

KINGDOM OF GOD (parts 1+2)

I'd like to share with you a couple things about the kingdom of God.

But before I do let me ask you a couple of questions?

Do you know how many times the kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven is mentioned in the New Testament?

I went through my New American Standard Bible and counted about a 118 of them.

Do you know how many times Jesus mentioned being born again in the New Testament?

Actually, only once. It was a private conversation with Nicodemus, probably in the middle of the night.

The text of that conversation was that unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God and unless you are born of the spirit you cannot enter it.

I've been a Christian since I was 12 years old, and I jokingly tell people that I've been to enough Church meetings to choke a horse. I've been to every flavor and every kind of church service that there is and I've heard thousands of messages on how to be born again. I cannot recall a single message on the kingdom of God.

I wondered why is this kingdom so mysterious?

If you ask the average Christian to tell me a little bit about the kingdom of God. They usually mention a big throne, streets of gold, angels, cherubim, creatures with wings, and all that sort of stuff. Yet Jesus mentioned it all the time.

Let me read a scripture to you.

It's Matthew 13:11 it says,

It has been granted to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom.

So, I wonder why is this kingdom such a mystery, when it was prophesied by the angels, spoken of by John the Baptist, it was preached by Jesus everywhere, His disciples were commissioned to proclaim it, Jesus taught about it in parables, He spoke about it after the resurrection, and Paul actually spoke about the kingdom after the resurrection as well.

So, I began to look into the word. In the parables about the kingdom, Jesus kept saying it's like this, or it's like that, He was trying to explain the kingdom of God.

One of the first parables that we could look at is the parable of the seed. A man went out and scattered seed on the ground. Then he went in and went to bed he didn't really know how, but very soon these little green plants started popping up. It says first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head

So, one of the concepts of the kingdom is, that it isn't a matter of figuring out how it works, but it's believing that it does work and being obedient to sow the seed of the kingdom.

Now, one the other parables was the parable of the leaven in Matthew 13:33. It said, the kingdom of God is like leaven which a woman put in three measures of the dough until it was all leavened.

Now the catalyst for this change in this dough was the kingdom of God. I put the kingdom of God in dough and pretty soon the whole lump is leavened.

As we allow the word of the Kingdom into our lives, by faith, it affects our entire life, spirit, soul and body. It's not an instant reaction but it happens over time, if we let it work, as we give it place.

Another scripture is 1st Peter 1:23. Peter said we're born of imperishable seed through the living and abiding word of God. Allowing the word of the Kingdom into our heart is what actually brings the change that we're after.

Often times when I was young, I would hear ministers preach about the miraculous transformation that happens when you become a Christian. They preached that we are new creations, old things are passed away, all things are new, and they seemed to be hyping this thing to the max and then when the guy got to the end of the sermon, he said, now what are you going to do about it?

I would sit there thinking that it sounded like God was going to do some kind of a miraculous thing in my life and now it seems like it's all up to me.

I haven't been able to change my attitude, my actions, or anything about me, but He says if I allow this word of the Kingdom, this leaven of the Kingdom into my heart it'll bring the change.

I'm going to close on this and we'll start up another video here pretty quick.

Now for a few more thoughts about the kingdom of God.

In Luke 17.20, Jesus was questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom will come and He answered that the kingdom of God does not come with observation, but the kingdom of God is within you. When you ask the average Christian about the kingdom, they speak of thrones, angels, and streets of gold and all this sort of stuff. How can that be within me, if the kingdom of God is within me?

If you'll look at John 14.16, I'll read it to you.

Jesus said, I will ask the Father and He will give you another helper that he may be with you forever. That is the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive because it does not behold Him or know Him but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you

So He's saying the Holy Spirit will no longer just travel alongside of you He will actually dwell within you

Then a little farther down in this scripture, Jesus said, he who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me and he who loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and will disclose myself to him. Then Judas, not Iscariot said, Lord what's going to happen that you're going to disclose yourself to us and not to the world? Jesus answered and said if anyone loves me, he will keep my word and my Father will love him and we will come to him and make our abode with him.

The word is abode, it means permanent dwelling place.

He says, when you receive my word, you're actually receiving me. When you receive my Spirit, you're receiving everything I am and everything I have and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit will come and dwell within you. The kingdom of God will be the result. It will reside within you.

Now there's another scripture in Colossians 1.12.

Paul talks about giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light because He has delivered us from the domain or the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son.

Not only has the kingdom come in us, we have been put in the Kingdom.

Now all this goes back to 2nd Corinthians chapter 5.

It says, if anyone is in Christ, he's a new creation. He's different. The Spirit of God has come into him. It also says in 1 Corinthians 1.30, that by His doing you are in Christ Jesus who became unto us wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

The whole point of Christianity is to become Christ-like. Those qualities that were in Christ become ours by us being in Him and because He dwells in us

Just for example, that first quality in 1 Corinthians 1:30, it says He became the wisdom of God to us. He didn't say I'm going to help you be wiser. He didn't even say I'm going to give you my wisdom. He said I'm going to become your wisdom. The only way that can happen is that we become one and we share the same wisdom that He has.

