



Peninsula City Church

The Kingdom

A Bigger Perspective

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The Background

A Bigger Perspective

Q. How do I live out a Kingdom lifestyle day to day?

If one reads the whole Bible, somethings that stands out as central themes from the record of Genesis through to the Revelation, in reading and studying the entire Bible, it helps us to have a bigger perspective. That is, we need to attempt to see things beyond what we already know or think we know. One of these themes is the Kingdom of God from His perspective. So, how do we go about working out what the Bible says regarding the Kingdom without violating the meaning of the various sections of the Bible? Could you apply what you find to your own life understanding the truth and then respond?

Some things that will be helpful to think about from today's discussion are:

- How do we daily live out a Kingdom lifestyle before those around me?
- How do we be carriers of the Kingdom in our work/study/living place?
- How do we live from a base of Kingdom values?

In dealing with questions like these, it is essential to know what we believe, why we believe it and how we are to respond.

1. From Beginning to the End

Q. What is another way to look at this matter?

A basic idea of God's Kingdom and His reign is that it is never-ending. We have probably heard the idea of the Kingdom of God used in any number of ways. But what is it and how does it affect how we live our lives? Well, it relates to the area, people and things in that area, which a king has control over. When it relates to God, it is God's rule His domain, and His people. We see the idea of the Kingdom of God first revealed in the book of Genesis. However, this idea of the Kingdom of God although it has it beginning recorded in Genesis (Gen 1:26-31), flows all the way through to the end of the Bible in the book of the Revelation: Rev 4:2-5:7; 7:9-12; 11:15; 12:10-11; 17:14; 19:16 etc.

So, in the beginning, God is seen as the One who gave Humanity the right to be in charge as His representatives of God the King,

²⁶ "Then God said, 'Let Us make man (Heb. *adam*, i.e. humanity) in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion (reign) 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.'

²⁷ So God created man (Heb. *adam*, i.e. humanity) in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male (*zakar*) and female (*neqebah*) He created them.

²⁸ And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue (govern) it, and have dominion (rule or reign) over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' ²⁹ And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that He had

made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day” (Gen 1:26-31 ESV).

If we read these passages carefully, we will notice that humanity was to have dominion (be in charge) over the creation. However, since the rupture of the created order of things through Adam and Eve), we have been trying to dominate each other. This was never meant to be the case. From then on, we have been abused by a tyrant and learnt his ways. It has been said that,

“...we made a terrible mess out of it, and we were subjected more and more to the power of Satan.”¹

So, from the beginning, God was the One who was to be in control as the King of kings.

Part of the issue of this dominion was that humanity was never meant to cope with what was God’s alone. He was reigning as King in His Kingdom and therefore can manage all divine knowledge. This can be seen when He restricted humanity from a specific knowledge that is only for the King of kings in Gen 2:16-17,

¹⁶ “And the LORD God commanded the humanity, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Gen 2:16-17 ESV)

This is the knowledge that only God can understand and handle. Humanity is not able to do so as we have seen throughout history. So why put the tree there in the first place? Well firstly, it was God’s choice to do so, and He knows what He is doing. Secondly, it was to be a constant reminder of His sovereignty that He has everything in control. That meant even things that humanity cannot understand or handle. Finally, it was evidence of His trust in Humanity to obey Him and leave this kind of knowledge to Him.

However, we are told of one who was more cunning than all the beasts in the garden came along and twisted the Word of God. He was after the place of being king of all. He caused humanity to question God’s Word (Gen 3:1-5), something that they had never done before. He placed the idea of doing something that only God could do in their minds, i.e. know good and evil.

2. What happened to the Kingdom of God in the middle of the story?

Q. What can we learn regarding humanities rejection of God and His Kingdom thus rupturing the created order, which has had ongoing effects, until the coming of Jesus?

a. The lie to gain dominion

In Gen 3:1-5, we read about the lie, which the enemy used to challenge humanities right to have dominion under God’s rule. This lie was, questioning God’s Word and the right of humanity to have His knowledge of good and evil. The enemy’s underlying motive was to reign as the ruler of the earth. But this authority was not given to him, so he intended to steal it through deception.

¹ “Now the serpent was craftier than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, ‘You (plural) shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’ ² And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, “You (plural) shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you (plural) touch it, lest you die.”’ ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You (plural) will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you (plural) eat of it your (plural) eyes will be opened, and you (plural) will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Gen 3:1-5 ESV).

