

PERSONAL NOTES

A STUDY LECTURE

This study forms part of a series designed to instruct you in Christ.

"But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus."
Eph. 4:20-21, NASB.

Funks and Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary defines Kingdom as:

"The territory; people; state or realm ruled by a king or a queen monarchy."

Oxford Complete Wordfinder defines Kingdom as:

"An organized community headed by a king; the territory subject to a king."

Webster's Dictionary defines Kingdom as:

"A government or country headed by a king or queen monarchy."



Lecture 1: The Rule of God in the Heart of Man. Introduction

If one were to ask a handful of Christians, *"What is the Kingdom of God?"* the answers would likely form a tapestry of confusion and contradiction. Some would look upward and speak wistfully of heaven, a celestial city somewhere *"beyond the blue."* Others would point backward to ancient Israel, believing that the people of God in the flesh were the Kingdom in full. Still others would look ahead, imagining a future *"Millennial Age,"* a thousand-year reign of Christ upon the earth where His power subdues all opposition by force. And many, more simply, would equate the Church itself with the Kingdom of God.

Each of these views touches the truth but never grasps it whole. They are but reflections upon a mirror dimly lit, fragments of a far grander revelation: **That the Kingdom of God is not a place, nor a political system, but the very reign of God; His rule expressed through His will.**

The Old Testament Meaning of Kingdom

In Hebrew, the words translated *"Kingdom"* all share the same root as *"Melek"* meaning **KING**.

- *"Maleku"* appears 46 times as "kingdom," 3 times as "realm," 4 times as "reign"
- *"Malekuth"* appears 49 times as "kingdom," 1 time as "empire," 4 times as "realm," 21 times as "reign," 14 times as "royal"
- *"Mamlakuth"* over 100 times as "kingdom," 2 times as "reign," 4 times as "royal."

Each carries the same essential meaning: **A reign, a realm, a royal rule.**

In modern terms, a "kingdom" is a region defined by borders, government, and citizens. Yet in Scripture, it is not geography that defines a kingdom but *governance*. A man's kingdom is not the land beneath his feet but the realm over which he exercises dominion. So also, with God. The Kingdom of God is **wherever God reigns supreme**, where His word becomes law, His will becomes deed, and His nature is expressed without resistance.

The New Testament Meaning of Kingdom

The Greek word *"Basilea"* carries this same richness of meaning. It does not point to a location but to a *condition*: The active rule of

a king. Thus, the “Kingdom of God” is **the realm where God’s authority is obeyed, His character is mirrored, and His purposes unfold unhindered.**

Four shades of meaning reveal the breadth of this truth:

- The realm over which a monarch reigns.
- The people over whom he rules.
- The act of reigning; the exercise of power.
- The government or administration that carries out the will of the ruler.

In every case, the essence of “Kingdom” is summed up in a single word: **Rule.** The Kingdom of God, then, is **the rule of God**; not someday, somewhere, but **wherever His will is done.**

If we begin with this simple understanding, the Spirit will not only dismantle our well-worn assumptions but will also unveil thrilling, often-overlooked dimensions of the Kingdom; treasures hidden in plain sight, missed even by the faithful.

Where Is the Kingdom of God?

When the Pharisees asked Jesus when this Kingdom would come, He startled them with His reply:

“The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for behold, the Kingdom of God is within you.” Luke 17:20–21, KJV.

The Greek word “*Entos*,” WITHIN, can also mean “in the midst of,” but the weight of Scripture confirms Christ’s meaning: **The Kingdom is inward, not outward; spiritual, not geographical.**

Other translations help us see the force of His words:

“The Kingdom of God isn’t ushered in with visible signs.” (K.N. Taylor)

“The Kingdom of God does not come with outward show.” (C.B. Williams)

“...does not come that you can watch closely for it.” (R.F. Weymouth)

“...with signs to be observed.” (Revised Standard Version)

Christ contrasts two realms: *That which can be observed and that which must be revealed.* The Kingdom is not found by measuring

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A kingdom is a realm where a king exercises his rule, authority, and sovereign control.

The Kingdom of God, rather than being a **PLACE**, is the **REALM** in which **GOD IS IN CONTROL!**

GOD IS SPIRIT... The Kingdom of God is in the Spirit! (John 4:24)

The Kingdom of God is not distant; it is the Spirit’s reign breaking into the dust of our days, shaping the natural with eternal hands.

OBSERVATION =
“*Paratèrèsis*” means
WITH OUTWARD SHOW

So, if Jesus says that the Kingdom of God comes not by outward show and then turns around and says that the Kingdom is in your midst, He most surely is contradicting Himself!

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THE KING WITHIN

*“Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is **IN** you...?”*
2 Cor. 13:5, NIV.

God spoke the revelation of this truth, the activity of God within people, through the Prophet Ezekiel in these words:

“Then I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments and do them ... and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God.”
Ezek. 36:25-28b, KJV.

boundaries or observing institutions but by yielding the heart. **It is an invisible sovereignty planted in the soil of the soul.**

Wherever God’s authority is submitted to; where His will governs thought, emotion, and action there, and only there, the Kingdom of God is. To say *“Thy Kingdom come”* is to invite His reign first within oneself (Matt. 6:10).