That is the main principle of the Gospel. When I put you in Christ, whatever happened to Christ happened to you. I put you in Christ, I crucified him, I buried him, I raised him from the dead through the glory of God and seated him at the right hand of the Father so that you can walk in the newness of life.

The Greek word for life, is Zoe, meaning life as God has it. So, you can walk in the newness of His life. We've been translated out of the kingdom of this world into the kingdom of His Son. We've been taken as sons of Adam, living under sin, living under the curse and we've been made new creations filled with God's life. That's the whole principle of the Kingdom.

And it says in 1st Corinthians 6:19, that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit we are not our own we have been bought with a price.

We become the dwelling place of God on the earth. I think it was Stephen, when they were about to stone him, he said God doesn't live in temples made with hands, He lives in the hearts of men. And that's was God's intention all along. To be God in us and empower us to be like him because we were originally created in His image and he fully intends for us to walk in that image

Of course, then the fall happened, sin came, and death, sickness, and everything that came from sin has been our portion all this time. Unfortunately, most people say, well this is all there is, so I guess I'll do the best I can. Then God says, not so, I made you like this and guess what you're going to be like? You're going to be like that.

I sent my son to end this nature of yours that has been hindering you and keeping you separate from me. I crucified it with Christ. I wasn't trying to improve it. I crucified it and gave you My life. This whole concept of Christianity is not to improve the life that we currently live, it's to exchange it for His.

It says in 1 John 5.11, that this is the testimony, He has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son he who has the Son has the life.

Now what life is there on the planet that's eternal? Only His. So, the one He's giving us is His eternal life and that's when the kingdom of God begins to dwell in us and it changes everything about us.

In Proverbs it says, as a man thinks in his heart so he is.

You take the average Christian and he gets a revelation that I'm the dwelling place of the Living God, every place I walk, every place I go, the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead goes with me. The Savior that delivered us from death and Hell dwells in me and the Father, Elohim, the creator of the universe, dwells in me. That will change your whole outlook about who you are and what He's created you to be

How about some more scriptures about the Kingdom?

Matthew 4:17 when Jesus began His ministry, He went about all the cities saying, repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. The whole point of repenting was the Kingdom of Heaven is here.

Please notice that, He did not say, hey you liars, I want you to quit lying, you alcoholics, I want you to quit getting drunk, you murderers quit murdering, and you thieves quit stealing. Everybody got the same word, whether you are prophet, a priest, a publican, or a prostitute. The word was repent.

Repent of what? He was saying, the thing you were actually created for is here. Repent of this life that you think is real. Your life under the curse, created as a son of Adam, destined to live under the curse, He says, that's not what you were created for. That's what you became through the fall, but I created you in my image and you are the number one thing that I created to manifest My life in the Earth. Repent of that life and put this one on.

I hear people all the time say, I believe the Bible from cover to cover. Except everything He says about us. He said I made you a new creation, old things are passed away, all things are new, whoever joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with him, I've given you the mind of Christ etc, there are so many of them.

But what is worse is in 1st Peter 1:18. It says, knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers but with the precious blood of a lamb unblemished and spotless the blood of Christ.

Look at verse 22, it says since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love for the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable that is through the living and abiding Living Word of God.

Now if you ask the average Christian, tell me a little bit about your life. If you ask ten thousand Christians, tell me about your life. I bet none of them would say, it's completely futile, it's completely useless. Yet this is the perception that God has of this life that we inherited as a son of Adam, it's useless to expand and express my kingdom in the Earth.

So, I had to give you another one. We referenced before 2nd Corinthians 5, If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things are passed away all things are become new.

This idea of becoming a new creation, it's supernatural. Most of what you experience in religion is, here are some teachings, do the best you can to apply them and see if you can make them work. I've been a Christian since I was 12 and I'm telling you it's a frustrating deal because we're trying to do it with a nature that he's trying to deliver us from.

This might sound crazy to you, but here's a perception of religious effort. It's trying to do the best impression of Jesus Christ that you can with the nature that is totally unable to do it. Have you ever heard the expression, never try to teach a pig to sing? Because you'll frustrate yourself and you'll totally annoy the pig.

What they're saying is, pigs can't sing. You can dress him up, you can put a little tuxedo on them, you can take them to Carnegie Hall and maybe they can squeak and grunt in time with the music, but they'll never be Pavarotti. They don't have it. They don't have the stuff.

When Jesus came and said repent, He was saying, you don't have the stuff. You couldn't do this on your very best day. You don't have the ability to reform this old nature, it's too messed up.

Here's what I'm going to do.

I'm going to put you in Christ, I'm going to crucify that nature, I'm going to raise you from the dead, we'll leave that old nature in the grave and now, put this one on. I made it just for you.

It says in Colossians 3.9 and Ephesians 4.22, put off this old nature and put on this new one which is created in the image of God. It's made just like me, it's your size but it looks just like me. Put this on.

The rub is typically this, to have that life, I've got to let go of this one, it's an exchange. Most of us are saying, that sounds kind of like a heart transplant, that death and resurrection thing that you're speaking of.

