

The Kingdom of God

Lesson 2: The Universal Kingdom

I. The Universal Kingdom exists without interruption throughout all time.

- a. The Universal Kingdom was established with the act of **creation** and will continue as long as creation exists. Ps 145:13 Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. KJV
- b. The kingdom was in evidence when the **flood** of Noah's day took place. Ps 29:10 The Lord sitteth upon the flood; yea, the Lord sitteth King for ever. KJV
- c. The prophet Jeremiah bears a similar testimony concerning the **abiding** reality and character of God's rule in his day. Jer 10:12 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion. KJV
- d. In the midst of Jeremiah's lamentations over the destruction of Jerusalem and the famine in Israel, he finds his hope and comfort in the **present** Kingdom of God. Lam 5:19 Thou, O Lord, remainest for ever; thy throne from generation to generation. KJV
- e. While the **historical** Kingdom of God in Israel may have been interrupted, in spite of that interruption it can never be said that the Universal Kingdom of God is diminished in any way.

II. The Universal Kingdom includes all that exists in space and time.

- a. David saw another and **greater** kingdom than his own and affirmed that nothing lies outside of the reach and scope of the Universal Kingdom; it includes all created beings and things in space and in time, in earth, in heaven and in hell. 1 Chron 29:11-12 Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. KJV
- b. The nations of the earth may rebel, follow other gods, even deny the existence of the True God; but all to no avail. Jehovah is still the "King of the **nations**". Jer 10:7 Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee. KJV
- c. Men are reminded that it is the God of Heaven who **sets up** and removes kings. Dan 2:20-21 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: KJV
- d. The kingdom reaches up to the heavens; the **angels** are in it and under its rule; the hosts of God are here, and all His works in all places of dominion. Ps 103:19-22 The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all 20 Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.21 Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.22 Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul. KJV
- e. For the enemies of God, not even **death** and the grave can escape the rule of the Universal Kingdom. Amos 9:2 Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down: KJV
- f. The people of God are never outside of His Kingship and reign in any state or **place** that they may be. Ps 139:7-10 *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*KJV

III. The Divine control in the Universal Kingdom is generally providential.

- a. God is in the operation of what men call "**natural law**" but He tips the scale of nature in indiscernible ways in order to bring the natural elements to bear in order to facilitate His own reigning function in the Universal Kingdom. Ex 14:21 *And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.* KJV
- b. Since He controls the forces of nature, He is able to control the **circumstances** of human existence and thereby, direct the stream of human history. Josh 2:10-11 *For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. 11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.* KJV
- c. In like manner He sets up events and circumstances which control the **actions** of men through whom He accomplishes His Universal Kingdom purposes. Jer 51:11 *the Lord hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device is against Babylon, to destroy it; because it is the vengeance of the Lord, the vengeance of his temple.* KJV
- d. The Book of Esther is a dramatic demonstration of God's **providential** care of His Universal Kingdom purposes. Had Israel perished in Persia there would have been no Messiah, no redemption, no Church, and no future kingdom of God among men.
- e. The Lord attends to even the smallest detail to bring about His kingdom purposes because things too small to merit human attention may be used to change the course of history. IE: the **sleeplessness** of a king. Est 6:1 *On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.* KJV

IV. The Divine control in the Universal Kingdom may be exercised at times by supernatural means.

- a. While it may be difficult to draw a precise line between the natural and the supernatural, the general difference is clear and absolute. Therefore, at any time God may break into nature with great exhibitions of His **unveiled** power. Ps 135:6-8 *Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.7 He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasures.8 Who smote the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and beast.*KJV
- b. One purpose of the miraculous is that of **publicly** demonstrating that the true God of heaven will always have the last word in human affairs. Ex 5:2 *And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.*
- c. A second purpose of the miraculous is to confirm the **faith** of God's own people in the reality of His Universal Kingdom. Deut 4:34-35 *Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? 35 Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the Lord he is God; there is none else beside him.* KJV