This inward reign begins in the spirit, sanctifies the soul, and ultimately transforms the body (1 Thess. 5:23). God’s government works from the *inside out*, not the *outside in*.

“The Kingdom of God does not come in such a way as to be seen... because the Kingdom of God is within you.” Luke 17:21, *Good News Bibel*

The Nature of God’s Reign

For centuries, men imagined the Kingdom as a political triumph, a divine empire established through might and conquest. Even the disciples expected the Messiah to crush Rome and enthrone Israel. But the King they followed came not with sword in hand but with a towel around His waist. His coronation was a Cross.

Christ revealed a Kingdom whose victory lies not in subjugation but in **transformation**, not in forcing obedience but in **awakening love**.

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.”
John 12:32

Notice: He does not drive but draws. No man can come unless the Father draws him (John 6:44). This drawing is not external compulsion but internal persuasion. It is God Himself who works within His sons:

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.” Phil. 2:13, NIV.

“For it is God Himself whose power creates within you both the desire and the power to execute His gracious will.” – R.F. Weymouth.

“... God ... Who makes you willing and gives you the energy to do what He wants ...” – W.F. Beck.

“For it is God who in His good-will is at work in your hearts, inspiring your will and your action...” – E.J. Goodspeed

The Kingdom is thus an **inward energy**, the divine life reshaping human will. It is not so much we who labor for the Kingdom **as the Kingdom that labors within us**, bending our desires toward God’s delight.

The Covenant Written on the Heart

Centuries before Christ, the prophet Jeremiah foresaw this mystery:

"I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts ... they shall all know Me." Jer. 31:33–34

The Kingdom of God is not imposed upon us but inscribed within us. It is not a code carved in stone, but a character formed by Spirit. God is raising a people not to represent Him as ambassadors of doctrine but to **reveal Him as living epistles of His nature** (2 Cor. 3:3). Through them, His rule becomes visible upon the earth.

Thus, when Jesus declared, *"The Kingdom of God is within you,"* He unveiled one of the most profound revelations of all time: **The throne of God is no longer in temples of stone, but in hearts of flesh.** His reign begins where surrender begins, and its boundaries are measured not by land but by love.

Praise God! He has chosen to dwell within us, to make His glory known not merely to us, but *through* us. In Christ, the invisible becomes visible. His Spirit takes residence in our hearts, and suddenly the ordinary becomes sacred, the everyday becomes the vessel of the extraordinary.

What a mystery and what a calling: That Christ in us would be the hope of glory. Not just a doctrine to believe, but a **Presence to carry, a Person to reveal, a Life to live.** Through every act of obedience, every whispered prayer, and every yielded moment, the Father manifests His nature. His beauty. His power.

So, lift your eyes, beloved. The very God who spoke galaxies into existence now speaks through your surrendered life. Christ in you, is not a symbol. It is the greatest reality on earth.

Instructed in Christ

This lesson is a lantern light,
A flame that calls the heart to rise—
Not to gather fleeting sight,
But to behold with opened eyes.

Each word a seed, each truth a key,
Unlocking doors within the soul,
Till knowledge bows to mystery,
And Christ Himself becomes the goal.

So let the mind be still and learn,
The path of wisdom is not wide—
It bends where hearts in love return,
And walk with Christ as faithful guide.

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Christ shall have a Body on earth; a people so indwelt by His Spirit that they live, move, and exist solely for the Father's glory.

Study Questions

1. What is the simplest definition of the Kingdom of God?

2. How does the Old Testament define the term “*Kingdom?*”

3. What is the meaning of the Greek word “*Basilea?*”

4. What contrast does Jesus draw in Luke 17:20–21?

5. How does God establish His Kingdom within us?

6. Why can no man enter the Kingdom by force or compulsion?

7. How did Jesus redefine the concept of kingship?

8. What does it mean to pray “*Thy Kingdom come?*”

9. How does the Kingdom of God progress in a believer’s life?

10. What is the ultimate purpose of God’s Kingdom within His people?

Study Answers

1. The Kingdom of God is the **rule of God**; His reign expressed through His will in the hearts of men.
2. The Hebrew words (“*Maleku, Malekuth, Mamlakuth*”) signify “reign” or “sovereignty,” emphasizing authority and dominion rather than territory.
3. “*Basilea*” means the active *rule* or *reign* of a king; it denotes authority, not geography.
4. He contrasts the *outward and visible* with the *inward and spiritual*, revealing that the Kingdom is not seen but experienced within.
5. By the indwelling of His Spirit, who writes His law upon our hearts and transforms our will to align with His (Jer. 31:33, Phil. 2:13).
6. Because entry into God’s Kingdom comes only through the Father’s drawing and the inner work of grace, not by external coercion (John 6:44).
7. He revealed kingship not as domination but as **servanthood**, ruling by love and example rather than by force.
8. It is a personal surrender; an invitation for God’s reign to begin within our hearts and extend through our lives to the world.
9. It begins in the spirit (justification), transforms the soul (sanctification), and will culminate in the redemption of the body (glorification).
10. To form a holy nation that reveals His nature and manifests His glory through Christ living in them.