



## SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

### The Kingdom of God, Pt. 2: A Change of Kingdoms

Pastor John Riggs

#### Summary:

In this profound exploration of God's kingdom, we discover a vital truth that transforms how we understand our identity and purpose: there are only two kingdoms in existence—the kingdom of this world and the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus. Every person alive belongs to one or the other, with no middle ground. The teaching walks us through the essential components of any kingdom: a king who reigns, territory over which he rules, citizens who live under his authority, and a system of government. We learn that while we were all born naturally into the fallen kingdom of this world through Adam, entrance into God's kingdom requires something supernatural—we must be born again. This isn't about religious activity, church attendance, or family heritage; it's about spiritual regeneration through faith in Jesus Christ. The message draws us back to Genesis, showing how Adam was originally given dominion over all creation, but through sin, that authority was transferred to Satan, making him the prince of this world. Yet the hope of redemption was promised immediately in Genesis 3:15, where God declared that the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head. This prophecy finds its fulfillment in Christ, who came to reclaim what was lost and establish an everlasting kingdom. For those of us who have been born again, we now live as citizens of heaven while still physically present in this world, called to shine the light of Christ and share the gospel with those still trapped in darkness.

#### Video Breakdown:

- Chapter 1: The Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of God Are One      0:00 - 18:10
  - We learn that the kingdom of heaven and kingdom of God are the same thing, used interchangeably throughout Scripture, and discover the four essential components of any kingdom.
- Chapter 2: Two Kingdoms and the Necessity of Being Born Again      18:10 - 38:50
  - We discover there are only two kingdoms in the world, and every person is a citizen of one or the other based on whether they have been born again.
- Chapter 3: Adam's Dominion and Satan's Authority Over the World      38:50 - 59:20
  - We trace how God gave Adam dominion over all creation, but through the fall, Satan gained authority over the kingdoms of this world.



## Scripture References from the Sermon

### Explicitly Referenced and Read:

1. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - Regarding the unrighteous and righteous conduct
2. Matthew 13:31-33 - Parable of the mustard seed (kingdom of heaven)
3. Mark 4:30-32 - Same parable using "kingdom of God"
4. Luke 13:18-21 - Luke's account of the mustard seed parable
5. Matthew 19:23-24 - Rich person entering the kingdom of heaven/God
6. John 3:3-7 - Jesus and Nicodemus on being born again
7. Philippians 3:17-20 - Citizenship in heaven
8. John 1:9-13 - The true light coming into the world
9. Ephesians 2:1-3 - Dead in trespasses and sins
10. 1 John 5:18-20 - Born of God, the whole world lies in the evil one
11. Genesis 1:26-28 - Creation of man, dominion over creation
12. Genesis 3:15 - First prophecy of Christ crushing Satan's head
13. Ephesians 1:3-10 - Chosen before the foundation of the world
14. Luke 4:4-8 - Temptation of Jesus, Satan offering kingdoms

### Additional References Mentioned:

15. Matthew Chapter 13 (general reference to parables)
16. Mark Chapter 4 (general reference)
17. Revelation Chapter 22 - Mentioned regarding final restoration
18. John Chapter 1 (beginning verses) - "In the beginning was the Word"

### Alluded to or Thematically Referenced:

19. Colossians 1:13 - Rescued from kingdom of darkness, transferred to kingdom of Son
20. James 2:14-26 - Faith without works is dead
21. Daniel (book mentioned regarding empires and prophecy)
22. Revelation (various chapters regarding end times kingdoms and beasts)
23. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - All things become new (born again)
24. Romans 3:23 - All have sinned and fall short
25. Hebrews 4:12 - Word of God is living and active

Relevant Verses for Main Themes Discussed:

Kingdom of God Theme:

- Romans 14:17 - Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy
- Matthew 6:33 - Seek first the kingdom of God
- Luke 17:20-21 - Kingdom of God is within you

Two Kingdoms Theme:

- John 8:44 - Devil as father of lies
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 - God of this world has blinded minds
- 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world

Born Again Theme:

- Titus 3:5 - Washing of regeneration
- 1 Peter 1:23 - Born again through the living word

End Times/Last Days Theme:

- 2 Timothy 3:1-5 - Perilous times in last days
- Matthew 24 - Signs of the end times
- Daniel 7 - Vision of four beasts/kingdoms
- Revelation 13 - The beast and his kingdom

Gospel/Salvation Theme:

- Romans 10:9-10 - Confess and believe
- Acts 4:12 - No other name for salvation
- Ephesians 2:8-9 - Saved by grace through faith

**NOTES:**

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**Key Points:**

- The Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of God are the same, used interchangeably in Scripture
- A kingdom has four essential components: a king who rules, territory, citizens, and a system of government
- There are only two kingdoms in the world: the kingdoms of this world (under Satan's power) and the Kingdom of God in Christ Jesus
- Every person is born into the kingdom of this world through natural birth; entrance into God's Kingdom requires being born again spiritually
- Being born again is a work of the Holy Spirit, not achieved through religion, family heritage, church attendance, or good works
- Satan gained authority over the world when Adam sinned and transferred his God-given dominion through disobedience
- Christians are no longer under Satan's authority; they are marked by the light of Christ and indwelt by the Holy Spirit
- We are currently living in the seventh and final world empire before Christ establishes His eternal kingdom
- The progression of world empires dealing with God's people: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the final end-times system
- Christians must be equipped with Scripture to avoid deception in these last days
- Believers have a primary purpose: to share the gospel and tell others how to be reconciled to God

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**Discussion Questions:**

How does understanding that there are only two kingdoms—the kingdom of this world and the kingdom of God—change the way you view your daily interactions with unbelievers?

