

# The Theology of the Kingdom

Pastor-Teacher Grant Castleberry

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John 18:36

John 18:36 – [36] *Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be delivered over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not from here.*

## A Biblical Theology of the Kingdom

### A) God is Creator-King

Psalm 47:2 – [2] *For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.*

- Genesis 1:1 – [1] *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
- Everything begins with COSMOLOGY. The understanding that YAHWEH created everything. Yahweh upholds everything.
  - Psalm 96:10 – [10] *Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”*
  - GOD’S CREATION of ALL THINGS reminds us that GOD is SOVEREIGN.
  - Ephesians 1:11 – [11] *God works all things according to the counsel of His will.*
  - Proverbs 16:33 – [33] *The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from Yahweh.*

### B) Man is Vice-Regent King

THE APEX of GOD’S CREATION is MANKIND

*Genesis 1:26 – [26] Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion 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 in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. [28] And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

- Man was created as a Vice-Regent. As an IMAGE-BEARER.
- He was created as a KING. To Rule. To Reign. To TAKE DOMINION of the EARTH.
- AS PART of MAN’S IMAGE BEARING, MAN was MADE a MORAL CREATURE – ACCOUNTABLE to GOD.
- God gives a COMMAND to MAN – Genesis 2:16–17- [16] *And the LORD God commanded the man, 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.”*

### C) Man Committed Cosmic Treason

Eve SINNED and ADAM with her. See Genesis 3:1-7.

- The SIN... was the REJECTION of the RULE of YAHWEH.

- It was EVE taking the RULE into her OWN HANDS... DECIDING she COULD RULE BETTER than GOD.

The CURSE of MANKIND and ALL of CREATION.

- Eve is CURSED in CHILDBEARING... and her DESIRE to USURP her husband. Genesis 3:16
- Adam is Cursed in his work...
  - And that he will die... he will go back to DUST.
  - Romans 5:12 – [12] *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.*

#### D) God Promised to Restore His Rule

God should have struck down ADAM and EVE then and there... in his kindness, he allows them to live in a CURSED EARTH.

- Genesis 3:15 - [15] *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*
- A NEW ADAM would come... A NEW KING would COME and crush the Head of the SERPENT. He would come and UNDUE this CURSE.
- He would come and REESTABLISH GOD'S KINGDOM.

The REST of the OT is filled with VARIOUS Covenants... and PROPHECIES all pointing to the PROMISE of the KING.

- God tells Abraham in Genesis 12:3 – [3] *In you all the families of the earth will be blessed.*
- God tells Abraham's Son David, 2 Samuel 7:12–13 - [12] *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. [13] He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*
- Psalm 2:1–6
  - [1] *Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?*
  - [2] *The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,*
  - [3] *“Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us.”*
  - [4] *He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.*
  - [5] *Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,*
  - [6] *“As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill.”*

Isaiah 9:6–7

*[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 Counselor, 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.*

- John 5:39 – [39] *You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,*

### **The Presence of the Kingdom**

When the SON of GOD came... He came in order to Inaugurate and Establish His eternal Kingdom. We must understand the COMING of the KINGDOM with JESUS of NAZARETH.

- Matthew 4:17 – [17] *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*
- Luke 11:20 – [20] *But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*
- Anthony Hoekema: We may say, therefore, that Jesus himself ushered in the kingdom of God whose coming had been foretold by the Old Testament prophets. We must therefore always see the kingdom of God as indissolubly connected with the person of Jesus Christ. In Jesus’ words and deeds, miracles and parables, teaching and preaching, the kingdom was dynamically active and present among men.
- Luke 16:16 – [16] *“The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it..”*

What looked like one EVENT to the PROPHETS... was ACTUALLY two EVENTS on the PROPHETIC HORIZON.

- The KINGDOM of GOD would come in TWO STAGES.
- THE ALREADY and the NOT YET.
- HIS KINGDOM is HERE, but not YET FULLY CONSUMMATED.

### **The Perplexity of the Kingdom**

The Kingdom is Completely different from the WORLD on this SIDE.

Jesus makes that clear – *My Kingdom is not of this world. 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.*

- The KING HIMSELF would need to die.
- A SIN SUBSTITUTE to SAVE HIS PEOPLE.
  - The purpose of the CROSS was about establishing His KINGDOM.
  - To REDEEM HUMANITY.
  - To REDEEM the EARTH.

- The CROSS was CRUSHING the HEAD of SATAN, taking away the ACCUSATION against GOD's PEOPLE.
- The KINGDOM was ESTABLISHED in a MANNER that PEOPLE DID not EXPECT.
- Therefore the KINGDOM takes a FORM that the WORLD does not EXPECT
  - Even to Enter the KINGDOM... Jesus demands complete surrender to Him. To take Up your Cross.
  - Matthew 5:3 – [3] *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*
  - Matthew 13:44 – [44] *The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*
- Jesus demands that his Kingdom-citizens live a cruciform life. Matthew 5:38 – [38] *You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'* [39] *But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.* [40] *And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.* [41] *And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.*
- Christ RULES through a CROSS-SHAPED KINGDOM. All who would ENTER that KINGDOM... must come through the CROSS.
  - Yet, we reign with CHRIST. We will rule with Christ. We will judge ANGELS.
  - The CROSS comes before the CROWN.

### The Power of the Kingdom

This must have been so CONFUSING to Pilate. How would His kingdom advance?

- The KINGDOM doesn't rise up from within the KINGDOMS of the EARTH, it comes from the OUTSIDE.
- It doesn't come in ARMAMENTS. It doesn't come by WINNING WARS. It doesn't come with INGENIOUS STRATEGY.

John 8:37 – [37] *"For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."*

- Through the PROCLAMATION of the TRUTH.
- Matthew 13 – The Kingdom of Heaven is like a Sower who sows seed in a field. The Seed is the Word of God.
- The KINGDOM does not advance through POLITICAL RULE, it advances through the PROCLAMATION of the TRUTH.
  - It is true, we pray for a CLEAR DOOR, where the CHRISTIAN FAITH is not PERSECUTED.
- Don't associate the KINGDOM with BUILDINGS, GOVERNMENTS, ARMIES, NATIONS.
- Associate it with the CHURCH. The CHURCH is the EMBASSY of the KINGDOM of GOD here on EARTH.
- The PRIMARY ROLE of the CHURCH is the PROCLAMATION of the WORD.