

PERSONAL NOTES

Jesus did not become King in some future millennium. He was King from the beginning, and He came as King in His first advent.

"Pilate replied, but you are a King then? Yes, Jesus said. I was born for that purpose." John 18:37, LB.

Lecture 4: When Will the Kingdom of God Come?

The Kingdom Begins with a King

One cannot speak of a Kingdom without speaking first of its King. A Kingless kingdom is a contradiction; a King without a kingdom is mere fantasy. The Kingdom of God is neither fantasy nor metaphor, for it has a King, and His Name is Jesus Christ.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus did not merely announce the Kingdom; He embodied it. He came not as an ambassador of a distant realm, but as the enthroned King of God's government. His very presence forced the world to answer the oldest question: *"Who is this King of Glory?"* (Psalm 24:8–10).

When Jesus descended the Mount of Olives, the multitude cried out:

"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" Luke 19:38, NKJV.

And when the Pharisees demanded silence, Jesus replied that if people withheld their praise, the stones themselves would cry out, for creation knows its King even when men do not.

Matthew confirms the same truth:

"See, your King comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey." Matt. 21:5

When Nathanael declared, *"You are the King of Israel"* (John 1:49), Jesus affirmed it. When Pilate questioned Him, *"Then You are a King?"*, Jesus answered with regal finality:

← *"For this reason I was born, and for this cause I came into the world — to bear witness to the Truth." John 18:37, AMP.*

Thus, the Kingdom did not begin with human speculation or political movements but with eternal purpose: The King came, and therefore the Kingdom came. What He inaugurated was not a military empire but a spiritual reign that begins within and unfolds outward.

The King establishes His Realm within

The tragedy of Israel's expectation, and of much modern theology, is that men insist on thinking of the Kingdom in earthly terms: Armies, borders, national supremacy, earthly thrones. Yet Jesus established a Kingdom not by conquering Rome but by conquering the human heart.

He spent three years teaching the principles of divine rule, demonstrating a life of Sonship and obedience to the Father.

Then He did what no earthly king could do; He purchased His citizens with His own blood.

“...you were purchased with the precious blood of Christ...” 1 Peter 1:19, AMP.

Through His death He acquired us as His own possession; through His resurrection He made our bodies His dwelling; through His Spirit He ascended the throne of our hearts.

Thus, Paul declares:

“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit... You are not your own; you were bought with a price.” 1 Cor. 6:19–20, AMP.

The Kingdom Transforms from Within

The Kingdom expands not by external force but by internal transformation:

“We... beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory.” 2 Cor. 3:18, NKJV.

- We behold Him, therefore we **BECOME** like Him.
- We reflect Him, therefore we **REVEAL** Him.

This transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit, who governs the believer into maturity:

“Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.” Gal. 5:16, AMP.

God’s purpose is not simply that Christ reign over us, but that Christ reign in us, spirit, soul, and body, until the victory of Jesus becomes the victory of His sons.

Paul describes this process as growing into:

“...the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Eph. 4:13, AMP.

Here the Kingdom’s advance is unmistakable: Christ enthroned within His people becomes Christ revealed through His people. This is why Jesus said, *“The Kingdom of God is within you.”* (Luke 17:21)

The Kingdom is a Present Reality

Paul tells us plainly:

“The Father has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son.” Col. 1:13, AMP.

PERSONAL NOTES

Where the Spirit dwells,
the King reigns.

Where the King reigns, the
Kingdom comes.

Our glory is replaced with
His glory!

Read: 2 Corinthians 3:1-6;
4:1-11; 1 Corinthians
15:45-49; 1 John
4:17.

PERSONAL NOTES

The Kingdom is **spiritual** because its power comes from God's life within.

The Kingdom is **literal** because it is demonstrated in real people, real places, real actions and real history.

The indwelling Christ is a Prophet "producing" righteousness, a Priest "producing" peace and a King "producing" joy in the Holy Spirit.

Notice the tense: **He has transferred us.** This is not a future event; it is a present reality. We are already living in the Kingdom because the King is already living in us.

Rome may have ruled the world outwardly, but Christ ruled a Kingdom Rome could not see; a Kingdom not measured by borders but by hearts yielded to His dominion.

The One Kingdom: Spiritual and Literal

Some have wrongly divided God's Kingdom into two:

- a "*spiritual*" Kingdom for this age,
- and a "*literal*" Kingdom for a future millennium.