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The sermon emphasizes that being born in a religious culture or having Christian family heritage doesn't save you. How do you guard against relying on external religious identity rather than genuine spiritual rebirth?

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According to Genesis 1:26-28, Adam was given dominion over all creation, which Satan later claimed was delivered to him. How does this transfer of authority help you understand the spiritual battle happening in our world today?

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The pastor warns that deception will be incredible in these last days and that most Christians are exhausted mentally and physically. What practical steps can you take to keep your mind set on heavenly things despite the bombardment of information and pressures?

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How does recognizing that you walk around with the light of Christ visible to the spiritual realm impact your understanding of spiritual warfare and your daily conduct?

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The sermon states that we are living in the seventh and final kingdom before Christ returns. How should this reality affect your priorities, your sense of urgency in sharing the gospel, and your hope for the future?

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Paul describes unbelievers as dead in their sins, following the prince of the power of the air, and being children of wrath by nature. How does remembering your own former state cultivate both humility and compassion when engaging with those who don't know Christ?

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Jesus refused Satan's offer of all the kingdoms in exchange for worship, choosing instead the path of obedience to the Father. What are some subtle ways that Satan offers us shortcuts or compromises that would bypass obedience to God?

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The sermon explains that Matthew uses kingdom of heaven while other gospels use kingdom of God interchangeably. Why is it important to study Scripture carefully rather than accepting interpretations that create false distinctions?

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Considering that Scripture promises believers will rule with Christ in His everlasting kingdom, how does this future hope shape your perspective on current suffering, persecution, or the challenges facing the church today?

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## Small Group Guide: Understanding the Kingdom of God

### Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

**Icebreaker Question:** When you hear the phrase "the kingdom of God," what's the first image or thought that comes to your mind?

### Key Themes from the Sermon

#### 1. We Are Living in the Last Days

- The church has been in the "last days" since Christ's ascension
- We are in the latter part of the last days
- Deception will be incredible in these times

#### 2. Two Kingdoms Only

- The kingdoms of this world (under Satan's power)
- The kingdom of God in Christ Jesus
- Every person belongs to one or the other—there's no middle ground

#### 3. You Must Be Born Again

- Being born again is the **ONLY** way to enter God's kingdom
- It's not about religion, family heritage, or geography
- It's a work of the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ

### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding the Kingdom (15-20 minutes)

- 1. What are the four essential components of a kingdom mentioned in the sermon?**  
(King, territory, citizens, government system)
  - How do these apply to God's kingdom?
  - How do these apply to the kingdom of this world?
- 2. Read John 3:3-7 together.** What does it mean to be "born again"? Why is this the only way to enter God's kingdom?

3. **The sermon stated that "the kingdom of heaven" and "the kingdom of God" are the same thing.** Were you taught differently? How does understanding they're the same help clarify Scripture?

#### **Living in Two Kingdoms (15-20 minutes)**

4. **Read Ephesians 2:1-3 and 1 John 5:18-20.**
- What was our condition before being born again?
  - How should remembering our former state affect our attitude toward unbelievers?
5. **The pastor said, "You shouldn't be shocked by the depravity of people who don't know Jesus."** How does this perspective change the way we view:
- Current events and cultural trends?
  - Our unsaved friends, family, and coworkers?
6. **How did Satan gain authority over the kingdoms of this world?** (Genesis 3—Adam's disobedience transferred authority)
- What does this help us understand about the current state of the world?

#### **Practical Application (20-25 minutes)**

7. **The sermon emphasized that Christians are exhausted—mentally, physically, and spiritually.**
- Do you relate to this? In what ways?
  - How might this exhaustion be strategic spiritual warfare?
  - What practical steps can we take to combat this fatigue?
8. **Read Philippians 3:17-20.** What does it mean that "our citizenship is in heaven"?
- How should this truth affect our daily priorities?
  - What are some earthly things our minds tend to focus on instead?
9. **The pastor said we walk around with "the light of Christ" that spiritual forces can see.**
- How does this encourage you?
  - How does this challenge you in your daily witness?

10. **We are called to share the gospel with those still in the kingdom of darkness.**

- Who in your life needs to hear about salvation in Christ?
- What holds you back from sharing your testimony?
- How can this group pray for and support you in evangelism?

