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Living in the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ

Outline

- 1. Hidden in plain sight
- 2. The Kingdom of God on earth
- 3. Attributes of a kingdom government
- 4. Some advice that Jesus gave about living in His Kingdom



Acknowledgements:

Harold Eberle & Dr Myles Munroe

Bible References:

NASB 1995 unless otherwise stated

(A copy of this presentation will be available on the Church website)

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Hidden in plain sight

Genesis 5 Descendants of Adam NASB 1995 (abbreviated)

³ When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth. ⁴ Then the days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were eight hundred years, and he had other sons and daughters. ⁵ So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.

- ⁶ Seth lived one hundred and five years, and became the father of Enosh. ⁷ Then the days of Seth . .
- ⁹ Enosh lived ninety years, and became the father of Kenan. ¹⁰ Then the days of Enosh . .
- ¹² Kenan lived seventy years, and became the father of Mahalalel. ¹³ Then the days of Kenan . .
- ¹⁵ Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Jared. ¹⁶ Then the days of Enosh . .
- ¹⁸ Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹ Then the . .
- ²¹ Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. ²² Then the days of Enoch . .
- ²⁵ Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and became the father of Lamech. ²⁴ Then . .
- ²⁸ Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and became the father of a son. ²⁹ Now he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will give us rest from our work . . .

GENEALOGY FROM ADAM TO NOAH

Hebrew Name

English Meaning

Adam Seth Enosh Kenan Mahalalel Jared Enoch Methuselah Lamech Noah

Man Appointed Mortal Sorrow The Blessed God Shall come down Teaching His death shall bring Despairing Rest, or comfort

The Underlying message: *"Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow; (but) the Blessed God shall come down teaching (that) His death shall bring (the) despairing rest." (Chuck Missler)*

Ephesians 1:3-10

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He favored us in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our wrongdoings, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He set forth in Him, ¹⁰ regarding His plan of the fullness of the times, to bring all things together in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

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Two selections from Ephesians 1:3-10

The Father in love ⁵ predestined us to adoption as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

⁹ He made known to us . . ¹⁰ . . . His plan of the fullness of the times, to bring all things together in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

Why these examples?

There is much in the Scriptures that we don't see until it is revealed to us by God's spirit

| 2 Corinthians 3:16 | but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. |
|--------------------|--|
| Hebrews 11:3 | Bv faith we understand |

Satan seeks to keep us blinded from much of the truth. He wants to render Christians ineffective. Jesus said.

John 8:44 . . . there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Sometimes we only see part of the message!

Gradual steps of understanding for me

- 1. Jesus died for the sins of the world
- 2. Jesus died for me and is my personal saviour
- 3. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords
- 4. Jesus is both my Lord and my Saviour
- 5. Jesus established his kingdom here on earth and it has been growing on earth ever since
- 6. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit we all have a role to play in the growth of the Kingdom of God

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The establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth

- **1. Foretold in the Old Testament**
- 2. Established on earth by Jesus
- 3. Continuing to grow on earth until the end of the Age
- 4. A "Colony" of the Kingdom of God in Heaven

1. Foretold in the Old Testament

God's Kingdom foretold to David. 1 Chronicles 17:11-14

. . I will set up one of your descendants after you and I will establish his kingdom. ¹² He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever

The Kingdom will always be increasing. Isaiah 9:6-7 (NASB)

⁶ . . . And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government . . .

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The establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth

2. Established on earth by Jesus

2a. Jesus announces the arrival of the Kingdom

¹⁴... Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "**The time is fulfilled**, and the kingdom of God **is at hand**; repent and believe in the gospel." **Mark 1:14-15**

Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. Luke 8:1 (NIV)

... an hour is coming, **and now is**, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. **John 4:23**

2b. Jesus told His disciples to preach the kingdom

And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Matthew 10:7 (NASB)

And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing. Luke 9:2 (NASB)

2c Jesus tells Pilate in John 18:36-37

³⁶... "My kingdom **is not of this world**... My kingdom is not of this realm."

³⁷... "You say correctly that **I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world**...."

Says "not of this world" doesn't say "not in this world"

2d. Jesus declared his authority over all

Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, **"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations. . . "Matthew 28:18-19 (NASB)

2e. Peter declares Jesus as the Messiah

³³ Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God ...
... ³⁴ ... 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
³⁵ UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET."
³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."...

