

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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Opposing Kingdoms

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Many are speaking or writing about the Kingdom of God these days, including myself. However, I have encountered a number of speakers who use the word “kingdom” without having any understanding about what they are saying. At least it appears that way to me. Just as, over the years, the word “church” has been imbued with meaning that is alien or contrary to its scriptural definition, so, also the word “kingdom” is now being imbued with meaning that does not lead to understanding but only blurs or even hides the scriptural definition.

A kingdom is a type of government structure that is ruled or administrated by a king. In America we have trouble with this because we don't operate as a kingdom but, supposedly, as a democratic republic. The way we understand government makes it difficult for us to realize that there are many “kingdoms” operating in America and around the world. It is important that we come to understanding this concerning kingdoms because the government of God is structured as a Kingdom.

A “kingdom” has both physical and non-physical components. Some elements of a kingdom transcend both the invisible and the visible. The philosophy and methodology of a government is non-physical; but, it is manifested in a physical structure of offices and administration. Its operation is a system of interlocking parts that function together as a government. We interact with the structure but we are “ruled” by the invisible functions of the governmental system.

Requirements for a Kingdom

There are a number of requirements that are necessary to have a functioning kingdom or government.

1. There must be a king; that is, a ruler of the kingdom.
2. There must be a principality; that is, a realm of jurisdiction.
3. There must be authority; that is, the right to rule.
4. There must be power; that is, the ability or force to act.
5. There must be territory; that is, the place of dominion.

6. There must be subjects; that is, citizens of the kingdom.

All of these requirements are necessary and the operations within each requirement must function together like cogs so that the system operates smoothly. We see all aspects of this in the various forms of natural governments that are in the earth.

God established His Kingdom by first establishing His King and then placing the government upon Him.

Isaiah 9:6-7 NASB

(6) For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; 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 or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

That is why Jesus is called King of kings. His Kingship is over all other kings. He is called Lord of lords because He is Lord over all principalities, over all realms of jurisdiction. The Kingdom of God has been established as the government of God in the earth. Right now we experience it in its “mystical” form; that is, the invisible, non-physical aspects of the rulership of Jesus. Later we will experience it in its physical form as the 1000 year reign of Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God has been established in the earth. It is located in the hearts of men through the Holy Spirit and results in righteousness, peace and joy. As the Kingdom increases, it is extended outward from our hearts to our families, our community, our work, etc. We are to extend the dominion (territory) of the Kingdom to all areas of our life and pray for the physical coming of the Kingdom.

The Kingdom of Darkness

Our enemy has also established his kingdom in the heavenlies and operates from that position as he seeks to disrupt God's plans and purposes.

Ephesians 6:12 NASB

(12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

When Lucifer was removed from the heaven of heavens, that is, the throne room of God, he established his headquarters in the mid-heavens from which he directs the work of the fallen angels and demons. (Note: there are three heavens. Paul said he knew a man who was caught up to the third heaven—2 Cor. 12:2. The third heaven appears to be the throne room of God, called the heaven of heavens in the Old Testament. If the first heaven is what we see when we look up, then that leaves a heaven 2 or mid-heaven for the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.)

Due to popular books and movies, many seem to think that the devil is in hell or even ruling hell, but this is simply not true. That idea is only a traditional legend rooted in pagan beliefs. Actually, the devil is not in hell and never will be. His destiny is the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 20:10 NASB

(10) And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

This is the fire that has been especially prepared by God for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)

After establishing his kingdom of darkness in the heavenlies, Satan began to extend it into the earth. His goal is to cause the kingdom of the world to become fully identifiable and compatible with his kingdom of darkness.

Why is our enemy doing this? Because he knows that there is coming a time when he and his angels will be completely pushed out of heaven and into the earth. When this occurs, the devil will no longer have access to anything in the heavenlies.

Revelation 12:9 NASB

(9) And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

The kingdom of this world is being prepared in such a way that when the devil is thrown down into it, the systems and processes of the world will be fully compatible with the devil's plans and *modus operandi*. He is preparing his puppet king, the Antichrist, so that he can take full control of the world systems when this occurs.

We know that the enemy does not triumph in this even though it looks very bad for us before the end; however, we have the surety of God's word that the Kingdom of the world becomes the Kingdom of our Lord.

Revelation 11:15 NASB

(15) Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

This issue of Present Truth Teaching Letter is an excerpt from my e-book "[The Unshakable Kingdom](#)" which is available from [Amazon.com](#). If you don't own a Kindle, Amazon has free Kindle reading apps for your smart phone, tablet or pc.-----Art Nelson

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