**Key Takeaways**

- ✓ **There are only two kingdoms:** God's kingdom and the kingdom of this world
- ✓ **You must be born again** to enter God's kingdom—religion, heritage, and good works cannot save you
- ✓ **We live in the last days** and deception is increasing—we must stay rooted in God's Word
- ✓ **Satan has authority** over the kingdoms of this world (given through Adam's fall), but Christians are no longer under his power
- ✓ **Our citizenship is in heaven**—we should live with minds set on heavenly things, not earthly things
- ✓ **We have a mission**—to share the gospel and bring others from darkness into God's kingdom

**This Week's Challenge**

**Choose ONE action step:**

1. **Study the Scriptures mentioned this week.** Write down what you learn about the kingdom of God.
2. **Share your testimony** with at least one person this week—tell them how you were born again.
3. **Evaluate your mind's focus.** What percentage of your thoughts are on earthly things vs. eternal things? Make one practical change to shift your focus heavenward.
4. **Pray daily** for someone you know who is still in the kingdom of darkness, and ask God for an opportunity to share the gospel with them.
5. **Fast from news/social media** for one day this week and spend that time in Scripture instead—observe how it affects your peace and perspective.

## Closing Reflection

**Read together:** "And you were dead in your sins and your trespasses... But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 2:1; Philippians 3:20)

**Closing Question:** How does understanding that you've been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into God's kingdom change the way you'll live this week?

## Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer

- Share personal prayer requests
- Pray specifically for:
  - Those in the group who need assurance of salvation
  - Unsaved friends and family members by name
  - Boldness to share the gospel this week
  - Protection from deception in these last days
  - Hearts and minds focused on eternal things

## For Next Week

- **Read:** Daniel 2 and Revelation 13 (in preparation for learning about the seven empires/beasts)
- **Memorize:** John 3:3 - "Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"
- **Bring:** Questions about end times, kingdoms, and prophecy

*"Don't miss next week—we're going to understand the seven empires and where we are in prophetic history. Bring your Bibles and invite someone!"*

## Sermon Transcript:

So let's look at 1 Corinthians chapter 6, 9 through 11.

And in this we've learned that the Apostle Paul has been teaching these believers in Corinth who were not living, many of them,

Like they should have been living for those who have been born again.

Those that have been brought into the kingdom of God.

Been rescued from the kingdom of darkness.

Brought into the kingdom of the glorious Son.

Their conduct was not in line with what they had said had happened to them.

In other words, that they were born again, all things become new, all of those things.

And a lot of it might be due to the fact they didn't have a great understanding of what Paul was getting at.

So Paul is going to teach them about what this means.

What does it mean to be unrighteous?

What does it mean to be righteous?

And then he's going to go ahead and give them a listing now of the activity or the conduct of unrighteous people.

Because we have a tendency to measure ourselves not by the standard of God in righteousness, but we measure ourselves by people around us, by our culture.

And that's not the right measuring rod to measure yourself against.

When it comes to righteousness, we need to measure ourselves by the righteous one, that is God.

And if everyone measures themselves by the righteousness of God, we obviously find out that we all fall short of that righteousness.

And so Paul is going to help them understand some more conduct that is in line with the unrighteous.

Because some in Corinth obviously were... ..this matter.

Well, number one, it matters greatly for their testimony.

Because the church is the light...

is the kingdom of God.

What is it?

And so, for the next few weeks, we're going to be able to do that.

We're going to learn together, guys.

Bring your Bibles here.

If you're new here, what you're going to understand is we are a Bible church.

Yes, we do ministry to a culture of people, but we do lots of other types of ministry as well.

But we are here to promote Jesus Christ, and we are here gathering now to study and learn together what God's Word teaches us on how we are to conduct ourselves as Christians in the world that we're living in in the present time.

And so bring your Bibles.

Why?

Because you're not going to get three points and a punt from me.

That's not how we do it here.

We're going to go through verse after verse after scripture after scripture after scripture.

Why?

Because you don't need to hear my opinion or a cute story or a fun philosophical moment or some psychological help message.

What you got to know is the word of God.

That's what we'll do here every week.

So bring your Bibles, write these down, study them during the week.

Why?

So that you know what you believe and why you believe it to be true.

As I've told you before, don't take what any preacher says as the gospel.

You do your work and go to the word.

And you take what's been shared and you go to the word.

And for yourself, do the work to know what you believe as being true.

Do the work.

Don't just be one who's content to be told what to believe.

That's how we've got into the mess we're in right now.

We are in a society that cares nothing about knowing.

They just want to be told what to do.

And that's what sheeple do.

We are not sheeple.

We are those who are diligently learning what God's word says, so we're not deceived in these last days.

And let me tell you something, deception is going to be incredible in these last days, and it already is.

All right, so let's get moving through this together.

Now, some of you may have been taught that the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God are different things.

You can find it, by the way, on the all-time true source called the World Wide Web.

You can find it there, absolutely.

But that's not the case.

In fact, I want to give you an example of this.

The only person really who exclusively uses the kingdom of heaven in scripture is actually Matthew in his gospel.

Matthew over 30 times makes reference to the kingdom of heaven.

whereas the other Gospels refer to it as the kingdom of God.

And I'm going to show you this just briefly with a few passages of Scripture so you can write these down.