¹ “Has Satan been given dominion over the earth until Jesus returns? If so, why was he given this authority?” <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/qas/has-satan-been-given-dominion-over-earth-until-jes/> (4th March 2020).

They fell for the cunning ones lie as recorded in Gen 3:6-8. What they did not understand was, God had a purpose for saying what He had said regarding this tree, that is,

¹⁶ “And the LORD God commanded the man (*adam*), saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Gen 2:16-17 ESV).

They believed the lie and ate. We then read in the remained of Genesis chapter three of the results of believing this lie. They lost the right to have dominion under God’s reign, and the enemy fraudulently snatched it. So, in His grace had no other option than to expel humanity from the garden,

²² “Then the Lord God said, ‘Behold, the humanity has become like one of Us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest they reach out their hand and also take of the tree of life and eat, and live forever’ ²³, therefore, the Lord God sent them out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which they were taken. ²⁴ He drove out humanity, and at the east of the garden of Eden, He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life” (Gen 3:22-24 ESV).

God was still able to show His grace by separating humanity from the tree of life. If they had stayed in the garden in this corrupt state, they may have eaten from it and lived in this state forever. He then had to set a guard on the tree.

Adam and Eve believed the lie of Satan and humanity has continued to believe it from that time. Jesus brought up the issue of this lie when talking with the religious leaders. In referring to the enemy and the incident in the garden, He pointed out,

“You are of your father, the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks the lie (*τὸ ψεῦδος*, the lie,² i.e. the falsehood, or deceit), he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (Jn 8:44 ESV).

Notice that it has been translated as “the lie” singular and not plural lies as in most English translations. The reason for this is that this is how it is written in Greek “the lie” not a lie. If that is the case, we may ask what is the lie that satan used that Jesus was talking about?

Well, it is the lie, which he circulated in the Garden of Eden and has been declaring to humanity ever since from Genesis 3. That is, “You will not surely die... you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So, they believed him and ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Ever since receiving a glimpse of this knowledge, which they were never meant to have things have been on a downward spiral to this day. This knowledge was only meant for God because humanity would not be able to manage this Kingdom knowledge. Satan’s motive to deceive them was to swindle them out of the rights to have dominion over creation given to them by God (Gen 1:26-30).

b. God is King forever, as s His kingdom

However, we need to keep things in perspective and see things from God viewpoint. We need to remember that, although humanity had given up their right of dominion, God was still the King and was on the throne. Scripture points out that, God remained King for example,

“The LORD is King forever and ever; the nations perish from His land” (Ps 10:16 ESV; see also; Ps 29:10; 47:2,6-7; 95:3; Is 6:5; 44:6; Zech 14:9).

² It has been rightly translated as, “Whenever he is speaking the lie...” Wuest, Kenneth S. The New Testament: An Expanded Translation. (Iowa Falls, Iowa: Riverside Books and Bible House, 1984), 234.

This includes after the rupture of the created order until the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. The Kingdom of the Lord is an eternal kingdom, which continues forever,

“I (king Darius) make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for He is the living God, enduring forever; His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and His dominion shall be to the end” (Dan 6:26 ESV; see also 2 Chron 13:8).

c. Israel rejected God as their King

Although we read that God remained King and that His Kingdom is eternal, Israel did not see it that way. God knew that there would be a hardening of the heart of His own people. He pointed this out through Moses, stating that, they would reject Him as their King.

¹⁴ “When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, ‘I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me, ¹⁵ you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother” (Deut 17:14-15 ESV).

So, while Samuel was a prophet in Israel, they did in fact reject God as their King. They fulfilled what had been said by the Lord in Deuteronomy and ran after another king to rule over them.

⁴ “Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵ and said to him, ‘Behold, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.’ ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to judge us.’ And Samuel prayed to the Lord. ⁷ And the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being King over them.’ ⁸ According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking Me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. ⁹ Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.’ ... ¹⁹ But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel, and they said, ‘No! But there shall be a king over us,’ ²⁰ that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.’ ... ^{12:12} “And when you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, ‘No, but a king shall reign over us,’ when the LORD your God was your King” (1 Sam 8:4-9,19-20; 12:12 ESV).