That's not what I signed up for. Heart transplants are pretty drastic. I was just hoping to get rid of this cough or this sneeze or something, you know just fix it up a little bit. That's all I'm after. He said no, there's nothing about this that is even remotely doable by us.

He said I had to start all over and I'm the only one in the universe that can do it.

When you think about the gospel, there is nothing common, there is nothing ordinary, there is nothing natural about it. Man cannot do the gospel. God is the only one who can do the gospel. There's not one of us who can, by our own energy or effort, can put ourselves in Christ, crucify, and bury us, and raise us from the dead and say now you're a completely new creation.

There's not one of us on our wildest day of dreaming, even if we were just hallucinating would ever come up with this idea. We would never come up with the idea that, I'm going to have Jesus come and crucify me, raise me from the dead and make me a member of His family and make me a son and an heir of everything that He has in God.

The gospel borders on fantasy to the natural mind. That's why logic and reason don't work with the gospel.

When somebody says, here I want to give you this gift, the way you receive it is by saying thank you. The response that Daddy's looking for in this gospel is, thank you Daddy, I appreciate you loving me so much that included me in the family and allowed me to be a child and an heir and a joint heir with Christ.

I want to talk about the priority of the Gospel in our lives.

Matthew 6:33 says, seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these other things will be added unto you. Make the kingdom the first thing that you seek.

If you look at our society, people have these large want lists. I promise you that the kingdom of God is not at the top of most people's list.

Matthew 11:12 says, the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence and violent men take it by force. This scripture always troubled me, you know this thing of violence in taking the kingdom, when God says it's my pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Then I read it in the Amplified translation, listen to this, it makes it quite clear, it says violent men seize it by force, as a precious prize, a share in the Heavenly kingdom is sought with the most ardent zeal and intense exertion. In other words, value this Kingdom more than anything else and give everything you have to lay hold of it

Here's another one the Matthew 13:44, the parable of the treasure hidden in the field. It says, a man found a treasure in a field and with joy went and sold everything he had, that he could buy the field.

Another one very similar to it, the very next verse, Matthew 13:45, is the parable of the pearl of great price. A pearl merchant, a purchaser of fine pearls, found one pearl of great price and he sold every other one that he could obtain it.

He's basically saying this is more important than anything else going on in your life.

Colossians 3:1-4 says seek and keep seeking the things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father. Set your mind and keep it set, on things above, not on things of the Earth, for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God and when Christ Who is our Life, is revealed you will be revealed with Him in glory.

This is the place that God is giving the kingdom of God in our hearts. This is the number one thing. This is more important than anything else going on and actually, it is your very life. It's the very thing you were created for, it's the very thing I've committed my life to you for, to manifest this Kingdom to the entire Earth.

Then look at what Paul says in Philippians 1:21. For to me to live is Christ. Then in Philippians 3:7-12 he said, that I would know Christ and be found in him and know him and the power of his resurrection. He said I had a lot of things going for me. I was kind of the most valuable Pharisee and they thought I was really someone special in that whole religious game. He said, when it came to righteousness by the law, I was flawless. I was at the top of the game. The most valuable player, but he said, I count every bit of that as loss so that I can know him and the power of his resurrection. So that I can have this new life that He created for me. So, I can walk in this newness of life. He said, it's above everything else. He said, this one thing I do, I forget what lies behind and I press forward to that which is ahead, so that I can lay hold of that for which I was laid hold of by Christ.

When I think of that scripture, I always picture a guy who's is drowning, and a guy comes up in a boat and he reaches out and grabs ahold of his shirt. The guy who is drowning wants to cooperate, he really wants out. So, he grabs the arm of the rescuer, who has grabbed him

God has had us in his heart. He came after us before we even wanted Him. 1 John 1 says, we love Him because He first loved us. He's laying hold of us and Paul said, I just want to cooperate with that. I want to lay hold of that for which I've been laid hold of.

Here's another thing about the importance of this thing. Luke 9.62 says, no one after putting his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God. There are no independent contractors, no part-time disciples, no part-time sons or Kings or priests. It's full time.

God said, I purchased you for myself. I bought you with a price. I paid everything I have to get what I created you for, because you are the creation that I made to manifest My Kingdom, and My Life and My Glory in this earth.

I was thinking the other day I felt like the Lord was speaking to me that nobody really cares about this Jim Fuller, this natural life that was given to me by Adam. Nobody really cares. They don't care if I live under a bridge or if I'm the richest guy in town. They don't care if I have health insurance or anything else, they just don't care. This world is absolutely crying out for the person in me that God created from the foundation of the world. The one that was created in His image. The one that is the handiwork of God to manifest his life and to speak His word and a manifest His Life. People are crying for that. Our neighbors are crying for it. Our coworkers are crying for it. Our country is crying for it.

There's a scripture that says all of creation is under futility waiting for the sons of God to come forth. Waiting for them to come forth and be who they are to put on the identity that God created for them.

There is a scripture where it says that Jesus came to seek and save that which is lost. It didn't say save who was lost. What was really lost? The identity of who we are in Christ. Our oneness with him and our standing in the presence of God. Our membership in the family of God to express his nature, that's what was lost.