So when someone says, no, they mean different things, well, hold on, let's see what the Bible has to say about that.

And so remember, the kingdom of heaven is used almost exclusively by Matthew, who wrote the gospel of Matthew.

Just remember that, okay?

Now, in Matthew chapter 13, go there with me in your Bibles.

You go left from 1 Corinthians, and we're going to find Matthew chapter 13.

I'm going to give you just a couple quick examples of this why.

Because you don't need to take what someone says to believe it.

Go to the word of God and see what God says about it.

That's what we want to do.

The other thing is we don't like to cherry pick verses from Scripture because you can make Scripture say a lot of things if you just pull it out of its context and you can make it twist and mean something entirely different than what God intended for it to mean as he wrote these incredible letters to us through these men who were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

So Matthew chapter 13, 31 through 33.

If you look at me together, we'll read these.

I want to show you this.

Looking at a parable here, Jesus is sharing some parables with his apostles and he put another parable before them saying, here's Matthew, the kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed.

Now notice it's like, he's given a parable here about the kingdom of heaven.

that a man took and sowed in his field.

The smallest of all seeds that you can sow would be a mustard seed.

It's one of the smallest there is.

It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown, it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree.

so that the birds of the air come to make nests in its branches.

He told them another parable.

The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour till it was all leavened.

In other words, we see the kingdom of God starting out in beginning small, but growing.  
And that's the parable here.

But now let's look at the same parable mentioned that we just read in Mark's gospel.

So turn over right in your Bible to Mark.

Go to Mark chapter 4.

Now today you're going to really need to put your thinking caps on.

I know it's Sunday and you think it's the weekend and your mind is tired and you really don't want to have to think.

But we need to really put our thinking caps on today as we begin to go through this because we're going to build a foundation in understanding to what Scripture teaches about the kingdom of God.

Why does this matter?

Because Christian, we are going to inherit the kingdom.

It matters greatly for you, not only in the present time, but in the future.

And so I have a tendency to overteach for fear of underteaching.

So that's why we do so much in Scripture reading here.

I don't want to leave things out, which we will, unfortunately, but I want for you to have a clear understanding of what Scripture says here.

Back to Mark chapter 4, we're looking at the same parable here.

In verses 30 through 32, now Mark is giving his account here, and he said, speaking of Christ, with what can we compare the kingdom of God?

Notice he uses the kingdom of God in this parable, which is the same parable that Matthew refers to the kingdom of heaven.

I want you to see this so you understand here what's going on.

Or what parable shall we use for it?

Notice he uses this parable.

It is like a grain of mustard seed.

It's the same parable, which we sow on the ground.

It is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it's sown, it grows up and becomes much larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches so the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.

What is Mark doing?

He's sharing the same parable that Jesus told his apostles, but he uses the word kingdom of God in the same parable.

that Matthew uses the kingdom of heaven.

Now, we're going to look one more, two more.

Let's just go through this.

Luke chapter 13, you're going to see this again.

I want you to see this for yourself.

In Luke's gospel, we're reading the same parable account as he's now not an apostle, but he is one that was chosen to write these things down as he's now heard this information from them.

He's writing this down as a doctor and a great writer, but he's now writing this down.

Here's Luke's account of what he has received from the apostles.

Notice what he writes down there in verses 18 through 21 of chapter 13.

He said, therefore, what is the kingdom of God?

like this now he's using kingdom of god versus matthew and what shall i compare it he says it is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed i'm not going to read the whole thing for you but that's another illustration of what you see and he's talking about the kingdom of god and matthew's kingdom of heaven now turn back to matthew chapter 19 and you're going to see where matthew actually uses both terms nearly in the same sentence just so you can see this

Matthew chapter 19, verses 23 through 24.

I'm doing this just to let you know, when you hear someone talk about the kingdom of heaven, or you see someone talking about the kingdom of God, what you're hearing is you're learning this is the same thing.

And people want to divide these out and give special meaning to the kingdom of heaven and special meaning to the kingdom of God, but they're used interchangeably here in Scripture.

In Matthew chapter 19, verse 23 through 24, notice this.

Matthew's writing here, "...and Jesus said to his disciples, Truly I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.

Again, I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

So you see they're used interchangeably here.

And I wanted to bring that out just for your information as you are learning or you're searching things out and you hear these terms or you're reading scripture to understand what we're learning about here is the kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven.

This is the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

This is what we're looking at.

So, what is a kingdom, by the way?

Are you ready?

I'm going to give you four essential components of a kingdom.

Let me write them out for you.

Let me say them.

You can write them down if you have time.

Here they go.

Number one, a kingdom has four essential components.

Number one, a kingdom has a king.

Number one, who reigns and rules.

Number

That's what is one of the essential components of a kingdom.

A kingdom has a king who rules and who reigns.

Number one.

Number two.

I'm trying not to go too fast, but I know some of you are writing these down.

Number two, a kingdom has territory or land over which the king rules.

So the kingdom is land, it's territory, over which a king puts to rule and dominion over the land and over the territory over which his kingdom sets.

