



THE PROCLAMATION

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The Kingdom of God

By Dennis Walton

I love gravy. I put it on nearly everything I eat. However, it doesn't make much of a meal by itself. What does that have to do with this message you ask? Absolutely nothing. I just brought it up to make a quick point before I begin. Gravy is made by skimming the goodies off the top of the broth that your roast cooks in. But in order to get a full meal you have to dig down into the pot to get the meat. The more I dig down into God's word the deeper it gets and the more it feeds my soul. And the less satisfied I am with just "skimming the top for the goodies." We have a tendency to just stick to the verses of scripture that make us feel good and stroke our desire for a better life. Don't get me wrong, we need that too. But we desperately need to seek God with more dedication so that we might have a greater understanding of the fullness of the kingdom of God and where we fit into it.

Matthew 6:10 "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

A kingdom is a territory that is under the rule of a king (*hence the word kingdom*) in which he has royal power and supreme authority. There are many kingdoms in the world but their power is limited to the territory they rule over. But God, who holds the title and patent for the Universe, has supreme authority over everything in existence. You're probably saying, "well duh! I already knew that." Did you? Then why are you still acting as the king of your life. Why are you selfishly pursuing your will instead of God's will? I'm just sayin... Do you want the real key to happiness? Acknowledge that you, and everything in existence, exist only for the purpose of the kingdom of God. People are always asking "what's the meaning of life?" That's it...I wasn't created for me, I was created for the Lord God Almighty and His glory! Jesus is not just a king, He is *the* King. He is King over all kings and Lord over all lords, to be exact. And no kingdom, including yours or mine, will stand against His.

It's important to understand that Satan was the first one to try to exalt his kingdom above God's. He didn't like how God ran his kingdom so he decided to raise up one of his own. And ever since God created man,

A note from

Pastor Dennis

Hello everyone!

In light of the recent news reports of the government shut down it leaves us all feeling a little vulnerable and insecure. The whole process has proven that man is not the solution for man's problems. Government is run by people and therefore it is flawed. And it will always be flawed because the heart of mankind is flawed.

The good news is that every government is subject to the kingdom of Almighty God. He will let us do our thing for a while but in the end His kingdom has always been, is now, and will always be in complete control of all creation. His kingdom started this world and His kingdom will end it.

I pray this message will encourage you and help you find your place in the kingdom of God.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Dennis Walton

satan has lied to us, promising us a kingdom of our own. Being the prideful beings we are, we take him up on his offer so that we might gain the pleasures of this world. We too have decided we don't like the way God runs his kingdom so we ignore him and establish our own. Oh how we boast, "I'm king of my castle. I'm my own man and I don't answer to anyone." And you may not now, but you will. If there is one penetrating thought that you take away from this message that I hope stays in your mind forever it's this: every kingdom that God didn't build, including yours, will only last a very short while before it falls. Everything you and I ignore God to achieve in order to please ourselves, including every goal, every accomplishment, every dollar, every act of social acceptance, and every "feel good" experience is all part of our temporary kingdom.

Daniel 2:26-45 gives us an illustration of how God will once and for all destroy satan's kingdom and all kingdoms of this world. It all hinges on a dream that God gave to a king by the name of Nebuchadnezzar a little over 2600 years ago. Ever heard of Babylon? It was the dominating world power in that day and Nebuchadnezzar was in control of it all.

One night he had a dream that really bugged him. He woke up so troubled by this dream and it just kept eating at him. The problem was he couldn't

remember what the dream was. So he called in all the psychics, sorcerers, and astrologers for help. In a nutshell here's what he told them: "ok guys here's the deal. I had a bad dream last night but I can't remember what it was. So what I need you to do is tell me what my dream was and then tell me what it means. Oh by the way, if you can't do it I am going to kill you all and turn your houses into a manure pile. So...chop, chop!" Can you imagine the looks on those guys' faces as they stood there with their mouths gapped wide open wishing to God they had chosen a different profession? (*that would make a good airline commercial..... "want to get away?"*) Obviously there is no power in any of those practices so all those guys could say was "but, but, but..." However, God had a man in the land named Daniel that was about to show this king who the real King is. God revealed to Daniel what the dream was and what it meant so that he could deliver a message to Nebuchadnezzar and to all of us today. And here it is: (*This is awesome!!*)