Satan does everything he can to destroy our ability to get that identity. Scripture says, if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, because the god of this world has blinded their minds that they cannot see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ. We often say, those people in Southeast Asia and Africa and all those other places, are blind and they just don't see. All the Muslims, and various other groups are blind. But there are many people right here in the church that are blind and cannot see that I was created in the image of God and I am one of the vehicles that God wants to use to manifest Himself. I am the dwelling place of God and He wants to be Him and me. That's a whole Revelation that comes over time. The things of God are digital. He can say, Jesus died for you, and He can just flip the switch and now you're a new creation. Well, it's true, that day we became new creations. With us it's more linear, it's revelation upon revelation, our eyes getting opened a little bit more, a little bit more, and little bit more. There's a scripture in Corinthians where it says beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord we are changed into the same image from Glory unto Glory by the spirit.

I've heard that thing preached a million times, a million different ways. Most of the time we are told, that if you get in the Bible and you'll be a different kind of guy. If you read the scriptures all the time, do consistent Bible reading and all the rest you'll be changed. I know people who do consistent Bible reading that don't resemble Christ at all. That scripture says, beholding as in a mirror. What do you see when you look in the mirror? You see yourself. So when we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and say, Holy Spirit, show me who I really am in Christ. Show me who you really are in me. We are changed into that same image. That's where the transformation comes from. That's why it requires revelation, not logic. I know people who read the scriptures and they relate to it like a doctor or someone studying a college course. He said, you can't study your way into the kingdom, you have to be born of the spirit. You've got to have revelation. That's why Paul prays this for Christians. I pray for the spirit of wisdom and revelation, that you would know the hope of His calling, the exceeding riches of the inheritance in the saints and the awesome power that He worked on our behalf when He raised Jesus from the dead.

Commented [fuller1]:

I'd like to share a little bit about our Kingdom supply. A lot of times when we want to serve God and do stuff for God, it feels like we're out there shooting blanks. We feel pretty helpless. We say, I want to bless, I want a love like He does, I wish I was more like Jesus. We've got to realize that He has given unto us everything necessary for us to be able to do that

He is not asking me, natural man, son of Adam, to act like Jesus as best I can. Most of the time when you look at the church, Christian love is when someone says something unkind to you, you just bite your lip and try not to punch him out. Jesus said love him, like I loved you. We say, I can't do that. We cannot do it as natural men, with our natural minds. When we receive the mind of Christ, the Life of Christ within us can do it. Scripture says that His love never fails.

Let me read this one Matthew 6:33. We spoke of it before, seek first the kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you. I'm going to make available to you everything necessary for you to manifest and lay hold of this Kingdom.

In Mark 10:29 and 30, they asked Jesus, we've left houses, farms and families and everything, what will we receive. He said you'll receive a hundred times as much and eternal life. He wasn't saying you're going to get a whole lot more stuff. He's saying what I am going to be in you, what I am going to make available to you is going to make everything you had before pale, a hundred times over. This eternal life trumps everything you think you had before.

In John 16:14 and 15, Jesus told them, it's to your advantage that I go away, for the Holy Spirit, the helper will come. He will come and lead you into all the truth. He said everything the Father has is mine and I'll send the Holy Spirit to give it to you.

We might say that's a great teaching. But think about everything that Jesus has in God, He has everything, the oneness, the righteousness, His presence, and in His presence is fullness of joy, all the fruit of the spirit that comes from God being in our life. Jesus has all of that and he says everything I have, I sent the Holy Spirit to give it in you.

Do you remember when Jesus fed the 5000?

Shortly after that happened, He said, unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have no life in yourself. You can come and eat this buffet lunch that I'm serving, but I want this same life in you. It's not enough that you come to me and receive it, I want you to swallow it yourself and let Me re-create it in you and you become a dispenser of this life. He told the disciples before it happened. He said, you give them something to eat. They said where will they get anything to eat? Jesus said, let me show you how this works. You draw from God and you give. God has made available everything necessary for his glory to accomplish his purposes. That's what he was trying to teach those guys.

2 Corinthians 9:8-12 says, God is able to make all grace abound to you always having all that you may have abundance for good works.

Now when you mention Grace most people think that Grace is unmerited favor. It's really more than that. It's the empowering presence of God to become what he created us to be.

I can forgive your sin and we can remove every warrant for your arrest down at the police station, but you're still pretty messed up. Jesus said, I've given you Grace which if you receive it, will transform you. We've all been given Grace to become the very thing he created us to be. He says, so that you will have sufficiency in everything and have abundance for every good work. I'm going to put within you everything necessary for you to love like I love, for you to care like I care, for you to forgive like I forgive, for you to be kind like I'm kind.

We say sometimes, that guy really rubs me wrong and I just get irritated. It's because we're too much alive. He said, if you have my life, you can love them the way I love them. This is what He's after. It says God will supply it and he will also multiply it.