Number two.

Number three.

A kingdom has citizens.

A kingdom has citizens who are part of the kingdom who are ruled over by the king.

Number four.

A kingdom has a system of government to implement and enforce the will of the king over the people who live in the kingdom.

Those are the four primary components of a kingdom.

Just so we know, we say, why am I sharing that?

Because it has great application for what we're learning and what we are living in right now currently.

You're living in a kingdom right now.

And so, let's look at this.

There are only two kingdoms in the world, guys.

There's only two kingdoms.

I know that there's kingdoms in other countries, but no, there's only two kingdoms overall when it comes to this world.

Only two.

Number one, it is the kingdoms of this world.

The kingdom of this world, which is full of kingdoms, but it's the kingdoms of the world, number one.

Number two, the only other kingdom that there is, it is the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

There's two kingdoms.

Two kingdoms, that's all there is.

Now, every person alive on earth today, every person that is alive on earth today or who has ever lived has been part of one of these two kingdoms, period.

Every person alive today is either a citizen of the kingdom of this world or is a citizen of the kingdom of God.

There's no in-between, no half-in, no half-out.

You're either a part of the kingdom of this world or you're a part of the kingdom of God.

There's no in-between.

Now that you know that and you understand that, this is going to have great bearing for you as we move through here.

We are seeing these two kingdoms right now presently being manifested in this physical realm that we live in.

This is going on and has been for eons of time, for a long time, for millennia.

Here we go.

Both kingdoms require to be a citizen, you must be born in order to have citizenship.

You have to be born to enter these kingdoms, period.

So everyone who has ever been born from the time of Adam, who is the father of the human race, that would be you, me, and every person that's ever been born or ever will be born, we are born into, by birth, as citizens, the kingdom of this world.

But we are born into a fallen kingdom, corrupted kingdom, because sin entered through Adam.

We are living in a world that is fallen, that is corrupted, and that is cursed from the fall and because of sin.

Every one of us is born with a nature from Adam, a sinful nature, and we are born into the kingdom of this world.

Every one of us have been born into the kingdom of this world.

Now, the kingdom of God in Christ requires a birth experience to enter the kingdom and be a citizen.

Did you know that?

You must be born again to enter into the kingdom of God.

Let me show you what that means here.

In John chapter 3, if you would go with me there.

John chapter 3, 3 through 7.

I want you to see this.

In order to be a citizen of the kingdom of God, you must be born again.

If you have not been born again, you're still a kingdom only of this world.

In John chapter 3, we're going to look at verses 3 through 7.

We discussed it shortly this last week, looking at a few of these things here.

We looked at this concept of being born again.

Jesus answered, now he's talking to Nicodemus here, who was actually one of the rulers, religious leaders and rulers over the nation of Israel.

And no doubt Jesus Christ was doing miraculous things.

His teachings were extraordinary.

And he was causing some major issues with the people of Israel because of the miracles and the signs and the wonders and the fact that he is very messianic.

He is very Messiah-ish, if you will, or a prophet.

They wanted to know really who he was.

Well, here's the thing.

Israel...

because of what the Old Testament teaches about their land and the promise and the covenants, they were expecting for a king to come, not a man of God, if you will, born of God, born of man, but simply just a man who would be raised up, who would bring deliverance to the nation of Israel and set up the kingdom and his throne and rule.

That's what Israel was waiting on, and that's what Israel is still waiting on today.

So when Jesus came to His people, they received Him not.

Why?

Because in their minds, He didn't fit what they believed the Messiah should look like.

Because His kingdom came in a different way than what they expected the kingdom of God to come like.

In fact, they hated Him desperately because He claimed to be God.

So this is what we find with Israel.

They're still waiting for their king to come, by the way.

And they're going to be led astray.

Why?

Because the Antichrist, he is coming.

And he will rise to position of authority and rule in this world.

And he will, for a season, bring great peace to the nation of Israel.

That's why when you're seeing all this stuff going on, your ears need to be perked up.

You need to be paying attention to what is going on.

Because of the significance of these events that are taking place over there in the Middle East, really primarily in the nation of Israel and then in the city of Jerusalem.

All of these things matter very, very, very much for us as Christians today because of what we know about the kingdom of God.

So the Jews rejected Christ, most of them.

He wasn't the Messiah they thought that he would be.

He didn't establish his kingdom and rule with a rod of iron like the Old Testament says he's going to do.

But he is coming again to do that, by the way.

So they're going to be led astray by this man who will come, this ruler that we're going to learn about here.

And they're going to think he is the Messiah.

They're going to believe that.

But then they're going to also find out shortly after that that he is not the Messiah.

But we'll get to that here in just a short order.

So Jesus answers Nicodemus, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus said to him, how can a man be born when he's old?

Nicodemus was an old man.

He goes, how in the world am I supposed to be born again?

How does this going to happen for me if I'm going to see the kingdom of God?

Jesus says this as he asked him, can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?

Nicodemus goes, this is impossible.

I was born once.

How could I be born again?

Listen to Jesus' reply.