However, even though Israel rejected God as their King demanding another king, He remained the eternal King. Although humanity, then Israel and civilization to this day have dismissed God as King, His Kingdom remained eternal. So, in the right time, God sent His only unique Son to declare the truth to refocus Israel and then then the rest of humanity. This truth was that He has always and still is King and His Kingdom has no end.

d. Jesus came to refocus humanity on the eternal Kingdom of God

So, Jesus was sent to amongst other things to refocus Israel and those who would follow Him concerning the present Kingdom of God. The nation of Israel had lost this focus as their kings had let them down. In addition to this, they had been ruled over by other nations. He had also come to draw non-Jews into the Kingdom of God.

¹⁴ “Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent (see things beyond what you understand) and believe in the gospel” (Mk 1:14-15 ESV).

“From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand’” (Matt 4:17 ESV).

“But He said to them, ‘I must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose’” (Lk 4:43 ESV).

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself” (Jn 12:32 ESV; see also Lk 14:15-24).

It is important to notice that the writers of the gospels never tried to define the Kingdom of God. They highlighted that fact that Jesus had come to refocus people back on the Kingdom of God.

The reason was that humanity had lost its way and their Kingdom focus. They were still seeking a false kingdom set up by the enemy, i.e. religion. Jesus was putting things back into the correct order as part of God’s rightful Kingdom. Satan as the unlawful and deceitful overlord was ruling the earth with deceit and an iron fist. Jesus, as the true King of kings, had come to bring the right order again. He never came to fight Satan as some has claimed. Satan was and is a pseudo ruler and no match for Jesus even if there was to be a fight. Jesus is the creator and Satan is the created being who fell from grace. He relentlessly falsifies the story regarding God and himself and humanity continue to swallow the lie. It has been said that,

“Once you lose the kingdom theme, which is central to the gospels, everything else becomes reinterpreted in ways that radically distort, that substitute a subtly different “gospel” message for the one Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are eager to convey.”³

Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy to encourage him to continue to be faithful to the work that he has been called to do. As part of this letter, Paul wrote some songs to declare that God is the eternal King. Two of these bring out this proclamation,

“To the King of the ages (eternal), immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Tim 1:17 ESV).

¹⁵ “which He will display at the proper time, He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To Him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen” (1 Tim 6:15-16 ESV).

We also read about Jesus as King in the Scripture. He has been declared King by numerous biblical authors. This truth has never changed and never will. It should give us great confidence to guide us on how to live out a Kingdom lifestyle from day today. Some of these states,

⁶ “For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and of peace, there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this” (Is 9:6-7 ESV)

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zech 9:9 ESV; cf. Mk 11:7; Matt 21:5; Lk 19:38; Jn 12:15 where this truth has been recorded as being fulfilled).

³⁶ “Jesus answered, ‘My Kingdom is not of this world (order). If My Kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My Kingdom is not from the world. ³⁷ Then Pilate said to Him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this purpose, I was born, and for this purpose, I have

³ Wright, N.T. *How God Became King: The Forgotten Story of the Gospels*. (New York, NY: HarperOne, 2016), 183.

come into the world to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice” (Jn 18:36-37 ESV).

“Then comes the end, when He delivers the Kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power” (1 Cor 15:24 ESV).

“And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood” (Rev 1:5 ESV).

“And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ‘Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!’” (Rev. 15:3 ESV).

See also Revelation 19:11-21 (esp. v16) where Jesus Christ is called King,

“On His robe and on His thigh, He has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Then there is the matter of His own having been given back their privileged status of reigning with Him. He is in control, but He has put His own in charge of His creation. This was lost at the rupture of the created order of things. Since then, satan as reigned as a pseudo ruler over God’s rightful Kingdom. Nevertheless, the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ points out that we have been granted the privilege of being His kings here on earth to have dominion,

⁹ “And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood, you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth” (Rev. 5:9-10 ESV).