Lord and Christ = Lord and Messiah (and several thousand were saved)

2f. Paul teaches believers are in God's Kingdom

He rescued us from the domain of darkness, **and transferred us** to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **Colossians 1:13**

So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but **you are** fellow **citizen**s with the saints, and are of God's household **Ephesians 2:19**

... for the kingdom of God **is** not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **Romans 14:17**

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The establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth

3. Continuing to grow on earth until the end of the Age

Matthew 13:24-30 – Weeds amongst wheat

Jesus tells a parable about a Landowner who sows good seed in a field

- While sowers were sleeping the enemy sows weeds amongst the good seed and this becomes evident after the wheat has sprouted
- Landowner realises the enemy has sowed the weeds and tells his servants "An enemy has done this!"
- His servants ask, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?'

But he said, 'No; while you are gathering up the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and at the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the weeds and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn."

Matthew 13:36-43 Jesus Explained Weeds among Wheat

The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, and **the field is the world**;

The good seed are the **sons of the kingdom**;

The weeds are the sons of the evil one; the enemy is the devil

The harvest is the end of the age, the reapers are angels. At the end of the age the Son of Man will send forth His angels to gather **out of His kingdom** all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and throw them into the furnace of fire



both Kingdom of God and evil growing together on earth until the harvest

one called the other

The establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth

4. A "Colony" of the Kingdom of God in Heaven

The "Colony" perspective – *Dr Myles Munroe*

Dr Munroe grew up in the Bahamas when it was still a colony of Britain. When a country was colonised, it was ruled from afar.

The Queen of England was officially the head of state in the Bahamas even though she wasn't living there

Jesus has established God's Kingdom on earth and sits on his throne at the right hand of the Father in Heaven.

Just as the Queen had her representatives in the Bahamas so does Jesus have his representatives on earth.

Dr Munroe refers to the Bible as "The Constitution of the Kingdom of God" one collections of some

Attributes of a Kingdom

What is a kingdom?

Kingdom – a country or region that is ruled by a king or queen. (Collins English Dictionary) (King's Domain abbreviates to Kingdom)

A kingdom extends to the boundaries where the King's influence extends to. That is, where the King's subjects and citizens are carrying out His wishes and commands.

Non citizens of the kingdom may also enjoy the benefits and influences of the kingdom as the results of the kings commands permeate the society they live in.

The kingdom is everywhere the King's rule is manifest – in individuals, groups, and the physical environment

Who are Citizens?

Citizen – a person who has the legal right to belong to a particular country. **(Oxford Dictionary)**

- Unless a kingdom has citizens, the monarch has no one to rule
- Citizenship is considered the most valuable asset of a nation and is not readily granted because of its power and impact.
- In most cases you are a natural citizen if born in the nation.

Citizenship is not membership. Clubs and religions function on membership while nations and kingdoms function on citizenship – Dr Myles Munroe

Ancient Kingdom characteristics – Dr Myles Munroe

- 1. The king was king by birthright
 - wasn't voted in and couldn't be voted out.
- 2. The King's authority was absolute and his word was law.
- 3. The king personally owned everything in his domain and use of anything was a privilege granted by the king.
- 4. The king chose who would be his citizens.
- 5. A king's wealth was measured by his property
- 6. The King's prosperity was measured by the status of the citizens
 - their quality-of-life reflected the nature and character of the King.

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Some advice from Jesus for healthy Kingdom living

Within the Beatitudes in Matthew 5

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴⁵ "Blessed are **the gentle**, for they **shall inherit the earth**.

⁸ "Blessed are **the pure in heart**, for they **shall see God**.

⁹ "Blessed are **the peacemakers**, for they **shall be called sons of God**.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:9-10 (NIV)

Some other disciplines

When you pray . . . Matthew 6:5-7

When you fast . . . Matthew 6:5-7

When you give . . . Matthew 6:2-3 (Money) Luke 14:12-13 (Hospitality) ... He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's." *Matthew* 22:21

²⁴ No one can serve two masters . . . You cannot serve both God and money.

²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? *Matthew* 6:24-25 (NIV)

- ³². . your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
- ³³. . seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6: 32 and 33

When questioned by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming

²⁰. He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs that can be observed; ²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst." Luke 17:20-22

(Various translations – within you, amongst you, inside you, in the midst of you, surrounding you)

Not observable physically but in our midst!

¹⁹ "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Matthew 18:19-21

³⁴ But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING.

Matthew 5:34-35

¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth **shall have been bound** in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth **shall have been** loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:19

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me

John 10:27

⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

John 15:7-8

¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

John 15:10-11

³³ These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I **have overcome the world**." John 16:33

John 3:3-8 – Needing to be Born Again

³ . . Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he **cannot see** the kingdom of God."

⁵ . . unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he **cannot enter** the kingdom of God. . ⁶ . . . that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit. . .

....⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of the Spirit."

God's Kingdom can only be "seen" and entered by those born of the Spirit

²³... "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. Luke 9:23-24



. . if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **Romans 10:9**

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. **John 3:16**