel message of our Messiah is the power - by which unbelievers enter the Kingdom of God - by faith in Jesus Christ.
- And it's for this reason that many equate the gospel message by which we are saved...
- ...with the keys of the kingdom - that the Lord Jesus mentioned - as He described the way that He would build His church.

- Application

- Keys
- It's in Matthew chapter 16 - beginning at verse 13 - where the apostle Matthew declared...

Mat 16:13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

Mat 16:14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Mat 16:15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Mat 16:17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Mat 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Mat 16:19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - describing the way that He was preparing to build His church.
- And just to be clear - He has built His church upon the solid rock of Peter's confession - that Jesus is the Christ - the Son of the living God.
- And in the context of building His church upon the solid rock of this confession of faith...
- ...the Lord Jesus also promised to give his apostles the keys of the kingdom...
- ...by which they had the power to unlock the spiritual doors of the kingdom - through the gospel message of grace.
- The Spirit
- This corresponds to the instructions that the Lord Jesus presented on the day of His resurrection.
- It's in John chapter 20 - beginning at verse 19 - where the apostle John writes.....

Jhn 20:19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Jhn 20:20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Jhn 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

Jhn 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Jhn 20:23 "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - imparting the Holy Spirit to His apostles.
- Not only that - - but - He also harkened back to the statement He made - when He promised to provide them with the keys of the Kingdom.
- And what this means is that - the Keys of the Kingdom is rooted in the power of the Holy Spirit...
- ...Who empowers believers to present the gospel message - by which sinners receive the remission of sins.
- And as we consider how the King of kings has provided us with the keys we need - to help people enter the Kingdom of God...
- ...we can rejoice in knowing that the Kingdom is not only present - it's also powerful to save.

## ● Transition

### • Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...

1. ...the Kingdom of God is not only Present - - partially speaking...

2. ...and - the Kingdom of God is also Powerful to save those who trust in the King of kings...
3. ...but - the Kingdom of God is also Prophetic
  - And in order to understand the prophecies that point to the Kingdom yet to come...
  - ...let's continue to consider the way that Paul rebuked the carnal Christians in Corinth.
  - Let's turn our attention back to 1st Corinthians chapter 4 - where we find Paul - warning the original recipients of this epistle.
  - Let's back up - and begin reading again - there at verse 18 - where Paul declared...

## V. Prophetic

### ● Text

1Co 4:18      Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you.  
1Co 4:19      But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know,  
not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.  
1Co 4:20      For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.  
1Co 4:21      What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love  
and a spirit of gentleness?

- Come?
- As we take another look at these verses - we must not fail to notice the way that Paul exercised his apostolic authority...
- ...by warning the carnal Christians in Corinth about the punishment that he was planning to pour out - at the time of his return.
- And while it's true that he threatened to use a rod of royal correction...
- ...it's also true that he gave them the option - by implicitly encouraging them to repent of their divisive contentions.

- This encouragement can be found in the question found there in verse 21 - where Paul asked...

1Co 4:21 What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

- Return

- Now - as we consider the warning that Paul was presenting - here in the final verses of this chapter...
- ...you might be interested to know that - Paul did in fact return to Corinth - a few months after they received this letter.
- And it was during that quick trip to Corinth - when Paul confronted the carnal Christians who were still questioning his apostolic authority.
- Not only that - but - we should also consider the warning that Paul presented in the 6th chapter of this epistle.
- And with this as our focus - hold your place here in 1st Corinthians chapter 4 - and let's turn to chapter 6.
- You see - it's here in the sixth chapter of this epistle - where Paul challenged the original recipients of this epistle...
  - ...about those who would not inherit the Kingdom of God.

- Inherit

- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 6 - look with me - beginning there at verse 5 - where he declared...

1Co 6:5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?

1Co 6:6 But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!

1Co 6:7      Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?

1Co 6:8      No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!

1Co 6:9      Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

1Co 6:10     nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - warning the original recipients of this epistle...
- ...that the unbelievers who will not repent of their sins - will NOT inherit the kingdom of God.
- And while Paul went on to assure them that those who had been washed - sanctified - and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus...
- ...would also inherit the kingdom - by the Spirit of our God...
- ...he also seemed to suggest that there may've been some at the church in Corinth - who would not inherit the kingdom of God.
- Lord Lord
- This reminds me of the warning that the Lord Jesus presented - in Matthew chapter 7 - - it's verses 21 thru 23 - where He declared...