It is not being said here that, the church is the Kingdom of God as some have taught. That is a wrong perspective of the Kingdom and His church. More accurately what the truth is that, the Church is part of His Kingdom, but the kingdom is not the Church. A helpful holistic model here to try to help understand this issue is that was presented by the theologian Benjamin B. Warfield. He saw the Kingdom of God as made up individual parts, which were divinely pulled together to function under God’s sovereign rule. It looks like this, it is,⁴

- God’s people
- God’s people in God’s place
- God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule
- God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule living God’s way

So, it has been said on the matter of a correct perspective of the Kingdom of God that,

“Our questions have been wrongly put because they haven’t been about the kingdom. They haven’t been about God’s sovereign, saving rule coming on earth as in heaven. Instead, our questions have been about a ‘salvation’ that rescues people from the world, instead of for the world. “Going to heaven” has been the object (ever since the Middle Ages at least, in the Western church); “sin” is what stops us from getting there; so the cross must deal with sin, so that we can leave this world and go to the much better one in the sky, or in “eternity,” or wherever. But this is simply untrue to the story the gospels are telling—which, again, explains why we’ve all misread these wonderful texts. Whatever the cross achieves must be

⁴ “Taken down from the Lecture on Theology given by Cole, G.” (1997) Melbourne, Ridley College.

articulated, if we are to take the four gospels seriously, within the context of the kingdom-bringing victory.”⁵

So, hopefully, now we can see and understand that God’s Kingdom and His reign is all-encompassing and never-ending. It affects every area of our lives, whether we realise it or not. It has never ceased to exist and never will. This is despite the lie of satan, and what those say who follow and promote his lie.

Some concluding thoughts

So, coming back to the opening question,

Q. How do I live out a Kingdom lifestyle day to day?

What you have read so far has been an attempt to try to answer this question. However, we need to go another set here, i.e. we need to apply what has been said within this paper. The reason is, as God’s own children, we need to live out a Kingdom lifestyle day to day. If we do not do this, then it is all merely an academic exercise. So, this truth needs to be applied. On this matter, it has been said,

“Thus, the focus of the kingdom of God is on the relationship between God and his people. Man is subject to God, while the rest of creation is subject to man and exists for his benefit. The kingdom means God ruling over his people in the material universe. This basic understanding of the kingdom is never changed in Scripture.”⁶

If that is that case, how do we live out a Kingdom lifestyle day to day? considering this, let us ask this question from the perspective of putting it into practice. So,

- “How will we use what we have learnt today to help live a Kingdom lifestyle day to day?”
- What would it be like if we daily live out a Kingdom lifestyle before those around us?
- What would happen if we recognised that, we are Kingdom representatives in our work/study/living place?
- What would we recommend to someone trying live from a base of Kingdom values?

It has rightly been said that,

“If we want to understand the kingdom of God and live in peace in the midst of earthly kingdoms, we should start with an understanding that the God of the Bible is King, Emperor, and Lord.”⁷

Here an illustration will be used to try to explain the influence of the Kingdom of God. It is called “Jonno and the bridge” (an incomplete picture on this side of heaven). Nevertheless, it should help us gain some understanding of how the Kingdom of God affects all areas of our life. So, this illustration starts,

“Bounce, bounce, clatter, clatter a stone recklessly bounced from boulder to tree stump to rock face until it came to rest in a ditch. A rabbit scampered away to hide due to the startling noise. A lone kangaroo peered up to where the stone had come from as if it totally disapproved of what had been happening over and over that afternoon. Way up in the distance there was a young boy named Jonno. He had recently discovered something, which he enjoyed very much, it was what he called the game of ‘bounce, bounce.’

⁵ Wright, *How God Became King*, 276.

⁶ Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to Plan: The unfolding revelation of God in the Bible*. (Leicester, UK: IVP, 1998), 122

⁷ Hood, Jason. “God Is King, No Matter What.” <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2016/november-web-only/god-isnt-just-our-friend-hes-also-our-king.html> (18th February 2020).

It came about one day as he was playing bounce, bounce, throwing stones off the old wooden bridge. This was an unstable old bridge, which had been around for a very long time. As he was enjoying his past time of throwing stones off this bridge, he suddenly noticed that it did not matter how or where or even how high he threw the stones, when they fell, they made a bouncing noise when they landed. That is why he had called the game bounce, bounce. As he thought about the game, he realised that there must be an invisible influence on the stones that pulled them downwards to the ground and made them bounce. He did not know how this all worked but began to record his findings in an old pad that he kept in his back pocket. Amazingly, the outcome was the same every time.