When we talk about God, we talk a lot about Covenant. In the Old Testament they talked about the Covenant with Abraham. I was always ignorant about what a Covenant was. I just didn't know about it. The only thing I knew about this I'd seen in the movies. In the western movies, the Lone Ranger and Tonto, cut their skin and they became Blood Brothers. What that actually meant was that everything I am and everything I have is available to you and everything you

are and everything you have is available to me if I need it. These Covenants are some of the oldest contracts, and the oldest agreements known to man. They are not known well in modern times, they've been replaced with paper contracts, But, it's gone on for generations.

God made a covenant with Abraham, He said Abraham, I am making a covenant with you to be all of these things. Look in the old Covenant, in Deuteronomy, I think it's 28 He says all of these blessings, if you obey the Lord, all these blessings will come upon you and overtake you. That's how committed I am to supply you to be my expression in the earth, to be my representative to the Earth. You'll not only have them, they will chase you down but then at the same point there was the curses of the Covenant. If you don't keep this covenant. if you don't receive what I'm doing, all of these curses will overtake you and will hunt you down forever and never let you up

It was conditional, they have to stay in the Covenant because that was God's commitment to them. In the New Covenant God says, I'm making my Divine and precious promises to you. It's a covenant. I've promised to do this and I'm looking for you to receive them

Do you remember the story of Shadrach Meshach and Abednego the three Hebrew children? Nebuchadnezzar built the golden idol and he said, bow down to the idol or we'll throw you in the fiery furnace. They said no. We won't do it. He said, we're going to kill you. They said, our God will save us, but even if he doesn't we won't bow down.

I thought to myself, these guys are so bold and courageous, but what they understood was the covenant. I have a covenant with the Living God He will protect me, He will be an enemy to my enemies, He will bless me going in and coming out etc. You can read it in Deuteronomy 28. It also said if you break this covenant these curses will pursue you forever and they will overtake you. They will be after you and there is no way you can get away from them. What these young guys were saying was, you may kill us today, but we won't live the rest of our lives being pursued by curses. We are sons of the Living God, you can do what you like to us, and of course God showed up and said, I like that attitude. These guys believe me and my covenant.

When the king makes a Covenant, the king's word is law. In our society, we have a democracy and everybody gets an opinion. We say okay I receive your word but I'm taking it under advisement. But when a King gives a ruling he is saying, that whatever I say is the law.

And like Nebuchadnezzar with Daniel, He made an edict and people said, Daniel is not following the edict. The King felt bad because of his judgement. I've already said it. I can't take it back. I'm the king. It's the law. So when they put him in the lion's den he said, brother I hope your God saves you because I can't turn back on my own word.

We have the God of Heaven and Earth, the King of kings and Lord of lords saying, I've made a covenant with you to be your life, to be your supply, to be everything you need to manifest myself in the earth

Philippians 4 says my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory.

Everything the father has is available and He says, I can supply your needs from there

2 Peter 1:2-5, it says God has granted unto us everything pertaining to life and I've made a covenant with you to be the supply to be the protector to be the life it's me it's me it's me that's what I'm trying to get you to see but I'm looking for somebody who will stand on the other end of the Covenant and say thank you I receive it.

Jesus said I wanted very badly to have this Covenant meal with you because this is the blood of my Covenant.

This is the Covenant that says, I'll be everything to you that you need. When we go to church and take communion, they say, think about your sins, and get very introspective. No, He says, you are accepting the Covenant. You're saying yes Daddy, I accept your Covenant and your commitment to me. We're blood brothers, were members of the same family you cannot fail to come through for me. You can't not be the supply of my life because you are my life.

It's amazing and it's beyond rational thinking. There's a scripture in the Old Testament where it says, has this ever been thought of that God would come from heaven and receive a people for Himself? The natural mind says, this is crazy. But that's exactly what He did for us.

He said I want you more than you want Me. I created you to manifest my life and I'm not giving that away to anybody. I don't care how badly Satan tried to screw it up. I've defeated that guy so badly he's never going to get off the mat again.

Now, you recall that when Jesus was raised from the dead He said, all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to me. Which means Satan has none. God says, put this on, it's your size, it looks just like me and I created it for you from the beginning of the earth. The scriptures say, come receive the kingdom of God prepared for you from before the foundation of the Earth

I tell you that one of my favorite scriptures is in Ephesians 3, where Paul says I get to share with people the unfathomable riches of Christ. There's nothing on the planet that compares to this, nothing. When I was young, I told myself, I made up in my heart, that I will either have the fullness of the life of God or something else. I could not think of one thing to put on that line that would make me not want the fullness of God. Nothing that would make me not want to lay hold of that for which I've been laid hold of. I just want to encourage you. God has committed himself to us. All He is looking for us to do is respond back to Him. Scripture says that we love him, because He first loved us. Our love for him is a response to His love. If we're wondering, do I really want to serve God? Do I really want to give myself to him? Ask him to show you a revelation of how much He loves you. If people realized how much He loves them, what He paid for them and what He is committed for them, and what that's going to produce in the future for them, there is not one person on this planet that would reject Him.

I want to share a little bit about our kingdom inheritance.