Mat 7:21     "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Mat 7:22     "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

Mat 7:23     "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

- Christian - listen - there are those who will call Jesus Lord - and yet - they will not submit to Him.
- They will appear to cast out demons in His name - while simultaneously denying the power of the gospel message.
- They will do many wonderful things in the name of Jesus - and yet - they will fail to have a relational connection with Christ Jesus.
- And it's for this reason that these unregenerate unbelievers will fail to enter the Kingdom of Heaven...
  - ...on the day when the Lord Jesus finally delivers the kingdom to God our Heavenly Father.
- Fulfilled
  - In order to grasp the prophetic aspect of the day when the Lord Jesus will deliver the kingdom to God into the hands of our Heavenly Father...
  - ...let's consider the way that Paul explained it - to the Christians in Corinth.
  - Continue holding your place there in 1st Corinthians chapter 4 - and let's turn in our Bibles - to 1st Corinthians chapter 15.
  - And we make our way to the 15th chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to remind you...
    - ...about the Kingdom Theory - known as Inaugurated eschatology - or more commonly called - the "already but not yet" kingdom.
    - As I pointed out earlier in this study - this perspective is based on the belief that...
      - ...the Kingdom of God has come - partially - - and yet - there are still Kingdom prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled.
- The End

- With this as our focus - let's consider how Paul put it here in 1st Corinthians chapter 15 - look with me beginning there at verse 22 where he declared...

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

1Co 15:23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

1Co 15:24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

1Co 15:25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to realize that...
  - ...there's coming a day - when the Lord Jesus will deliver the kingdom to God the Father.
  - It's at that point in time - when the King of kings will put all enemies under His feet.
  - And as we consider this prophetic promise - there should be no doubt that Paul believed that the Kingdom of God was present...
    - ...and at the same time - there was still a prophetic fulfillment - which is still yet to come.
- Throne
  - In order to prove my point - let's consider the prophecy that Isaiah presented in the 9th chapter of his book.
  - It's Isaiah chapter 9 - verses 6 and 7 - where the prophet declared...

Isa 9:6 For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Creator, Prince of Peace.

Isa 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace

There will be no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice  
From that time forward, even forever.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

- According to Isaiah - our Messiah was not only a Child who was born - and a Son Who was given - - which points to His first advent...
  - ...but - our Messiah is also a Prince of peace Who becomes the King Who rules and reigns from the throne of David.
  - And what's even more is that - the government of the King of kings - will be established with judgment and justice...
  - ...from the day He sits upon the throne of David - and forevermore.
    - And while some believe that this kingdom has already been fully established - I can assure you that they are wrong.
  - Parallel
  - In order to further make my case - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians 4 - so that we can consider the apocalyptic implications of Paul's warning.
  - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 20 - where Paul declared...
- 1Co 4:20     For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.  
1Co 4:21     What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?
- As we take another look at the verses - we must not fail to notice the apocalyptic implications of this warning.
  - And while it's true that Paul was literally referring to the day when he would arrive in Corinth - and correct those who were sinning...
  - ...it's also true that this word of warning is similar to the apocalyptic language that points to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

- For example - it's in Revelation chapter 22 - verse 12 - where the Lord Jesus declared...

Rev 22:12 "...behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

- King of kings
- I should also remind you about John's vision of Christ's second coming - which is found in Revelation chapter 19.
- It's beginning at verse 15 - where he described the return of our King in this way...

Rev 19:15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.  
Rev 19:16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

- Here in this prophecy - we find the apostle John - describing the day of Christ's second coming.
- And much like Paul - who warned the Christians in Corinth - that he was coming with a rod - to correct those who were causing division...
- ...Christ Jesus will also return with the sword of the Spirit - as well as a rod righteousness...
- ...so that He can establish His kingly throne there in Israel - according to the prophetic promises of God's word.
- And what this means is that - the fulfillment of these prophecies are still yet future tense.

## ● Application

- Pray

- With that being the case - we will all do well to pray for the day - when the King of kings will establish the Kingdom of God - here on the earth.
- Let's consider how the Lord Jesus directed us to pray - in Matthew chapter 6 beginning at verse 9 - He declared...

Mat 6:9        "In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Mat 6:10      Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Mat 6:11      Give us this day our daily bread.

Mat 6:12      And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

Mat 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.

- Now - remember - the Lord Jesus presented this model pray - after He informed the children of Israel - that the kingdom of God is at hand.
- And as we consider how the Lord Jesus encouraged us to pray...
  - "Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven..."
  - ...then - there should be no doubt that - the Kingdom of God has yet to be fully established - according to God's prophetic promises.

## VI. Conclusion

### ● Wrap up

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- Points

1. ...the Kingdom of God is not only Present - - partially speaking...

2. ...and - the Kingdom of God is also Powerful to save those who trust in the King of kings...

3. ...but - the Kingdom of God is also Prophetic

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