

003 The Kingdom Eternal

There are those who, as far as I am concerned, falsely teach there is more than one Kingdom and go into word semantics' trying to make it three Kingdoms: - The Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of Christ, as though they were three separate Kingdoms.

Obviously these people have no understanding of how a Kingdom operates or who a King actually is. The other problem is that they forget that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are in fact the one and only God. If God is the King, so then Christ and the Holy Spirit is the King.

John 10:30
30 I and the Father are one."

Either everything is under one King, which makes everything he Rules over, His Kingdom (which we dealt with in 'The Beginning') or you have different and separate people over different Kingdoms. You cannot have a King ruling over two or three totally separate Kingdoms, basically impossible.

There is one Kingdom of God and it is Eternal.

Ps 145:9-13
*9 The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all he has made.
10 All you have made will praise you, O Lord; your saints will extol you.
11 They will tell of the glory of your Kingdom and speak of your might,
12 so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of
your Kingdom.
13 Your Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and your dominion endures through
all generations. The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He
has made.*

Note here that all he has made will praise him and will tell of His Everlasting Kingdom (singular) not Kingdoms (Plural).

2 Peter 1:11
11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the Eternal Kingdom of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ.

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The Eternal Kingdom is God's, 'The Kingdom of God'.
God is 'The Father, Son and Holy Spirit' the three in one.

The Kingdom of Heaven is the seat of the Kingdom.

Isa 66:1

*66:1 Thus saith the Lord, The **heaven is my throne**, and the earth is my footstool:*

2 Tim 4:18

*18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his **heavenly Kingdom**. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Christ brought the Eternal Kingdom into our 'Time Sphere' to reveal it to us

Eph 5:5

*5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the **Kingdom of Christ and of God**.*

Col 1:13

13 For he (God) has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son (Jesus) he loves,

Heb 1:8

*8 But about the **Son** he says, "**Your throne, O God**, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of **Your Kingdom**"*

Rev 12:10

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ."

One of our greatest difficulties is understanding Eternity. The fact God is Eternal. He didn't have a start. He didn't suddenly appear from nowhere. There is neither beginning nor end to Him.

He always was and always will be. There was never a moment when he wasn't God.

It is the same with His Kingdom. It is an everlasting Eternal Kingdom. There was never a moment when the Kingdom of God did not exist because He is the Eternal 'Ruler' and 'King'.

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I was thinking about this and wondering, in my small finite, time, earth bound mind, how can one get one's head round this Eternal, everlasting thing and get some sort of understanding of it, however small and incomplete.

You see God does not live in time. He lives in a whole different dimension that is outside of our present scope or understanding. He is Spirit the scripture tells us...

John 4:24

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth"

...and has absolutely no limitations of any kind, although for our sakes and because of His great grace towards us, He **works** within our limitations, but He Himself has none.

Neither does His Kingdom.

So to attempt to give some small idea of eternity, I want you to use your imagination.

Imagine a glass blower blowing and he is making a huge glass ball. Lets say this glass ball is 50 foot (15.24 Meters) in diameter. Oh, go on, it's only our imagination. The glass blower can make the glass ball as big as he wants, because he is a very, very big and strong glass blower!

It is all just one piece of glass with no seams, no beginning and no end, a perfectly round one-piece glass ball.

Imagine running your finger going round the centre of an equator type line. Round and round until...wait there is no until, there is no beginning or end in either direction.

Now in some small inadequate way, that represents eternity. No beginning and no end in any direction.

Now imaging taking a small postage stamp and sticking that somewhere along the equator line of the glass ball that has no beginning and no end.

That small postage stamp represents 'time' in which we live from Genesis to when 'time shall be no more'.

I used the "glass" ball to try and depict something clear or invisible and the little postage stamp to show the tiny, tiny part that is visible to us.

So now we have somewhat of an admittedly exceedingly imperfect, picture of eternity with no beginning and no end and eternity runs right through the postage stamp.

Did you notice what I said? Eternity runs through the postage stamp. Blip! There was time and suddenly it is gone.

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God is all about eternity. He came into the “Blip” of time in creating the earth, and then through His precious Son redeemed us by giving His life, pouring out His life-blood on the cross so that He can save, redeem, and take us to Himself into His eternity that has no beginning or end.

Remember, God split day from night and gave us our 24 hour clock back in Genesis, that’s when time began, but eternity did not stop when time began, it just continues to run through our time and on and on from eternity to... eternity - if you know what I mean!