In this dream he saw a huge statue. The statue's head was made of gold, its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were brass, its legs were iron, and its feet were a mixture of iron and clay. Suddenly, out of nowhere a stone comes flying down from the mountain like a missile and destroys the statue. Then that stone began to grow and kept growing until it filled the whole earth. Now

keep in mind that he didn't have this dream because he ate bratwurst too close to bed time. God gave him this dream to show what he was going to do in the last days. Here's what the dream meant: the gold, silver, brass, and iron all represented different kingdoms that would rule the world. I won't go into the details of each of these kingdoms but it is important to note that history proves that from the time of that dream there were four kingdoms that ruled the world of that day in the exact order that God had shown them. The head of gold was Bablyon, the chest and arms of silver were the Medes and Persians, the belly and thighs of brass were the Greeks (*ruled by Alexander the Great*), and the iron and clay legs were the Romans. Here's the cool part. Remember that stone that came from the mountain and blew the statue to smithereens? That represents Jesus Christ who comes from God with the mission of tearing down and destroying all the kingdoms of the world established by satan and established by man.

Now let's examine the kingdom of God two ways; the physical aspect and the spiritual aspect. First of all we'll look at it in a literal and physical sense. **Revelation 16:10-21** tells of a final battle at the end of the world, known as Armageddon. This is a war in which all the nations of the world assemble themselves together to attack Israel, which is actually an attack on God himself. In that

moment, Jesus Christ will return with great power and glory and literally wipe every kingdom off of the globe. At that time Jesus, the stone that came from the mountain, will establish His kingdom on this very earth we are standing on and he will rule and reign forever. Be very sure that day is soon approaching. Be ready!

Keep in mind that what I have just described are only the highlights. There are many more details to the end time events but for this message I want to focus more on the spiritual aspect of the kingdom of God rather than the physical. Because even though the physical kingdom of God is still yet to come, his spiritual kingdom is already here. In **Matthew 4:17** Jesus said, **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”** He is saying, “I am the King of all creation and my kingdom is on your doorstep. Now, you have some decisions to make.” He is not talking about his worldly kingdom that will be established at the end of time. He is talking about his spiritual kingdom in which he came to “set the captives of sin free.” Every one of us has committed sins in our life. Sin is a willful disobedience to God’s law. And those sins that we committed made us slaves to the kingdom of darkness. Every day, week, month, year that you continue to live in your sin, the more of a hold satan gets on your life. You become a P.O.W. in satan’s kingdom.

But Jesus, the stone that came from the mountain, came to die on an old rugged cross so that the chains of your sins can be broken. Literally tearing down the kingdom of sin in your life and establishing his kingdom in its place.

Here’s what you desperately need to understand; **the kingdom of God doesn’t come to us when we die someday...it comes to us when we die to our self today.** Let me explain what I mean by “die to our self.” It all starts with what Jesus said we must do in order to prepare for the kingdom of God that is at hand... “Repent.” To repent is to A) recognize that you are in violation of God’s law and be sorry for it B) ask God to forgive you for your sins and then C) turn away from it. Repentance is the key that turns the ignition of your brand new life in the kingdom of God. It is the event in which you sell your kingdom out to Jesus Christ and His kingdom. Jesus was up front and honest with us when he explained that in order to be a part of his kingdom we must “deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him.” We can’t place our throne next to his and expect to have joint authority with Jesus over our own lives. It must be a FULL surrender to his kingdom. We can’t give up our kingdom a little at a time. It must be a FULL surrender to his kingdom. There are no hostile takeovers with God. He doesn’t force us

to serve Him. It must be a FULL surrender to his kingdom.

Finally, let me finish with these parables that Jesus used to illustrate what the kingdom of God is like and how we can be part of it. **Matthew 13:44-46**, **“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hid in a field; which when a man hath found, he hides, and for joy goes and sells all that he has and buys the field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant man seeking goodly pearls: who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”**

The point Jesus is trying to get across to us in these two stories is that as long as our treasures, goals, desires, dreams, opinions, lives are more valuable to us than Jesus Christ then we cannot be part of the kingdom of God and can be certain that our fate will be as the fate of all the kingdoms of the world that will one day be destroyed. On the other hand, if we recognize Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords and yield to him our whole lives, we find out that he is the greatest treasure of all and our kingdoms that we strived so hard to obtain really had no value at all.

Remember, the kingdom of God is at hand. This day you must make a choice: your kingdom or His? What’s it going to be your majesty?



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