Scripture never makes such a distinction. God does not possess two Kingdoms, nor does He exchange one for another. There is only one Kingdom:

- Spiritual in its origin
- Literal in its expression
- Present in its reality
- Eternal in its scope

The issue is not the Kingdom's nature, but its scope, the range of its influence.

Today the Kingdom reigns wherever hearts surrender. In the coming age it will reign universally over nations, rulers, and the whole earth (Daniel 7:13–27).

The Kingdom does not change; it expands. What is now local will become global; what is now internal will be external; what is now in part will be in fullness.

Summary

Jesus Christ is the eternal King of an eternal Kingdom. His Kingship is:

- Past: He came as King.
- Present: He reigns within His people.
- Future: He will reign universally over all creation.

His followers are those who hear His voice, obey His truth, and submit to His inner reign. Jesus walked among men as a King: Serene, untroubled, commanding every situation with quiet authority. His life was a revelation of what humanity could be when governed entirely by the Spirit.

And now, through the indwelling Holy Spirit, His reign continues, not above us, but within us. We have the King within; we are living within His Kingdom.

God's Kingdom is both Spiritual and literal, influencing humanity, nations, and the whole earth. Therefore, we pray:

"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."
Matt. 6:10

- For Christianity is not a theory; it is a lifestyle.
- The Kingdom is not a doctrine; it is a dominion.
- The King is not distant; He dwells within His saints.

In the end, the coming of the Kingdom is not measured by earthquakes, empires, or visible splendor, but by the quiet conquest of the human heart. Every life that bows before Christ becomes a living prophecy of a world yet to be fully redeemed.

The Kingdom advances not by the clashing of swords but by the yielding of wills; not by the rise of earthly thrones but by the enthronement of Christ within His people. As His Lordship takes root in us, the soil of the earth, both the earth beneath our feet and the earth of our humanity, begins to change.

The same Spirit who hovered over the primordial chaos now hovers over the chaos within us, shaping a new creation, restoring the likeness of the Son, and preparing a people through whom the reign of God will one day flood the world as the waters cover the sea.

In this way the internal reign becomes the external reality, and the Kingdom that began in secret will, in God's appointed time, fill all things with the glory of the King.

And as Charles S. Price beautifully wrote:

The Glory of Man and the Glory of the Lord

What is man's glory but a vapor?
Which like his days soon pass away;
The fiery winds of desolation
Crumble his empires; and their decay
Enfolds him in their dust, no human can
Immortalize the glory
Mortals give to man.

Forgive us, Christ! Before Thy Scepter
Our noblest ensigns are but dross;
We bow the knee and lay our glory
Before the grandeur of Thy Cross;
For Thou must reign! Thine is the power
And Thine the kingdom, Living Word!
Then Thine alone shall be the glory
Thy Glory! Glorious Lord!

PERSONAL NOTES

The purpose of His rule is to eventually establish His image in us!

"For those whom He Foreknew, of whom He was aware and loved beforehand, He also destined from the beginning, foreordaining them, to be molded into the image of His Son, and share inwardly His likeness, that He might become the firstborn among many brethren."
Rom. 8:29, AMP.

Study Questions

1. Why is it impossible to have a Kingdom without a King?

2. When did Jesus become King?

3. What does “*the Kingdom is within you*” mean?

4. How did Jesus establish His Kingdom among men?

5. Why is the Holy Spirit essential to Kingdom life?

6. What makes the Kingdom both spiritual and literal?

7. What is meant by the “*scope*” of the Kingdom?

8. According to Colossians 1:13, when are believers transferred into the Kingdom?

9. Why did Jesus say He was born?

10. What is God’s ultimate goal for His people?

Study Answers

1. Because a Kingdom is defined by the rule of its sovereign; without a King, there is no authority, no reign, and no Kingdom.
2. He did not become King in the future; He came as King 2000 years ago (Matthew 21:5; John 18:37).
3. It means Christ reigns from the inside, establishing His rule in the heart rather than through external force (Luke 17:21).
4. By teaching the principles of divine rule, living them before humanity, and purchasing His people through His blood.
5. Because the Spirit enthrones Christ within us and transforms us from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18).
6. It is spiritual in origin (born of God's Spirit) and literal in expression (seen in real lives, places, and circumstances).
7. The extent to which God's reign influences people, places, and events; this scope expands through the ages.
8. At salvation; they are already transferred into Christ's Kingdom as a present reality.
9. To be King and to bear witness to the Truth (John 18:37).
10. To bring them into the fullness of Christ, reflecting His image and submitting completely to His reign (Ephesians 4:13).