

THE ETERNAL KINGDOM Text: Revelation 1:5–6

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God's Eternal Purpose for an Eternal Kingdom

Introduction:

1. **Genesis reveals how the world began... Revelation reveals how the world will end**
Between Genesis and Revelation we see God's eternal plan unfolding
 - a. History is not just a series of random events with no meaning—
History is moving toward an Apex event: The End, and a New Beginning
 - b. A New Heavens and a New Earth Where Righteousness Dwells
 2. **But here on this side of Eternity is A TALE OF TWO KINGDOMS...**
 - a. The Kingdom of men, of noise, of darkness **(Mt 4:8-9)**
 - b. But there's another Kingdom—the Kingdom of God, light, love **(Mt 4:17; Mk 1:14-15)**
 - c. Matthew: 'Kingdom of Heaven' / Mark and Luke: 'Kingdom of God'—same kingdom
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I. THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM

A. THE KINGDOM OF GOD WAS A MYSTERY FROM BEFORE TIME BEGAN

1. The Prophets preached about it
2. The Magi Searched for it
3. The children of God longed for it
4. Even Angels desired to look into it

B. BUT IT WAS A MYSTERY FROM BEFORE TIME BEGAN...

1. Finally revealed through Jesus Christ...
2. God would create an eternal family in Christ through the gospel (Eph 3:3-6)
3. An eternal Kingdom, a Church of called out people (3:9-10)

C. THIS MYSTERY WAS THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD!... (3:11)

1. To save us from our sins,
 2. To adopt us into His Royal Family
 3. To give us an inheritance as children of God
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II. THE NATURE OF THE KINGDOM

A. A KINGDOM NOT OF THIS WORLD

1. Pilate Knew Jesus was innocent... He knew the Chief priests and rulers
were jealous of Jesus and wanted Jesus killed
2. Pilate asked Jesus, who are you? are you a king?
3. Jesus said, I am a king but my kingdom is not of this world
If my kingdom were of this world my servants would fight
but My Kingdom is not of this world

B. A SPIRITUAL KINGDOM (NOT A PHYSICAL KINGDOM)

- 1. The Disciples liked to argue over who would be greatest in the Kingdom**
 - a) James and John's mother asked Jesus if her two sons could sit at the right and left hand in His kingdom
 - b) They Were Thinking in Earthly Terms like the Kingdoms of men
- 2. Jesus was asked about the kingdom (Luke 17:20–21)**
 - a) Jesus said “the kingdom of heaven is within you...”
 - b) This is a Spiritual Kingdom (Rom 14:17)
- 3. Only the Thief on the cross Truly Realized this! (Luke 23:42–43)**
 - a) Even the Disciples Didn't Get it—Not until Pentecost

C. 'THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE...'

Jesus' Parables were describing what the Kingdom of God is like...

- 1. The Kingdom of God Like leaven placed in a lump of dough:**

It is **a quiet revolution** that eventually transforms everything!
- 2. The Kingdom is like mustard seed:** The smallest of seeds that grows into a large healthy plant with medicinal benefits
- 3. The Kingdom is Like a sower sowing seed that falls on different soils:**

People respond differently because of the quality of their heart, not because of any deficiency in the seed
- 4. It's Like a dragnet:** That gathers all types and kinds of people, good and bad
- 5. A Kingdom that Rich People have a hard time entering**

Because the Rich refuse to be poor in spirit (Mt 5:3)
- 6. A Kingdom that Powerful People have a hard time entering,**

–the Powerful refuse to be persecuted for righteousness sake (5:10)
- 7. The Kingdom is like Little Children:**

who are Humble, Innocent, Trusting, Forgiving and Joyful
- 8. The Kingdom is like a hidden treasure:** worth more than you could ever have
- 9. Like a pearl of great price:** of such value it's worth giving up everything for
- 10. Like a Vineyard Owner** Who planted good seed, but an enemy sowed thorns
- 11. Like a King Who Gave a Wedding Feast for His Son and invited guests,**

but they were too busy, so he then invited everyone and anyone and provided a wedding garment for each, but some refused
- 12. A Kingdom in which a nobleman leaves for a far country** and entrusts his goods to his servants: 1 w/ 5 talents, 1 w/ 2 talents, other w/1 talent
A Kingdom of Dedicated Servants or Distracted Servants, or Deserted ones
- 13. A Kingdom of Light... not of darkness**
- 14. A Kingdom of Love... not of Hate**
- 15. A Kingdom that is NOT of this world, but of God and eternity**

III. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KINGDOM

A. THE PROPHECIES OF THE KINGDOM... [CHART]

Triangulate the What, When, Why and How of the Kingdom of God

1. God's Eternal Purpose was for an Eternal Kingdom...
2. It Would Begin IN THE DAYS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE (Dan 2:44)
3. It would Be Universal in it's Invitation (Isa 2:2-3)
4. To Include people of All Nations, All People, all Languages
5. Beginning At Jerusalem! (Isa 2:3)

B. THE ESTABLISHED OF THE KINGDOM

1. The Kingdom of God is spoken of as Future-Tense in the OT
 - a) and Even through the Gospel accounts...
 - b) John the Baptist: Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand
 2. The Kingdom of God is Present-Tense from Pentecost forward...
 - a) Notice what Jesus says: (Mark 9:1) *"Some of you will not taste death until you see the kingdom come with power"*
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IV. THE BLESSINGS OF THE KINGDOM

A. BLESSINGS IN THE PRESENT....

1. God's Grace (Col 1:13-14; Revelation 1:5-6 ESV)
2. God's Care (Matthew 6:33-34)
3. God's Family (1 Timothy 3:15)
4. God's Spirit (Romans 14:17)

B. BLESSINGS IN THE FUTURE

1. God's Eternal Kingdom (2 Peter 1:11)
 2. God's Eternal City (Hebrews 11:16)
 3. God's Eternal Presence (Revelation 22:3-5)
 4. God's Eternal Care (Revelation 21:4; 22:1-3)
 5. God's Eternal Victory: We Know Who Wins
 6. All the Redeemed of All Time Gathered around the Throne of God
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V. THE ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM

A. REPENT FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND...

1. This command was heard over and over 1st by John the Baptist and then by Jesus...
2. But To Stop and Turn is a Start—But it is Not Enough by itself...
3. Not Only Must We Repent... We Must Also Be Born Again...

B. YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN...

1. Nicodemus was a Teacher of the Law and a Pharisee

- a) He came to Jesus by night, and said, Teacher, we know you are from God
- b) for no one can do these things unless he was sent by God

2. Unless one is born again he cannot enter (Jn 3:3)

3. Born of the water and the spirit (Jn 3:5-7)

4. Two places we see the water and Spirit...

- a) Jesus Baptism
- b) Acts 2:38 Water and Spirit

5. CONVERTED AS LITTLE CHILDREN (Mt 18:3)

C. THIS IS BY COMMAND OF THE KING (Mt 28:18-20)

1. Jesus is Our King! Raised from the Dead...

2. Death No Longer Has Dominion Over Him

3. Jesus Will Deliver the Kingdom to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24–26)

4. The Last Enemy that Will Be Destroyed is Death

As Napoleon said: “Across the chasm of eighteen hundred years Jesus Christ makes a demand which is beyond all others difficult to satisfy. He asks for that which a philosophy may often seek in vain at the hands of his friends, or a father of his children, or a bride of her spouse, or a man of his brother. He asks for the human heart; He will have it entirely to Himself; He demands it unconditionally, and His demand is granted. Its powers and faculties become an annexation to the empire of Christ. All who sincerely believe in Him experience that supernatural love towards Him. This phenomenon is unaccountable, it is altogether beyond the scope of man’s creative powers. Time, the great destroyer, can neither exhaust its strength nor put a limit to its range.”

“Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him” (Napoleon Bonaparte)

CONCLUSION:

1. God Tells us How the World began, > How the world will end and everything important in between

2. We know who wins! (Revelation 1:5–6)

**The Kingdom of God is like a pearl of great price or a hidden treasure
—Worth everything you have to obtain it!**

But Isn’t it fascinating that Jesus sees the Treasure in Us!!!

—and gave up everything to pay our debt in full!

—He was rich, but became poor so you could become rich! (2 Cor 8:9)

He Purchased the Church with His Own Blood (Acts 20:29)

—For you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold...

But by the precious blood of Christ

How fascinating that Jesus sees the Treasure in Us!!!

—shouldn’t we then see the treasure of the salvation that cost Jesus so much?!!!