

# Gospel of the Kingdom: Part 1

Sunday, August 6, 2017

“The Kingdom of God:” A biblical theme present from Genesis—Revelation

The Bible tells us that God’s Kingdom arrived in Jesus, but the fullness of that Kingdom is yet to come. What went wrong with the establishment of God’s Kingdom and how does he plan to fix it?

## Genesis 1:1; 26-28 (ESV)

### The Creation of the World

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man<sup>[h]</sup> in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

If someone read Genesis 1 and then went immediately to Matthew 1, they would be confused. Not just because they missed thousands of years of history but more importantly because in Genesis 1 everything is RIGHT and man is created in the image of God, we are image-bearers if you will, while in the beginning of the

gospels, we realize that God sent Jesus to the earth to announce the coming of His Kingdom...which would leave that person asking, "Where did His Kingdom go? Everything seemed so perfect in the Garden!"

Drama of the gospels unfolds- Jesus trying to unpack what he means when he announces that the kingdom of God is here and what everyone else thinks he means

Humans rebel and don't trust, like middle-managers that want to be in charge of setting the values, vision and direction of the company themselves.

### **Genesis 3:1-7 (ESV)**

#### **The Fall**

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You<sup>[a]</sup> shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,<sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.<sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,<sup>[b]</sup> she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

An alternate kingdom is set up. Adam & Eve mistrust in the Garden of Eden and are banished. Cain murders Abel. Cain goes and builds the first city, city of Lamech and there's a poem about how horrible of a city it is and then we see the people rise up to build the Tower of Babel (Babylon). The building of the tower really is the culmination of the story of the Fall of Man; man's alternate kingdom. This

alternate kingdom is referred to in many different ways throughout Scripture (world, age, sin & death) but it's always the same- it's where man's will is done and not God's; where man rules and reigns and God at least appears absent.

Cain story begins "the human project" of God entrusting the earth to humans; that they would rule and reign.

So God trusts the Garden to mankind. He intends for them to tend to the garden and rule over the life that He created. He commands them to be fruitful and multiply. Seems simple enough. But Man distrusts God and thus falls away from his original plan. Mankind is still to fill and subdue the earth however and we are still commissioned to rule and reign, just not at all in the way we were originally intended to. **Where man was given the original task of literally cultivating the earth, as in soil/ground, he is now appointed to cultivate the EARTH, as in people.**

## **Revelation 22:1-5 (ESV)**

### **The River of Life**

22 Then the angel<sup>[a]</sup> showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life<sup>[b]</sup> with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Kingdom= rule and reign

God's kingdom vs. man's kingdom

Story of the Bible is a "clash of kingdoms"

-God wants to invade our kingdom and take rightful dominion but we choose to be rebellious and do our own thing