

ADVANCING THE KINGDOM

SEEK FIRST SERIES – PART 6

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As the only member of creation made in God's image, humankind was designed and empowered to govern the world He created and to do it in fellowship with our Creator.

The Kingdom was cursed because we broke our covenant with God and turned from following Him to doing whatever we wanted.

Jesus overcame the enemy's counterfeit offers of worldly purpose, demonic power, and earthly promises. When He returned from this testing, His inaugural speech was, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:15 ASV)

Jesus' mission was to redeem the world back to God, but His *message* was to bring the Kingdom of God back to earth as it is in heaven

He will return and restore the fallen world to perfection. When "the kingdom of the world [will] become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." (Rev 11:15 ASV)

"[He] is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9 NIV)

Our mission is found in Matthew 28 "to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them... and teaching them to observe all that Jesus commanded." This is just a renewed and reviewed version of our original commission with God from Genesis 1, to "be fruitful, increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it."

Our mission is to *advance the Kingdom* and to subdue all that the enemy has unleashed.

"**To advance**" is to bring forward, to raise or increase, and to make forward progress in time, rank, space, status or position. The Hebrew root of the word *van* means *face* or *front*. So to advance the Kingdom is to move God's sovereignty further to the front.

Joshua 1:1-3 NIV, "After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ²"Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses."

They learn the purpose of their influence, the power of their destiny, and how to possess the promises of God.

PURPOSE

Joshua 2:9-11 NIV, Rahab said to them, "'I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear

because of you. ¹⁰ We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.^[b] ¹¹ When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."

"I know that the Lord has given you this land... for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below." Rahab helped Joshua's spies because their purpose preceded them.

"⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (Rom 1 NIV)

We don't just *pray* the Lord's prayer from Matthew 6, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done..." we actively seek to bring it into fruition in our daily lives "on earth as it is in heaven."

POWER

Purpose comes from God, but destiny is our choice. Destiny can only be found when we're willing to pursue our purpose.

You are the *bride of Christ*. Your life is *in Christ*. And because of that, everything else flows from Christ *in you*.

I'm not here to bless you, I'm here to *build* you.

The greatest power God gave us is the ability to overcome *fear* with *faith*.

"⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷ "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go." (and) ⁹ "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:6-7, 9 NIV)

James 1:2-4 NIV, "² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

PROMISE

The Kingdom of God is our promised land.

The greatest promise for the people of God is our salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus has given us this mission, and He's patiently waiting for us to embrace the purpose, power and promise of the Kingdom.