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and of the Spirit, capital S, who's he referring to?

The Holy Spirit.

Unless one is born of the water and of the Holy Spirit, he says, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

That which is born of flesh is flesh.

We've all been born of flesh.

But if you haven't been born of the Spirit, you haven't been born again, you have not entered the kingdom of God.

That's what is being taught here.

And so he says, do not marvel that I said this to you, Nicodemus.

Listen, you must be born again.

This is the regeneration part of our salvation.

This is what it means to be saved.

You must be born again.

Now there's a lot of people that profess belief in something.

They believe in God or they believe in whatever.

But that doesn't make you born again.

this is a work of the Holy Spirit of God that the Holy Spirit of God does in us as we by faith trust and believe in the death in the burial and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ that died for my sin for your sin and was raised again on the third day this is the beauty of the gospel that we believe in and that word believe simply means to really take hold of something

It's not a work, by the way.

Some people say, well, faith, if you have to do anything, is a work.

No, it's not.

It's not at all.

Faith is something we have that is given to us by God.

We believe we have faith and that moves us to do something

It moves us to do something.

What do we do?

We repent of the old man, the old sinful man that brought nothing but death and judgment.

And we grab hold of Jesus Christ who is the one who has redeemed us by His blood.

It's not a work to grab a hold of a life preserver thrown to you in the middle of the ocean.

Because you exhibit faith and grab onto that.

That's not a work.

That is a result of genuine believing faith.

Faith has action.

That's what James teaches.

Faith without any kind of action is dead faith.

And he says, can that faith save a man?

No, he says it cannot.

It cannot.

And so you must be born again to enter the kingdom of God.

If you're here today and you know Jesus Christ and you've been born again of the Spirit all by faith and trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation, then you, dear Christian, have been born again.

And you've been born again and you have entered into the kingdom of this great God that we've come to know.

And he has rescued you from this kingdom of darkness, this kingdom of the world.

That's why we preach the gospel.

That's why we share the gospel.

Because you and I meet people by the droves every day who are still only citizens of the kingdom of this world.

There's only one way they can enter the kingdom of God.  
And it's not through church attendance or believing a religious system or whatever.  
No, it is by being born again.  
That is what it is.  
Philippians 3, 17 through 20.  
We've got a lot of scriptures today, so please roll with me here.  
We're going to go as quick as we can just looking at the clock here.  
I hope you're as excited about this as I am.  
I do get very excited about God's Word because it's incredible.  
It's the truth.  
And so, man, it is everything we need for life, everything.  
It is God's Word given to us.  
It's living.  
It's active.  
It's truth.  
It's never-ending.  
It's incredible.  
Okay, Philippians chapter 3.  
I hear you turning there.  
That's wonderful.  
We're going to look at verses 17 through 20 today.  
Paul here writing to the Philippian believers from jail, he writes this, he says, join in imitating me and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.  
For many, Paul says, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears.  
This doesn't bring joy to Paul, this brings tears to Paul.  
He says, they walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.  
Their end is destruction.  
Their end is destruction.  
Their God, what they worship, who has their allegiance, it is their belly.  
It's the things of the flesh, the things of the world.  
It's the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life.  
This is their God.  
This is what they worship.

And Paul says, and their glory, they glory in their shame, he says, with minds that are set on earthly things.

But our citizenship, Paul says to these believers in Philippi, he says, our citizenship is where? It is in heaven.

And from it, from what?

From heaven, where we have citizenship in.

In heaven, he says, from it we wait.

We're waiting for something, Christians.

We are waiting for a Savior, capital S, speaking of Christ,

The Lord Jesus Christ.

Christian, we are living in this world, but we've been redeemed out of the world and brought into the kingdom of God.

Thank God for this incredible gift of grace.

But he hasn't taken us out of the world.

Why?

Because we are those who share this message about how man can be reconciled to God.

This is what we do.

It's not what I do.

It's what we do.

Every Christian, this is your purpose in life.

This is your primary purpose in life, to know God and do His will.

And we are to tell others about how they can be brought out of the kingdom of darkness and transferred by redemption into the kingdom of God by faith in Jesus and the work that He provided in atonement on the cross of Calvary that made us right before God and justified us before Him and brought us into the kingdom born again of the Spirit.

This is what we preach and this is what we share.

This is what we do.

It's going to become important for us to understand that.

We don't have our minds.

And here's the problem with our time.

I'm telling you, are you all tired?

This isn't like a trick question.

Are you tired these days?

How about your mind?

Is your mind exhausted?

We're exhausted mentally.

We're exhausted physically.

We're exhausted mentally.

And a lot of that has to do with the times we're living in and the bombardment of all the things that we have coming at us and things that we take in.

And all the access to all this information and all of it's all over the map, man.

It's just everywhere.

And we are being inundated with all of the pressures of all these things.

And we finally get to the point where we're just tired.

Our minds are tired.

Our bodies are physically drained.

And it's almost as if you're zapped and you're just like, I don't even have the energy to think about these other things.

But don't think for a moment that doesn't have purpose and it's not being done on purpose.