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- d. Finally, the inspired record stands as documentary evidence to all succeeding generations that men may have **no excuse** for any failure to recognize the reality of God's Universal Kingdom. Rom 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse : KJV*

V. The Universal Kingdom always exists efficaciously regardless of the attitude of its subjects.

- a. There is no lack of **submission** to the King in heaven but, on earth, it is a different story. Ps 103:20-21 *Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. 21 Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. KJV*
- b. However, there are many in rebellion against the rule of God's Universal Kingdom beginning with **Satan** himself, the archetype rebel. Isa 14:12-13 *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: KJV*
- c. Scripture is clear that **angels** as well as man have rebelled at the reign of the Universal Kingdom, but, **to no avail**. Thus proving the absolute sovereignty of our King. 2 Peter 2:4 *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; KJV*
- d. On earth among men there are unnumbered multitudes who, **deceived** by Satan, are actively opposed to the revealed will of God or who in ignorance know nothing about a sovereign God ruling over the created universe. Job 12:16 *With him is strength and wisdom: the deceived and the deceiver are his. KJV*
- e. Regardless of submission or rebellion, even if all in the universe were opposed to His reign and there was not one solitary personal being submitted to Him, the **fact** of His sovereign rule would continue unabated. Dan 4:35 *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? KJV*

VI. The rule of the Universal Kingdom is administered through the eternal Son.

- a. While we often confine Christ to the mediatorial reign, it should be noted that the kingship of our Lord appears first in the dateless past beginning with **creation** itself. Heb 1:2 *Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; KJV*
- b. This act of creation by itself authenticates His position in the **Godhead** and establishes Christ as King over the Universal Kingdom. Rom 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; KJV*
- c. The creative and sovereign power of **Deity** has always been revealed in and through the activity of the eternal Son who in the fullness of time became our incarnate Savior. John 1:1-4 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. KJV*
- d. The Son of God is the "Father" of the **succession of ages** (through which the world has passed and is yet to pass) which means that He is Father not only in origination but also in Fatherly guidance. Isa 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, KJV*
- e. The Son of God is the Maker of the ages, the Father of the everlasting, the God of **history**; hence, the Universal King. 1 Tim 1:17 *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. KJV*
- f. Following His resurrection, Christ has been seated on the **throne** of God in the Universal Kingdom. This is the throne of God alone upon which none may sit but God, and the God-Man Jesus Christ. Rev 3:21 *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. KJV*

VII. The Universal Kingdom is not exactly identical with the kingdom for which the disciples were taught to pray.

- a. In its universal and providential sense, the Kingdom of God has already come, and the will of God is being done in every place **including** the earth. This rule of God has always existed and has never been abrogated or interrupted.
- b. The duty of man, in relation to such a kingdom, is to acknowledge its **reality** and to bow to its sovereignty; **not to pray** for its coming in any objective sense.
- c. The essential meaning of the clause within the Lord's Prayer "thy kingdom come" is "**Come Lord Jesus**, come quickly" to set up your mediatorial kingdom and put an end to sin on the earth.
- d. When this purpose has been fully accomplished, the mediatorial phase of the kingdom will disappear as a separate entity and become **merged** with the Universal Kingdom of God. 1 Cor 15:28
- e. The mediatorial reign will be ushered in during a definite **crisis** at a point in time in history and not brought about by a long gradual process of social evolution.
- f. This is in sharp contrast to the Universal Kingdom which has **always** been present in the world, on earth as well as in heaven.

VIII. Application

- a. In what ways does the present Universal Kingdom affect you as a believer?
- Your peace
 - Your hope
 - Your confidence

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- d. Finally, the inspired record stands as documentary evidence to all succeeding generations that men may have _____ for any failure to recognize the reality of God's Universal Kingdom. Rom 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse : KJV*

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- f. Following His resurrection, Christ has been seated on the _____ of God in the Universal Kingdom. This is the throne of God alone upon which none may sit but God, and the God-Man Jesus Christ. Rev 3:21 *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. KJV*

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