

Victory in the Kingdom of God

The Reign of God: Past, Present, and Future

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Introduction

The story of the Bible is the story of God's Kingdom ... His reign over all things and His victory for His people.

In 2025, we studied various aspects of the Kingdom of God and its impact on our faith and daily lives. This fall quarter, our focus turns to the victory that belongs to those who are in the Kingdom of God.

Our first goal is to establish a clear picture of the Kingdom of God—from its beginning in eternity to its final fulfillment, when Jesus returns and hands the Kingdom back to the Father (1 Corinthians 15). To appreciate that moment, we must first see the Kingdom's story across all of history.

This class will not follow a strict 13-lesson outline. Some topics will take more than one week to explore. This slower pace will allow us to consider the depth of God's reign, the role of the church, and our responsibilities as citizens of His Kingdom.

Due to the scope of this study, preparation and participation are crucial. Please spend time each week reading the assigned Scriptures so that our discussions can be more in-depth and meaningful.

In the first five weeks, we will lay a foundation by exploring themes that may not have been studied in depth before. These lessons will help us see the Kingdom not only as the church but also as God's eternal reign over all creation. The first five topics are:

- The Kingdom of God Before Creation
- The Kingdom of God After Creation
- The Kingdom of God in Human History
- The Kingdom of God as the Church
- The Kingdom of God in Eternity

The Kingdom of God is not just something we study—it demands our allegiance. As citizens of the Kingdom, we are called to live under God's rule with faith, obedience, and courage. This quarter is not about gaining more information; it is about transformation. The challenge before us is to see the victory of the King, embrace our role as His people, and commit ourselves fully to living as children of the King.

LESSON 1

The Kingdom of God Before Creation

Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created, John 1:1-3.

Class Overview: This lesson examines the eternal nature and authority of God prior to the creation of the world. Scripture reveals that God has always existed, reigning over both the spiritual and physical realms. The patriarchs lived by faith in this unseen reality, the prophets were given visions of God's throne, and the New Testament writers affirmed His everlasting rule. From eternity to eternity, God possesses all authority, a truth Jesus echoed when He declared, "All authority has been given to Me." Understanding God's eternal reign helps us grasp the foundation of His kingdom and strengthens our hope in the One who rules over all.

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

1. Recognize that God existed before the creation of the world and has always reigned as King.
 2. Understand how the patriarchs, prophets, and apostles affirmed the unseen spiritual realm and God's eternal throne.
 3. Explain key Scriptures that describe God's everlasting authority and what it means for His kingdom.
 4. Connect Jesus' statement in Matthew 28:18 to the eternal authority of God.
 5. Apply the truth of God's eternal reign to our faith, worship, and daily confidence in His kingdom.
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Introduction

Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1-3 start with the creation of the physical world. Both passages address the existence of God (deity) before the world began. It was deity that conceived everything in mind and brought it into reality through action, forming all the things in the physical world. When John wrote his first epistle, he began by declaring the eternal nature of Christ, stating *what was from the beginning...* (1 John 1:1), clearly indicating that God's existence predates the physical world. John also emphasizes that this preexisting being was seen in the flesh, heard, seen, looked upon, and touched by him, and he now bears witness to him.

We teach our children that God has always existed, but that is a difficult concept for us, especially for little children. The awe of the eternal God, His power, and His reign—the complete authority over everything that is, was, and is to come—is simply hard for the finite mind to understand.

What the Scriptures Say About God Before the World Began

1. The spiritual realm is something we cannot see, but we believe in it.
 - a. The Old Testament patriarchs believed in it.
 - i. Abraham looked for a city beyond this world: Hebrews 11:8-10
 - ii. Moses chose eternal reward over temporary treasures: Hebrews 11:24-26
 - b. The Old Testament writers gave us visions of it.
 - i. Psalm 11:4; 47:8; 93:2; 103:19; 1 Kings 22:19
 - ii. Isaiah 6:1-5; Ezekiel 1:26-28
 - c. Paul mentioned it several times in Ephesians: 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12
 - d. John paints the scene in Revelation of the throne in eternity, as described in Revelation 4-5.
 - i. Outside of Revelation 4-5, 20-21, John describes and talks about the heavenly throne of God 31 times.
2. The Old Testament is filled with the idea of God's everlasting and eternal authority.
 - a. Psalm 90:2: *Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, you are God.*
 - b. Proverbs 8:25-26: *Before the mountains were established, prior to the hills, I was given birth— before he made the land, the fields, or the first soil on earth.*
 - c. Psalm 103:17: *But from eternity to eternity the Lord's faithful love is toward those who fear him, and his righteousness toward the grandchildren*
 - d. Psalm 106:48: *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, "Amen!" Hallelujah!*
 - e. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture affirms God's eternal reign—before creation, throughout history, and forevermore.

What do we know about eternity before the creation of the world?

1. Who rules over the spiritual realm?
 - a. What is the extent of his reign?
 - b. What is different about the nature of God? *Unlike any created being, God's authority is inherent and absolute.*
2. He possesses all authority; it is inherent in who He is.
 - a. Daniel 4: No one can stay his hand.
 - b. Job 38: "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?"
3. Jesus' statement, "All authority has been given to Me," reflects the eternal truth: from eternity, God has possessed all authority. The Father delegated that authority to the Son, who now reigns as King.
4. All angelic beings and the hosts of heaven are subject to him. God is all in all.

- a. The angels are his ministering servants.
 - b. The Seraphim fly above the throne singing praises to God.
5. God reigns over everything He chooses in the heavenly realm and in the world He created.

Conclusion

When we discuss the kingdom of God, we must have a vision of the heavenly realm that the patriarchs possessed, the Old Testament writers mentioned, and the New Testament writers refer to, in which our hope lies. God has always been the King of all worlds, both spiritual and physical. When we speak of God's Kingdom, we must remember that His reign has always been. From eternity to eternity, He is King over all worlds—both seen and unseen. Our hope rests in this eternal reality.

For Discussion

1. When you think about God having no beginning or end, how does that shape the way you approach your daily struggles?
2. If Abraham and Moses could live by faith in promises they couldn't yet see, what promises of God do you need to trust more fully right now?
3. The visions of God's throne in Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Revelation emphasize His holiness. How should that vision influence the way we worship?
4. Jesus has "all authority" (Matthew 28:18). In what areas of your life do you still struggle to yield to His authority?
5. If God's kingdom is eternal and unshakable, how can that truth give you confidence and hope in a world that often feels unstable?