

1 What is a Kingdom?

- Why would anyone who enjoys freedom and liberty want to live in one?

2 Amnesia Test

- The number one priority in our lives ought not to be running after needs and wants . . .
- But give diligent dedication (seek) and with a high degree priority to learning the standards, customs, and principles of God's Kingdom.

3 All these things . . .

- If we will seek God's Kingdom as our number one priority in life.
 - Physical needs will be met.
 - Social needs will be met.
 - Emotional needs will be met.
 - Psychological needs will be met.
 - Financial needs will be met.
 - Security needs will be met.
 - All our desires for self-significance, self-worth, and purpose will be met.

4 Why Seek a Kingdom?

- Why not seek communism, socialism, or a democratic republic?
- Isn't a kingdom a form of government that's a bit out of date?
- Doesn't a kingdom promote despotism and tyrannical rule.
- Isn't a kingdom simply a dictatorship in the hands of a family.

5 The Challenge

- People who have lived in the context of a democracy or republic all their lives usually find it not only difficult but also almost impossible to understand or accept easily this concept of a kingdom.
- We almost need to force ourselves to realize that once we are under the rule of God—this gracious, merciful, benevolent, loving, caring King, He takes personal responsibility for us, not as servants or slaves, but as family.

6 The Big Picture

- Purpose defines the big picture.
- God's original purpose in creating mankind was to extend His invisible rulership to the visible world.
- In other words, God intent was to establish on earth a colony of Heaven.
- As king, God gave to Man all authority and dominion to rule the earth as vice-regents.

7 Heaven is Coming . . .

- The content of both John the Baptist's and Jesus' preaching was the coming of God's Kingdom.
- It was a proclamation of "Good News" the true benevolent owner of the earth is coming to set up a perfect kingdom for Israel.
- He will do this by defeating all of Israel's enemies even those who claim to be Israelites but aren't.
- Repent and believe the "Good News."
(Matthew 4:17, 23; 10:7)

8 References

- From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." (Matt 4:17)
- Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. (Matt. 4:23)
- "As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'" (Matthew 10:7)

9 His Kingdom?

- A kingdom can be defined as "the sovereign rule of a king over a territory (domain), impacting it with his will, purpose, and intent."
- But what is a king?

10 What is a King?

- Is the central component of a kingdom. His word is the law. His word is the government.
- Is the ultimate and only source of authority in his kingdom. His law is not open to debate, discussion, challenge, or amendment.
- The sovereignty of a king is inherent in his royal authority. The people do not make a king sovereign; he is born sovereign.
- All kings are automatically lords.

11 Living Under a Lord

- A Lord owns all the resources and distributes them as he determines. He can give and then take away.
- When he gives resources to a citizen, it is never for ownership but for stewardship.
- Submission to a king as lord positions the citizen to receive from the king.
- The degree of grace coming from the king is through winning his favor, not by obligation.

12 Living under a Lord

- So we make it our goal to please him, (2 Cor 5:9 NIV)
- And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: . . . (Col 1:10 NIV)
- Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. (1 Th 4:1 NIV)

13 Living under a Lord

- People living in a democracy have a natural reaction against anything that has to do with totalitarianism.
- Independence, self-determination, private ownership, and individuality are values, which are the bedrock of our society.
- However, they remain contrary to Kingdom principles.

14 Living under a Lord

- In a democracy, morals, values, and standards of law are subject to the principle of “majority rules.”
- It legitimizes the majority’s values, desires, beliefs, aspirations, and preferences on others.
- Democracy without accountability to one greater than the people is an exercise in moral roulette.

15 Question

- Is our society that places supreme importance on private ownership and liberty (control from kings), hinder our ability to prosper in God’s kingdom?
- Are we going to be able to trust the control and destiny of our lives to someone who is a sovereign Lord and reports to be good and looks after our best interest?

16 Living under a Lord

•Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.