Then one day while playing bounce, bounce he accidentally dropped one of the stones onto the old wooden bridge. He noticed that it fell and then bounced, just like the ones he threw off the bridge. But how could this be, as it was not thrown off the bridge to the valley below? He then deliberately dropped another stone, and the same thing happened. This was amazing; he realised that the same invisible influence also worked on the old wooden bridge. He then ran to the end of the bridge and stepped on to the road. He then dropped a stone. The stone fell to the road and bounced. He was amazed. What could this all mean? As he ran home, he dropped a stone on different surfaces with the same result. He had tried to tell his parent, but either they did not understand what he was saying, or they just did not care. As he lay in bed at night trying to sleep, a thought hit him, 'The same invisible influence must influence all of the stones where he lived.'

Early the next day as Jonno was quickly finishing off his breakfast. He had to rush as he wanted to test out his theory, which he had realised while in bed last night. When suddenly, he accidentally dropped his spoon on to the wooden floor of the kitchen. He just sat there looking at the spoon as lay there on the floor. It lay still after it had bounced and bounced again. He thought, 'Wow, did I just see what I think I saw?' then it hit him like a bolt of lightning, 'So, does this mean that the invisible influence pulls everything downward?' He spent the rest of the day experimenting by dropping many kinds of objects on varying surfaces with the same result.

The next day was the beginning of a new school term, and he could not wait to tell his friends what he had learnt over the break. As he told his friends and demonstrated bounce, bounce during morning break, there were various reactions. Some thought he was crazy; while others were horrified that there might be something like an influential invisible force that existed. One of the other students went and told the teacher what Jonno had been saying and doing. When the students came into class after their break, his teacher asked to see him in her office. She made Jonno tell and show her what he had said to and showed the other students. She was stunned by what she saw. She sent him to the principal's office and told him to wait there for her.

When his teacher arrived, she got Jonno to tell and show the principal what he had shown and told her and the other students. The principal just broke into loud laughter. He had seen this kind of thing before when he was younger. He assured the teacher that there is nothing to worry about. He told her that there was not really any invisible influence that pulled objects downward, as Jonno had suggested. He reassured her that it was just a trick. He guaranteed her that, the old wooden bridge had proved nothing of the sort existed. It had been built to prove this old fantasy false. The bridge has existed for many years and it has not been pulled downward by some invisible influence. So, the principal sent Jonno back to class, telling him to stop scaring the other children with such far-out ideas.

Jonno lay in bed that night thinking about the events of the day. He knew that bounce, bounce existed, despite what the teacher and principal had said to him he has seen it with his own eyes. So, he finally fell asleep with a full mind, and morning soon came again. When he had gotten to school, he noticed that many of the students were not there. When he asked the

teacher where they were, she just burst into tears and ran out of the room crying. So, he asked one of the students sitting near him, where they were, and why the teacher was crying? The student was as white as a ghost. He went on to reveal that, the old wooden bridge that had been around for so long had fallen into the valley overnight. As a result, they could not get across to come to school. Straight away, Jonno thought, 'bounce, bounce is real, and the bridge could not stop it.' So, despite what those around Jonno had said there was an invisible influence that pulled objects downward."

Gravity affects every area of our lives here on earth. As in the story of Jonno and what he called bounce bounce, it exists despite what people might say or believe. Whether we can see it or not, it exists and works in our lives to help us live here on earth. Likewise, the Kingdom of God exists and affects every area of our life. This is, whether we can see it or not, or believe that it exists or not, it is a reality. It affects every area of how we live our lives day by day. There have been many old wooden bridges built (so to speak) to attempt to discredit or deny the existence of the Kingdom of God. However, it still exists today as in the garden and into the future. Furthermore, to this truth, we need to realise that, God the King has always been, still is, and will always be on the throne.

So, today, we need to believe and apply the truth that, God is still reigning, and we are His people in His Kingdom. Stop and reflect for a moment; how will we use what we have learnt today to help live a Kingdom lifestyle today? How would it be if we daily lived from a Kingdom perspective and lifestyle before those around us? What would happen if we recognised that we are a Kingdom representative in our work/study/living place? What would we recommend to someone trying live from a base of Kingdom values? What is it that stands out to us today? We need to apply this; otherwise, it is merely all academic. Then we need to respond to what the Holy Spirit has been saying to us.

In response, we need to ask through this process:

- What personal application can be found from the passages?
- What is God teaching me today?
- That is, "What is God saying to me?"

How should I respond to what is being said, or so what?

- What are you going to do about it?
- What do you need to do to respond?
- Pray and respond