

Victory in The Kingdom of God

We have spent the beginning of this quarter learning about the Kingdom. How God has always reigned as King and how His rule is seen throughout scripture, from the beginning of time. We have worked to develop our understanding of His rule, which is from everlasting to everlasting. His rule is over all creation, every tribe and every nation. It always has been and always will be.

When we look at the Old Testament and we see a throne, God is was on it (1 King 19:22; 2 Chronicles 18:18; Psalm 11:4; 45:6; 47:6; 89:14; 93:2; 97:2; 103:19; Isaiah 6:1; 66:1 Jeremiah 49:38; Lamentations 5:19; Daniel 7:9). In the big picture of the Bible, the kingdom of God has always been. God has always been King Almighty, the Lord of Hosts; He is Lord of everything. In the spiritual realm, God rules and reigns; everything is under control, and there is peace.

Many times, we struggle to understand how the kingdom began because we think it started on earth when Jesus arrived. However, the biblical picture of the kingdom shows a kingdom that has always existed—one that came to earth when our King came down from heaven to dwell among us and invite us to be part of it. I believe the church is part of the Kingdom of God, but it is also much larger than just the church (Revelation 11:15-18). The Kingdom of God, which has always existed, came among the nations of this earth, and the power of the kingdom was among us, and we are invited into it. Revelation 12, beginning in verse 5, gives us more details about this Kingdom, and in verse 10, a loud voice declares in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come..."

Matthew is often regarded as the book of the kingdom. As mentioned last week, the kingdom of heaven is referenced 32 times in the New Testament, all of which are found in Matthew. Jesus spends much time teaching about what the kingdom is and what kingdom people will look like. I appreciate the time we have spent discussing the kingdom and our effort to understand what it is. With that understanding, we will focus on what kingdom people should look like and how we can achieve victory within the kingdom.

When we realize that we are part of God's kingdom, we should feel an overwhelming sense of awe and joy. It is this sense of awe and joy that causes each of us to yearn for something greater than anything we can experience in the earthly realm. God placed this yearning in our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11). As discussed last week, when this

physical world ends, the Son will deliver the kingdom — which we are a part of now — to the Father, and it will exist for eternity with God as its King. People throughout this age long to become part of that heavenly Kingdom. While we look forward to the day when the kingdom is delivered to the Father, we can find comfort and victory in the kingdom today.

Thought Questions:

1. Is the thought of the heavenly kingdom coming to the physical realm a challenging thought?
2. How would you contrast the heavenly realm and the physical realm?
3. What are some of the challenges we face in this physical realm?
4. How does being part of the kingdom help you as you face challenges?