We need to be those who have our minds set on things in heaven.

And I know it's hard today, Christian.

It's not going to get easier.

It's going to get more difficult today.

But that's why we've got to be in the Word.

That's why we need to gather as Christians together to encourage one another.

To realize that your brothers and sisters are going through the same things that you are every single week.

Or maybe different, but they're still trials and testing and difficulties and all that you're facing.

Spiritual warfare.

Everything that you're facing every week.

You have a group of people that you can come together with every week.

and find strength and encouragement and edification and all those things.

And then we have the blessing of coming together, together like this, and opening this precious gift called the Word of God.

And then we can just go through the Word of God and learn together what God teaches us so we know how to live in this world in this day.

So important.

Satan wants to get you so tired that you don't care to come.

I mean, you're so busy.

Listen, I know how busy you all are.

I know how busy I am.

And I don't even have little kids at home anymore.

You young parents, I don't know how you're doing it.

But you are.

I know you're tired and exhausted.

Doesn't matter what age you are, you are.

You're exhausted and tired.

But a lot of that is because of the time we're living in.

It's going to get more difficult.

Go with me to John chapter 1, 9 through 13.

I want you to notice something here about the nation of Israel.

I'm talking about national Israel here.

And I am not a Zionist.

Yes, we love all people.

And do I believe that God has a purpose yet future for national Israel?

Yes, I do.

But not everything the nation of Israel is doing is necessarily the right thing.

So, they've weaponized Christianity in such a way in our nation because of all the stuff we've been told our whole life about all these things.

To the point now that we have what we have going on in the world, but I believe it's all by God's design even though it's by the actions and intent of the hearts of man.

God is still in His sovereignty working all of these things together.

And you've got Trump going to Davos

And he stands up before everyone there at Davos and says, I'm announcing that I have formed a new peace organization.

This peace envoy that Trump has formed that can circumvent the United Nations.

Remember after World War I, the League of Nations was brought into power to what?

Have what?

Oversight over the world so that we wouldn't have another world war.

That didn't work.

We had World War II.

What happened after World War II?

Well, legal nations failed.

We're going to establish the United Nations.

Well, the United Nations is not doing so well.

So Trump decides he's going to form this new peace envoy.

And guess who's the head of it?

His Jewish son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

Hold on.

You better keep your head screwed on, folks, and keep your eye on things.

He also has said that he's going to give 10 billion of our American dollars to this new peace thing.

Not to mention these other countries that have joined in.

So we've got about 17 billion dollars that have been given now to this envoy, which Jared Kushner himself is going to be over.

Guys, I'm telling you, keep your eye on things.

I don't know why we went there, but we did.

Let's move back here.

I say that because deception in these last days will be so incredible that if you don't have your brain glued to these things, you could easily be deceived.

Let me tell you something.

Most of what you see on TV is nothing but smoke and mirrors.

They have an agenda and they have a narrative that they want for you to know and believe.

Don't think for a minute that you're being told everything you need to be told or is it correct.

No, I don't even want to get into all that.

Listen, we're being deceived and have been for a long time.

But let's move on.

First, John chapter 1, 9 through 13.

This is the true light which gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him.

Who are we learning this is?

This is Jesus Christ.

In John chapter 1, in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning, and He created everything.

This is speaking of Jesus Christ here.

And notice, the true light was coming into the world, and He gives light to everyone.

And he was in the world and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

He came to his own.

Who is that?

That was national Israel.

That was the Jews that he had set apart all through the Old Testament as a people that were to be for his own possession and would be set apart different from the rest of the world.

In fact, they were to make the rest of the world just mesmerized by who God was.

And when Jesus Christ came, their Messiah, notice what it says.

He came to his own and his own people did not receive him.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

This is very important.

Who were born not, this is very big, not of blood,

Not of blood, not of ancestry, not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of God.

If you've been born again, it's because of God's grace, mercy, and goodness.

And here's the thing.

It wasn't because of someone's ethnicity.

This is very important that you understand this.

It wasn't by an act of one's will or the flesh nor the will of man, but those who have been born of God by faith.

Being born in the south won't make you a born-again believer.

You say, John, why do you bring this up in the south so much?

Because I've lived further north than the south.

And things are different in the south.

If you don't know that, you haven't traveled much.

We live in an area all through the southern parts.

You get into Tennessee and you make your way all the way over to Georgia and North Carolina.

You get in the south here and there is this overwhelming, almost sociological accepted thing about religion, about God.

And it's dangerous because most people you meet will tell you that I'm good with God.

Why are you good with God?

Because I'm a pretty good guy.

I'm not as good as some, but I'm not as bad as others.

So I'm pretty sure I believe in God.

I believe in God.

Yeah, but who is God?

Jesus Christ.

He is God.

Jesus Christ is God.

And you have to be born again.

And I say this a lot down in the south because of what we see.

You get up north, they're far more removed from that.

It's not just like it's a religious overtone up there.

It's not like that.

It's different down here.

So being born in the south won't save you even though we talk a lot about God in the south and it's accepted in the south.

