

## ☞POINTS TO PONDER

### WHAT IS THE KINGDOM?

**Review: The Kingdom is God's rule of grace in the world. The Kingdom of God is already here within the hearts of those who believe and submit to his rule. It is at odds with the dark kingdom and the standards of this fallen world. But one day very soon, Jesus will return and God's Kingdom will be fully revealed to all here on earth. And the Lord's plan includes believers joining with him to oversee the kingdom.**

**God's Government is a Monarchy, a Kingdom.** Here in America we are accustomed to a Republic, Democratic form of government. We have a President who is voted into office and can be removed from office either by limited terms, death or impeachment. There are many other offices of authority which are also selected by public elections. In a Democracy we are used to the concept of "majority rules," while still trying to protect individual rights and personal ownership. In an uncorrupted Democracy the power ultimately lies with the citizens, and the leaders serve on behalf of the people. Democratic societies are committed to the values of tolerance, cooperation, and compromise. There is often a lot of liberty in a Democracy to the point that we don't even think twice about mocking political leaders.

#### ☞God's Government is a Kingdom.

1. ☞A **king** is never voted into power, he is **born into power**. Kingship is a birthright. The Bible says Jesus is the Son of God, a king, Matthew 3:17... *"And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased"*
2. ☞Accordingly, a **king cannot be voted out of power** and serves for life. Since Christ will never die, the Bible says Christ *"will reign for ever and ever"* (Revelation 11:15).
3. ☞In a kingdom, **the king owns everything**; there is no personal ownership, only stewardship over the king's property. Psalms 24:1-2... *"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it..."*
4. ☞**The word of a king is law, and his authority is unconditional**. His word cannot be challenged, changed, or countermanded by anyone or any governing body, such as congress or parliament. Psalm 119:152... *"Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to last forever."* Matthew 28:18... *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me"*
5. ☞**The king's authority is delegated through his name** and he can delegate others to act on his behalf. This includes the authority to set up leaders under his kingdom. Matthew 28:18-19... *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me, therefore go*

*and make disciples". John 14:12-14... "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing."*

6. ☞ In a kingdom, **the king determines who will be citizens** and the standards for becoming a citizen. Jesus said *"For many are invited, but few are chosen"* (Matthew 22:14). Deuteronomy 28:1-2... *If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God."*
7. ☞ **Citizens enjoy the welfare of the king.** A king's status is measured by his prosperity and the citizens' quality of life. Malachi 3:10-12... *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty".*

☞ **Kingdom Characteristics.** Kingdoms have...

**King; Country; Constitution/Code of Ethics/Culture;  
Citizens; Commonwealth; Combatants**

☞ All kingdoms have a **King. Jesus is ours.**

John 18:37 *Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth."* He is called the King of kings and Lord of lords.

☞ All kingdoms are a **Country.**

Built into human nature is this desire for a better country. Yet no country we have ever had in the world can measure up to the King's country. Although you may be a citizen in good standing where you live, you are also an alien there.

Hebrews 11:10 (Abraham) *he was looking forward to the city whose architect and builder is God.*

☞ **The Kingdom is Within**

Luke 17:21 *the kingdom of God is within you.*

☞ **The Kingdom is Spiritual**

John 18:36 *My kingdom is not of this world.*

☞ **The Kingdom is Relational**

Matthew 7:22-23 *Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*

### ☞ **The Kingdom is Universal**

Ephesians 1:22 *And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church*

### ☞ **The Kingdom is Superior to all**

Matthew 11:11 *I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

### ☞ **The Kingdom is Growing**

Matthew 13:31-32 *"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."*

### ☞ **The Kingdom is Eternal**

Isaiah 9:6-7 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.*

### ☞ All kingdoms have a **Constitution**, a **Code of ethics** and a **Culture**.

A kingdom is not just a piece of real estate. It has a culture. It has morals and standards. It has values. And they get exported to the colonies of that particular kingdom. The **Bible** is our Constitution. It tells us all about God's code of ethics and kingdom culture.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

### ☞ The **fruit of the Spirit** gives a glimpse of our culture.

Galatians 5:22-25 *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

☞ All kingdoms have **Citizens**. Citizenship entails certain **responsibilities** and it bestows specific **rights** and privileges. Being a follower of Christ, makes you a citizen of his heavenly kingdom. You're just visiting Boone, Iowa, in the USA, on Earth.

Ephesians 2:19 *you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household*

Philippians 3:20 *our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ*

### ☞ **Kingdom Citizenship is Extended by Invitation**

Matthew 22:2-3 *"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come...*

### ☞ **Kingdom Citizenship is Entrusted by New Birth**

John 3:3-5 *I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. ...I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.*

### ☞ **Kingdom Citizenship is Established by Obedience and Humility**

Matthew 7:21 *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

Matthew 18:3-4 *I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

### ☞ **Kingdom Citizenship Endures by Faithfulness**

Matthew 25:21 *'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

Acts 14:22 *"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God"*

☞ All kingdoms have **Common wealth**. All the citizens have access to the same supply of wealth. Kingdoms discourage private ownership. All kingdoms have an economy and a taxation system. All kingdoms have a principle of giving to the king. Citizens never come before their king empty-handed.

☞ Philippians 4:19 *And my **God will meet all your needs** according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

1 Chronicles 29:14 *"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to **give** ☞ as **generously** as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.*

☞ All kingdoms have **Combatants** (an army).

When Kingdom citizens are under attack, the King rises up to defend them. As Kingdom ☞ Citizens, **we are part of his army**. Since the kingdom is within and we still live in a fallen world, a good portion of the battle takes place in our own minds; in the way we think...

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 we **take captive every thought** to make it obedient to Christ.

Some of the battle is in the spirit realm...

Ephesians 6:11-18 *Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your **stand against the devil's schemes**. 12 For our struggle is ...against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms... the belt of **truth** ...the breastplate of **righteousness** ...the **gospel** of peace... the shield of **faith**, ...the helmet of **salvation** and the sword of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**. 18 And **pray** in the Spirit*

So, we are in a battle with the kingdom of darkness, but we are not alone.

☞ Psalms 91:11 *He will command his **angels** concerning you to **guard you** in all your ways*

☞ Deuteronomy 1:30 *The Lord your **God**, who is going before you, **will fight** for you...*

**☞ God rules a Kingdom, not a democracy. His word is final and he owns everything. We are citizens who simply steward his generous provisions and serve in his undefeated army. As we are obedient and faithful, he blesses us abundantly and will welcome us into leadership in the Kingdom when it is fully revealed on earth.**