

# God and His Kingdom

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 1

## God's Kingdom

- two key words: *mamlakah* (Heb) and *basileia* (Gk, Sept & NT)
- There's only one kingdom of God, referred to several ways in NIV New Testament
  - kingdom of heaven (32 times)
  - kingdom of God (66 times)
  - kingdom of Christ and of God (Eph 5:5)
  - kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ (Rev 1:15)
- Jesus presented the kingdom on earth
  - Jesus refers to God's kingdom about 80 times in the 4 gospels
  - Mt 3:2 (beginning of his ministry), "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."
  - "near" (Gk, *engizo*): to be in the near future
  - Mt 10:7-8, "As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."
  - Lk 17:20-21 (ESV), "Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, 'The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or "There!" for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.'"
  - "in the midst of" you (Gk, preposition, *entos*): inside; within; among
- Jesus' followers immediately enter the kingdom
  - Lk 16:16, "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it."
  - "is forcing his way" is present tense
  - Col 1:13-14, "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."
  - As believers, we're already *in* the kingdom
- The kingdom already exists on earth in individual believers – within or among us – but its fullest, physical expression will exist when Jesus returns to earth during the Day of the Lord
  - Presently among/within individual believers
  - Ro 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."
  - In the future it will exist as a kingdom on earth that rules the world
  - Rev 11:15, "The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.'"

## God is Supreme

- 1 Tim 6:14(b)-15, "... until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time – God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords."
- Rev 17:14(a), "They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings ...."
  - Who is the Lamb in this verse?
  - Two members of Trinity are King of kings & Lord of lords
  - How is that possible?
- God is eternal, had no beginning
- No one is like him in any realm that exists
- He has absolute power & authority
- The only power & authority any other beings have is what he gave them

## God's Universal Sovereignty

- His kingdom is universal
  - Ps 103:19, "The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all."
  - 1 Chron 29:11, "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours."
- He rules all the earth
  - Ps 22:28, "... for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations."
  - Ps 47:2, "For God is the King of all the earth."
  - 2 Ki 19:15, "O LORD, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth"
- He appoints the nations' rulers
  - Dan 5:21, "... the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone he wishes."
- Everyone & everything that exists is under his dominion, ultimately is accountable to him
- His kingdom is eternal
  - Ps 145:13, "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations."
- He is sovereign
  - Acts 4:24, "'Sovereign Lord,' they said, 'you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.'"
  - "Sovereign Lord" (Gk, n, *despotes*): a master-owner; a person who has general authority over others, especially denoting absolute ownership and unrestrained power
  - 1 Tim 6:14(b)-15, "... until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time – God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords."
  - "lord" (Gk, n, *kyrios*): lord, ruler, one who commands
  - Ps 115:3, "Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him."
  - Sovereign Lord is accountable to no one

### **God's Will**

- God's kingdom operates according to his will
  - Mt 6:10, "... your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
  - Heb 10:7, "I have come to do your will, O God."
- He either causes or allows everything that happens, according to his will
  - Ro 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."
  - "his purpose" (Gk, n, *prothesis*): (1) plan, purpose; (2) an intended outcome
  - He called us because doing so would produce the outcome he intends

### **God's Glory**

- God's kingdom operates for his glory
  - Ps 29:2(a), "Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name."
  - "glory" (Heb, n, *kabod*): a state of high honor, abundance
  - Ro 11:36, "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."
  - Rev 4:11, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."
  - Everything God does brings glory to him; impossible for it to do otherwise because his nature is ... glorious!

### **Conclusion**

- There is no one like God in any realm that exists:
  - sovereign – King of kings and Lord of lords, accountable to no one
  - almighty – absolute authority & control
  - eternal – no beginning & no end
  - omnipotent – able to do whatever he chooses without limitation or fault
  - omniscient – fully aware of every being, object & force that exists; it past, present & future
- He is absolutely unique, the only true God & worthy of all honor & glory & praise