I'd like to read a scripture from Exodus 19.4,

Since you yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to Myself and now if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my Covenant, then you shall be my own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

So basically, when God speaks a word, He's not saying, here's a little bit of information I'd like you to think about and process and see what you can do with it. They are statements of reality from God that show what His will is. I said this thing and I'm going to do this thing. That's the way we need to relate to the word. Unfortunately, religion has just made it a book of teachings. Saying look at it this way, or look at it that way, or I had a friend that thought this and someone taught me this once. God is just saying, I make these statements and they are statements of reality and when I say it, I plan to do it.

Take for example the scripture we just read. He said I'll make you unto me a kingdom of priests. That was spoken in the book of Exodus. If you look all the way through the Old Testament, you don't see a Kingdom of priests. Sometimes it actually looks like it got down to one guy a couple times David or Samuel or Elijah. But when you get to the end of the book, in 1 Peter 2,4 says, and coming to Him as to a living Stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also as living stones are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God. A little further, it says, that you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

The thing about God is that His Word declares His will. He is saying, I want all of creation to be a Kingdom of Priests. I want everybody in my Kingdom to have me as their inheritance. If you look in the old covenant in Leviticus, when they entered the Promised Land all of the 12 tribes got land as their inheritance. This tribe got from this mountain to that river, this one got from the valley to the edge of the cliff and so forth. Except the Levites, the Priests, God said, they don't get any land, they get Me as their inheritance. He said, I want a Kingdom of people that their entire inheritance, their entire existence and every reason for them being on the planet is ME. I want a whole Kingdom of people like that.

In the Old Testament when God delivered the Israelites from Egypt He didn't deliver them so that they would scrape and struggle in the wilderness. He delivered them into the Promised Land where they would have houses that they didn't build, and crops that they didn't sow, and vineyards that they didn't plant. It's a picture of God saying, I don't just want to deal with what is wrong. God said, I want to give you what's right. I want to give you what I intend for you to possess.

You are familiar with the scripture in John 10.10 that says, the enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but I've come that you would have Life and have it abundantly. I've heard that preached many times. Our little natural imaginations say wow, life abundantly. That means that my kids will go to the best schools, my stocks and bonds are going to increase, I'll have the best house in the neighborhood, and two cool cars.

That word translated as life is zoe. It means Life as God has it. Satan came to steal, kill, and destroy but I came that you would have My Life in abundance. The whole reason for the abundance is not just for us to store it up for ourselves. It's so that we can be the dispenser of it. God spoke of the Jews, His chosen people that they would be the most blessed people on the planet. God wanted them to be the example of His abundance and a dispenser of His Life to the whole earth. They missed the mark on that and that's why we have the church today, to be that example.

When we speak of God's abundance in the New Testament it brings to mind the scripture in 1 Corinthians 2.9. Things which eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, nor ever entered into the heart of man, those things which God has prepared for those that love Him.

He's not trying to give us a bunch of stuff. He's trying to use Himself. The greatest thing that I can do for you, My greatest blessing that I can give you is ME. I'm the supplier, the protector, the unconditional Love, the eternal Life, I'm unlimited.

In the old covenant when they were dealing with sin, they offered the sacrificial lamb to cover their sin until next year. The next year on the day of Atonement they had to offer the lamb again because that sacrifice couldn't remove their sin, just cover it until next year.

Under the New covenant God did not punish Jesus as the sacrifice for us all. He made Him to BE sin and He punished sin on the cross in Christ. He wanted to get rid of the sin nature that caused man to be completely self-centered, self-focused, estranged from God and unable to walk with Him and know Him. I'm going to take sin which Satan used to bring death, sickness, and separation from Me to my creation and I'm going to crucify it with Christ. I'm not just going to forgive their sins, I'm going to kill that sin nature that caused them, so you'll never have to offer another sacrifice for them. I'll remit your sins and set you free from them.

Ephesians 2 says that we've been re-created in Christ to walk in things that He has prepared before the foundation of the earth. He sent Jesus to kill our old nature on the cross and He sent the Holy Spirit to give us the one that He originally created for us to live. In the Old covenant it wasn't enough to just get them out of Egypt. He wanted to get them into the land of Promise. Under the New Covenant it's not enough to just forgive our sins, He wants us to become the righteousness of God in Christ. (1 Corinthians 1.30)

I've heard people in the church all my life say, we are only sinners saved by grace and Christians aren't perfect they are only forgiven. Implying that our sins are forgiven but we can't quite get free from them, That's not the reality of our salvation by Christ's perfect sacrifice.

2 Corinthians 5.17 says that we've been made completely new creations, not just forgiven old ones.

Hebrews 7.25 says He has saved us to the uttermost. That word translated to the uttermost, means completely, perfectly, and eternally.

Colossians 1.21 says, although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him, Holy and blameless and beyond reproach...

Even under the Old Covenant, Moses told the Israelites that these Egyptians that you see today, you will see them no more forever. Pharaoh will have no more weapons to harm you ever again, I'm going to have you cross over into the Promised Land. We are now under a better Covenant, with better promises.

In 1 Corinthians 6.9 says, do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Do not be deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolators, not adulterers, not effeminate, nor homosexuals, not thieves, not the covetous, not drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the Kingdom of God. And such were some of you, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

The word translated as justified, means free from judgement and made righteous. Sanctified means to be made Holy.

