

## Life in the Kingdom of God: Our service in His Kingdom or another

Study by Gary Belvin

Part A : Who or what do you serve?

What is a kingdom?

- King : The chief or sovereign of a nation; a man invested with supreme authority over a nation, tribe or country
- Dom : quality, realm (eg. freedom, kingdom, wisdom )
- Also can refer to "The inhabitants or population subject to a king. eg, The whole kingdom was alarmed."

Who rules various kingdoms?

- Nations: [Dan 2:20](#)
- Nature: Gen 1, Exd 15
- Darkness: [Col 1:13](#), Eph:2
- Heaven = euphemism for God: Col 1:16-18

How many kingdoms can one be in at a time?

- [Mat 6:24](#)
- [Rom 6:16-18](#)
- [Deu 30:14-20](#) (*choose life!*)

What sort of things do we surrender when we are adopted into God's Kingdom?

What sort of things do we gain by being heirs of the Kingdom? (Rom 8:31)

Why should we Join the Kingdom of God? (John 10:10 - *life!*)

Thus concludes part A

Part B: What is the Kingdom of God like?

Transforming our understanding of "The Kingdom"

To understand the radical nature of Jesus' teaching on the kingdom, we need to understand the context that He was teaching in. 0 AD was a time of political unrest, and everyone was hoping for a messiah to come, liberate Israel from the Romans, and bring about the kingdom of God here on earth. Already there had been several attempts at revolt (Acts 5:34-39).

Now Jesus comes along and says things like: "My kingdom is not of this realm" John 18:36 and hangs out with "Sinners"

Rather than bringing about swift judgment on all the unrighteous (which of course didn't include the righteous Pharisees..) He extends mercy and transformation to sinners - thus building a kingdom of pure hearted people.

Rather than being a military campaign, the Kingdom of God is personal, intimate, and radically different than the cultural norm.

What kind of Kingdom is God building? What are we going to look like?

- Transformation of subject into the likeness of his master
- Made up of sinners: Matt 21:28-32
- Pure like a child [Luk 18:17](#) [Deu 23:14](#)
- Humble Matt 5:1-16
- Obedient (like a child) [Jhn 14:15](#), [Jhn 14:23](#)
- Shema - [Deu 6:4](#), Matt 22:36-40

Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength, Love your neighbor as yourself

- one of the earliest references to the kingdom of heaven in rabbinic literature

- was said that "Anyone who prays this prayer with a sincere heart 'receives upon himself the kingdom of heaven'"

- essentially a personal commitment to loving God with all your heart

How it will all end :-) [Phl 2:9-11](#) (see rest of chapter for context)

Epicness.