It is exactly the same regarding His Kingdom, which we have seen in His Word the Bible, is also eternal. His Eternal Kingdom, that has no beginning or end, comes into time. Through His amazing saving grace we can become part of that Eternal Kingdom, and whoop’s the Kingdom is out of time and we along with it, continuing in the Eternal glass ball.

1 Thess 4:17

*17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. **Then we will be with the Lord forever.***

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I hope you have been able to let your imagination run with mine and see this gigantic glass eternity and that little tiny postage stamp of time.

The rationale is to help us, in some small way, see things from God’s wonderful and eternal perspective and not our own tiny finite sight.

Again I repeat. God is all about eternity. He wants to share the wonder, the majesty, the bounty and the splendor, which is still far, far beyond any human understanding or even imagination, with you and me.

1 Cor 2:9

9 However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"—

O.K. so you are laboring this Eternal Kingdom thing, you might be saying.

Yes I am because it is one of the most misunderstood, least spoken about, least taught aspect in scripture, yet **EVERYTHING** else hangs on it.

Question. Who makes it so important?

Answer. - Jesus.

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Matt 4:17

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near."

Matt 4:23

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Beginning in Matthew chapter 5 and following through to chapter 7 we have what is called the Sermon on the Mount. This is where Jesus sat and outlined what the Kingdom of God is about and those who belong to it. Jesus mentions "the Kingdom" 8 times in that sermon.

Jesus after he was baptized of John the Baptist in the river Jordan started his earthly ministry preaching about the Kingdom. His sermon on the mount was about the Kingdom. Most of his parables were about the Kingdom. ... 'The Kingdom of God is like...'

In Mathews gospel Jesus speaking about the Kingdom is mentioned 54 times.

In Marks gospel 22 times.

It is mentioned 42 times in Luke's gospel.

So if the Lord Himself gave it such significance, don't you think we should too?

Jesus preached 'the good news of the Kingdom'. What is that?

Well let's keep our glass eternity in our minds eye along with our postage stamp.

This Eternal King (God), in and through his son the Lord Jesus Christ, came into our time and space where we are lost and living in sin and darkness with absolutely no hope of any description. He showed us something of the wonder of a Father's love, his desire for relationship with us, revealing something of the wonder of eternity living without sin and sickness, pain or suffering, discord or anger, death and destruction. Then through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, (taking on Himself the punishment of sin, which is death, in place of us), opened the Eternal Kingdom of heaven to us and made the only entranceway open so we can become part of it, forever.

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have Eternal life.

Simple isn't it. Now everything for us has this Kingdom, both as its source and destiny. Everything else is what we walk through from our own personal beginning through to our personal end or the end of time.

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Another wonderful aspect of this is that **now** we ARE people of eternity. If the Eternal God and King lives in us by his Holy Spirit, through salvation in Christ Jesus, then the Bible tells us we are family and His children and partakers of His nature. That's Eternity already residing in every true believer.

2 Peter 1:3-4

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Phil 3:20-21

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

21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Heb 12:28

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

Rev 1:6

6 He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

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So in Him we have eternity vibrating through us and we are Citizens of that Eternal Kingdom **ALREADY**. It is not something we are waiting for or something in the future to happen. We are part of that Eternal Kingdom of Light right now.

Yes to take us out of our 'time zone' some changes have to take place when the Lord Jesus comes again, but those changes are to our bodies. Our spirit is already part and parcel of it here and now. See Phil 3:21 above.

We need to raise our understanding and vision of who God is in His eternity.

We need to raise our understanding and vision of God's Eternal Kingdom.

We need to raise our understanding and vision of God's Eternal purposes.

We need to raise our understanding and vision of who we really are in Christ.

We need to raise our understanding and vision of our Eternal Destiny.

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Now understand, God is the God of The Eternal Kingdom.

We will never leave this subject of the Kingdom, as everything we talk about from here on is the outworking of the Eternal Kingdom in our 'time and space'.

We will talk about "The Church" "The Temple" "The Jerusalem" and so on, but they are only expressions in different picture and application formats of the Kingdom of God.

My hope and prayer is that you are beginning to see some things so wonderful in a refreshing new light. Maybe this is not new to you but I hope it has refreshed your spirit and brought again a re-energized excitement about this amazing so great salvation.

See you in the next study.