That's what salvation is all about. Ephesians 2 says that we were sinners and children of wrath just like the rest of mankind, but God loved us so much that He put us in Christ and raised us up with Him to be seated at the right hand of God. It's not I'll forgive your sins, try your best to not do them anymore.

God is saying that Christ's one-time sacrifice was so good that I'm not covering your sin, I'm remitting them. I'm setting you free from them. I'm making you a completely new person.

Romans 8.2 amplified version,

The law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has freed me from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law could not do its power being weakened by the flesh, the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit. Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, God condemned sin in the flesh, He subdued it, overcame it, and deprived it of its power over all who accept that sacrifice.

The goal of the Gospel is not to reform people's natural lives inherited from Adam and Eve. It's to create in them the eternal life of God that Jesus demonstrated on earth. A 12-step program can reform an alcoholic into a non-drinker, but God is the only one in the universe who can make new creation out of old ones.

As a young Christian I got caught in the trap of trying to be like Christ in my own strength. It was so frustrating that one day I told God you are either going to be real to me or I'll never mention your name again. I was desperate. I couldn't do it with my own ability and I knew it. God blessed me and He baptized me in the Holy Spirit and my whole life changed that day.

This is God's testimony. He has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the Life, he who does not have the Son does not have that life.

The reality that I'm trying to share with you is the total deliverance of God's work on our behalf.

In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul talks about the first Adam being a living being and the last Adam being a Life-giving Spirit. With Adam God breathed into a pile of mud and Adam became a living soul. Christ, the last Adam, was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead as a Life-giving Spirit.

God put us in Christ and whatever happened to Christ, happened to us. We were re-created as Life giving spirits. Our salvation is not just the forgiveness of our sins so we can enter heaven one day. It's that we would possess the same Life that Christ has so that when we speak the Life of Christ comes out. Whatever we put our hands to the Life of Christ comes out.

We then relate to people not by their behavior but by the destiny that The Father has made available to them as His children. Most of the people that we walk by in a day have now Idea why they were created and what the Father has made available to them.

God has committed everything that He is and everything that He has to see this Gospel of the Kingdom go to all the nations that not one of them will perish and all will be brought into the kingdom.

These things that I'm sharing are not meant to be a comprehensive study of the Kingdom of God. The Apostle John said in his gospel, that if everything that Jesus began to do and teach was written down, the whole world would not be able to contain it.

These little pictures that I'm offering are more like a pencil sketch on a cocktail napkin. I'm just trying to paint a picture of what God has committed Himself to, what He wants to make available to us, and how He wants us to function in it.

If I've painted a picture for you that you've never heard or seems a little unusual. The Bible may say that but it's just not clear to you, I'd like to make a suggestion. Get out your Bible and get in front of the Lord and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal it to you. Jim is saying that this is what you want for me, show it to me and make it real to me. I can't tell you how many times I've asked Him to make it so real that even I could get it.

Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers that God would give them a Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. Jesus said in John 16 that the Holy Spirit would lead us into all Truth. Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life. The Greek word translated as truth means reality.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would lead us in to all truth, all reality, and into Christ. Then Christ won't be a figure who died 2000 years ago in Jerusalem. He'll be my truth, my reality, and my life.

I'd just like to reiterate that these little videos are not meant to be scholarly comprehensive study of the of the Kingdom.

In Matthew 8:3 Jesus said unless you become converted and become like little children you can't enter the kingdom. These videos are just like little pencil sketches to paint a picture of what God has already spoken and already done so that we, like little kids can receive the King and His Kingdom into our hearts and then instead of wishing and hoping for someday in the distant future, we can actually become Kingdom citizens now, enjoy the benefits of our inheritance as God's children and express them to the rest of the world around us.

Let's get started with a few final thoughts about the Kingdom. The kingdom of God will not coexist with any other Kingdom. Not with any other Kingdom in the world around us nor anything that we've allowed to rule within our own lives.

Let me give you an example out of the Old Testament. Egypt ruled the known world in the Bible. They were the strongest most powerful country on the planet. They had the power to defeat and capture the surrounding countries and they even used God's children as slave labor to build their civilization. Pharaoh ruled Egypt, but God overruled Pharaoh. God said that He wanted to rescue His children from Egyptian slavery and bondage.

Let me ask you a question how would you go about rescuing God's people from Egypt the most powerful country on the planet? We would probably make alliances with other countries that had large armies, great weapon systems, and we would try to raise a large war chest of money for an extended battle.

In Isaiah 55:8 God said, My ways are not your ways and My ways are higher than your ways. God delivered Israel by sending an 80 year old man with a walking stick that stuttered, and didn't even know His name because he had just met Him for the first time. That's not exactly the plan we would have had.

Egypt was not only a very powerful nation they were heavily entrenched in the occult. They had all kinds of idols and gods that they worshipped. When Pharaoh refused God's command to let his people go he said, I don't know this God. I'm the ruler here and I am in charge. God said you may have power to rule, but I have authority to overrule your power.

