

## LESSON 6

# The Kingdom of God in Human History: The Kingdom of Heaven

Colossians 1:13-14

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*He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, Colossians 1:13-14.*

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**Class Overview:** This lesson reveals the eternal and unified nature of God's Kingdom, showing that His rule extends from before creation through every dispensation and finds its fulfillment in Christ. While the Law of Moses governed Israel, God's purpose was always to bless all nations through the promise made to Abraham. Jesus, the divine King, came to unite all people under one heavenly Kingdom—not a physical kingdom, but a spiritual one, not visible to human eyes but lived through transformed hearts. The church, composed of those called out of darkness into Christ's light, is the visible expression of this Kingdom on earth. As servants of the King, we are called to live with heavenly values, walk by the Spirit, and advance His reign until the Kingdom is delivered back to the Father in eternity.

### Class Objectives:

By the end of this class, you should be able to:

1. Understand that God's Kingdom is eternal, spiritual, and transcends all earthly realms.
  2. Explain how the promises to Abraham anticipated the unification of all nations in Christ.
  3. Identify the relationship between the church and the Kingdom as revealed in Matthew 16.
  4. Recognize that citizenship in God's Kingdom requires a spiritual, not carnal, mindset.
  5. Apply the call of Christ to live as active servants and ambassadors of His Kingdom today.
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## Introduction

From a young age, I was taught that the church was the Kingdom of God. As we have studied over the past five weeks, the Kingship of God (Deity) is from everlasting to everlasting. God has always been King over the spiritual realm and has always been King of the physical realm. The faithful of God through all generations are part of His Kingdom.

Second, the Law given to Israel did not negate the faithfulness of God's people who were not Israel. However, God's promise to Abraham was not simply given to the descendants of Isaac; the blessing to come was intended for all people of the earth. Jesus is the Unifier, the one who would break down the

division and bring all men together and translate them into one kingdom. This Kingdom is above all rule, and people from every nation of the earth will be compelled to leave the Kingdoms of men to become servants and beneficiaries of the Kingdom of Heaven.

## **The Kingdom of Heaven, of God, of Christ**

- A. The *Kingdom of Heaven* is mentioned 32 times, all in the book of Matthew. *Kingdom of God*: 69 times in the New Testament. Kingdom of Christ: once Ephesians 5:5
1. The significance of God's Kingdom is where it resides.
  2. Review:
    - a. Before the beginning of the world. (Spiritual Realm)
    - b. At Creation, His Kingdom and Rule are both (physical and Spiritual). Through all dispensations of the history of the world.
    - c. In the last days, Hebrews 1:1. "The culmination of God's eternal plan is completed, the restoration of the Kingdom that will return to heaven for eternity."
  3. Jesus' Statements regarding His nature and that of the Kingdom.
    - a. John 8:23: "And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world."
    - b. John 18:36: "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."
  4. While the Kingdom Heaven is not a physical Kingdom, it exists in the physical realm until Christ delivers it unto the Father. (1 Corinthians 15).
  5. Christ and the Apostles plainly taught that the Kingdom of God is not seen or visible by Human standards.
    - a. Ephesians 6:11: "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."
    - b. Luke 17:20-21: "And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."
    - c. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."
  6. We are called to be spiritual people, not earthly.

- a. 1 Corinthians 3:1: Paul's communication problems with the Corinthians.
- b. Carnal, or physically minded, cannot dominate the spiritual.
- c. Galatians 5: Walk by the Spirit while we reside in a physical body.
- d. Romans 7-8: The mind must reflect the values of God.
- e. Jesus teaches a heavenly heart, attitudes, and actions that are characteristic of heavenly beings.
- f. Matthew 5:1-12: These are people of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- g. **WE ARE SERVANTS OF THE KING**

## Christ's Call Man to the Kingdom

### A. Matthew 16

- 1. Verses 1-4: Confrontation with the Pharisees and Sadducees, concerning their inability to comprehend heavenly things.
- 2. Verses 5-12: Jesus confronts his disciples because they do not comprehend who He is or what He is presenting to the world.
- 3. Verses 13-28:
  - i. Peter's confusion about who Jesus is.
  - ii. Jesus' confirmation of what He will establish and explanation of what will happen.
  - iii. Peter condemned, in verse 23, the price of not seeing God's purpose and thinking like a man.

### B. What is the importance of verse 18? (The first time the word church is used in N.T.)

- 1. The called out. What are they called out of? Colossians 1:13

### C. What is significant about verse 19? (the Kingdom)

- 1. Prophesied in the Old Testament. Isaiah 9:6-7; 11; Daniel 2:44, 7:13-14
- 2. Acts 2:47 - It is people who have been saved. Church always refers to people, not places. The church, as a whole, refers to a group of people who have been saved by God, or a group of those people who assemble. One person is not a church, even though they are one part of the church
  - i. You don't DO church, you worship with the church, you encourage those of the church, you share in the relationship of the saved, which is the church.
  - ii. You can be in fellowship with the church. The called out and assembled.
  - iii. It is the Body of Christ, His people, those who are in Him.
  - iv. It is the Kingdom of God on the earth that will be delivered to the Eternal Kingdom of God reserved in Heaven for them.
  - v. It has the responsibility to make known God's manifold wisdom.

Next week, our study will focus on the Kingdom's final destination.

## For Discussion

1. How does understanding that God's Kingdom is eternal and spiritual—not physical—shape the way we live as Christians?
2. What does it mean that Jesus' Kingdom is “not of this world,” and how does that challenge worldly definitions of power and success?
3. How do the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12) describe the attitudes and actions of citizens of the Kingdom?
4. What is the significance of Jesus' statement in Matthew 16:18–19 about building His church and giving the keys to the Kingdom?
5. How are the church and the Kingdom connected in God's eternal plan of redemption?
6. In what ways can we live daily as “servants of the King” and reflect the spiritual nature of His Kingdom?