I assume that most of you know the difference between authority and power. Here's a couple of examples that have always clarified it for me. You can take a massive dump truck and fill it up to capacity. It'll weigh many tons. It takes a lot of power to get that truck with all that weight moving that fast. You can take a 100-pound woman in a police officer's uniform with a little badge on her shirt and she can hold up her hand and that dump truck comes to a screeching halt. The truck has incredible power 200 or 300 times more power than this woman has, but she has all the authority, the dump truck has none.

Another example, from the Bible. The Roman legions had Centurions that were over 100 men. They had absolute authority over these men. The one in the Bible said, when I tell him go, he goes. I tell him to come, and he comes. In the Roman legion no was never an answer. It was never acceptable. If you refused an order, they actually could kill you because they had absolute authority over these soldiers.

Now imagine if this Centurion one morning wakes up and says I have had it with Caesar I'm not submitting to that guy ever again. That's it for me. I'm independent and I'm not going to do what Caesar wants ever again. So, he starts ordering the soldiers to start grabbing the bags and start loading the donkeys. They would say, we're not doing anything that you order. He was outnumbered a hundred to one. He wasn't the Centurion because he was the strongest guy in the outfit. He couldn't do martial arts and take all 100 guys out by himself. He was the Centurion because he had the authority of Cesar behind him. That's the difference between power and authority and that's what God showed to Pharaoh. You have power, I've got Authority. Yours has been delegated to you. I have all power and authority.

Egypt had 10 major deities and Idols that they worshiped and when Pharaoh defied God he got brought a judgement against each one of these 10 deities.

For example, Ra was the sun god that they worshiped. When God brought a plague against it He said you won't even see the Sun for three solid days it's going to be totally black for 3 days.

Hopi was the god of the Nile River that they worshipped. God turned it into blood. That river you're relying on, it's going to be worthless, it's going to be blood instead of water.

Heki was one of the other gods. It had a head like a frog. Do you want to worship frogs? I'll give you more frogs than you can stand. The whole country was filled with frogs.

Egypt also considered pharaoh a God. They revered this guy as deity, as a God. When God brought the judgment on Pharaoh He said, I am ending your reign by removing your own son who is to reign after you, by the death angel.

God actually empowered that 80 year old man with a walking stick. God entrusted Moses with His authority. He actually said, I will make you as God to pharaoh.

Here are a couple examples with Jesus in the New Testament.

John 18:36 Jesus said, my kingdom is not of this world when the mob came to arrest Jesus. He said, do you not know that I can ask My Father and He would bring 12 Legions of angels right now. A legion is six thousand men. That's 72,000 angels. To put it in perspective, one angel totally wiped out Sodom and Gomorrah. He said I could bring 72,000 of those big boys right now, but that's not what the Father's will is for Me.

When Jesus was before Pontius Pilate, Pilate said, I have the power to kill you or to set you free. Jesus told him the power that you have has been delegated to you. No one takes my life. I have the authority to lay it down and I have the authority to pick it back up. Authority trumps power every time

In the New Testament is the parable of the tares in Matthew 13:24.

Jesus explained that the Father was the sower, the world was the field, the good grain were the sons of the kingdom, and the tare were the sons of the evil one. Now they were allowed to grow together for a while but when the time came the tares were totally eliminated, the good grain was brought into the presence of God and it says that they shone forth in the Kingdom of their Father. God's Kingdom will not coexist with the evil one.

In the future, Ephesians chapter 1 says, in the fullness of time, God will sum up all things in Christ.

In Revelation 11.15, it says the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ and he will reign forever.

Now if we leave it right there, this sounds pretty much like a history lesson. It's just a lot of data about what happened back then. There's an account of what happened with Jesus, then there's what they say is going to happen in the future.

I don't know how many of you remember the salvation tract called the Four Spiritual Laws? It had a little diagram of a throne of your life with you on it. Then when you accepted Christ as your Savior, Christ was then on the throne of your life. That's the effect that this kingdom has on your life.

As Christians we often use the word Lord pretty casually and very glibly, often times not even understanding it's meaning.

The word in the New Testament translated as Lord, means Master, Owner, with all rights of ownership.

1 Corinthians 6 states that you are not your own, you've been bought with a very precious price. God is saying that this Kingdom of God is a complete take over by Me of your life so that you can fulfill you calling and purpose that He created you for.

The prophesy about Jesus said that the government will be upon His shoulders. As citizens of His Kingdom the government of our lives will also be on His shoulders.

Commented [Jim Fuller2]:

Unfortunately, we try to operate as independent contractors with God. He tells us what He wants and then we decide if we want to take the assignment or not. Fortunately, God doesn't see it quite that way. When He said, love them like I loved you, it wasn't a suggestion, it was a command.

When Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and told the Jews that they had conspired with the Romans to kill their Messiah, do you remember what they said? They said, brothers what shall we do now?

Peter said repent and be baptized. It was the same thing that John the Baptist said and that Jesus preached everywhere. It was the same thing that Jesus sent out His disciples to proclaim everywhere. Repent for the Kingdom of God is here.

I pray that we all will repent, humble ourselves, and offer ourselves to God as living sacrifices. As we do that the Holy Spirit will renew our minds to Kingdom thinking, and will transform us into the image of His Beloved Son.

God bless you all
Jim Fuller