That doesn't make you born again.

Religion won't save you.

No, religion won't do it.

Sorry.

Religion might do the very opposite.

Your family name won't save you.

It's wonderful that your grandfather was a Baptist pastor or a pastor and he was a follower and a believer of the Lord Jesus Christ, but that doesn't make you one or your parents or whatever.

No, this is all personal thing.

Only those who have been born again by the Spirit of God, by faith in Christ, have been given salvation and have become citizens of the kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven.

In fact, Ephesians chapter 2, turn there with me, and we're going to be looking at verses 1 through 3.

We go over this a lot here because of how important it is.

Ephesians chapter 2, 1 through 3.

Trying to help you build a framework here as we move into the kingdom.

If you have not been born again, this is what Scripture says is the reality of where you are right now currently.

Because Paul is talking about what these Ephesians once were.

And he says, and you were, past tense, dead in your sins and your trespasses.

So if you're not been born again, you're dead.

Spiritually, that's what you are.

You're still guilty before God, he says, in which you once walked.

That's in other words, that's the way you lived.

He says, following the course of this world.

See, they have their mindset on earthly things.

They're following the course of the world.

Why would people that are not born into the kingdom of God, why would they not be?

Because that's what they're part of.

They're just doing exactly what they do because it's who they are.

You shouldn't be shocked by the depravity of people who don't know Jesus.

But for the grace of God, where would you be?

If you were left to your own devices outside of a saving knowledge of Christ and the new birth and the regeneration of the Holy Spirit, I can guarantee you, you'd be doing some pretty rotten things.

Because it's just normal for you to do that.

Oh, the culture puts its stamp on bad things.

Don't do, don't do, don't do.

But still, the inherent nature of fallen man is still wicked and is still vile.

He says, following also the prince of the power of the air.

Most people don't know this.

You talk to someone who doesn't know Christ, you say, you don't realize, but you're following Satan.

I'm not following Satan.

Oh, yes, you are.

There's only one other kingdom in this world, and you're not of the kingdom of God.

You're following the king of the kingdom of darkness, according to Scripture, following the prince of the power of the air, who is the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.

among whom, Paul says, we all, we all once lived.

Don't ever need to forget that, Christians, because you can be grateful to God that you no longer live in that state.

Man, isn't that good?

We all once lived in the passions of our flesh.

That's why we're a sex-crazed society.

Why?

Because people have just become more prominently open about this perversion of their sexual passions.

Not only that, carrying out the desires of the body and of the mind.

And notice this.

And, Paul says, we all once were by our nature.

What is that?

That's that fallen nature that we inherited from Adam.

We were by nature children of wrath.

Like the rest of mankind.

That's where we once were, Christians.

Remember that?

That's why we are so grateful and so thankful for the gospel.

That's why we share the gospel because we have loved ones, we have friends and people we work with that are still here.

This is what they're, they're children of wrath.

They're following the prince of the power of the air, the course of this world.

They're doing all of these things.

Why are they doing this?

Because they don't know Jesus.

And because not knowing Jesus, they've never been born again.

Never been born again.

Never had the power of the Spirit of God dwelling in them.

Go with me to 1 John 5, 18 through 20.

Oh, we got a long ways to go and a lot of scriptures to get to.

But aren't you grateful, Christian, that you're no longer in that?

In fact, your sins have been covered by the blood of Jesus.

Thank you, Jesus.

Amen.

It's not because we're righteous.

It's because He is.

It's because He is.

1 John chapter 5, 18 through 20.

Are you there?

It's good to hear so many of you turning your Bibles.

It's what we've really been striving to accomplish here.

We know that everyone, I'm in verse 18, sorry.

You might want to know where the actual location I'm going is.

1 John 5, 18 through 20.

John says, we know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning.

That doesn't mean that we never sin.

It means that we no longer have a lifestyle of just sinning and staying in that kind of sin.

Why?

Because you've been born again.

Do we still sin?

Yes, we do.

But when we sin, we're convicted of that, we repent of that, and we actually hate sin.

Do you not hate sin?

You do hate sin, but you still sin, and you hate it even all the more.

But that's where God's grace comes in, his forgiveness, his mercy, all of that comes in.

But we no longer live in the lifestyle of that unbridled sin that we once used to live in.

We don't do that.

But he who has been born, there it is again, of God protects him.

It's the Holy Spirit of God protecting us, and the evil one does not touch him.

We know that we are from God and the whole world.

Listen to this.

Keep this in your mind as you go throughout the day at work and people you interact with.

Notice what John says here.

And the whole world lies in the power of what?

The evil one.

The evil one.

Who is the evil one?

Satan, right?

Along with all the myriads of angels that followed him in his rebellion against God.

We're going to learn more about why He has power over the world here in just a minute.

And we know that the Son of God has come.

Thank you, Lord.

And has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true.

And we are in Him.

That means we've been joined to Jesus Christ who is true.

In His Son, Jesus Christ.

He is the true God.

Notice that.

Who is the true God?

Jesus is!

Anyone that lies to you and tells you Jesus Christ is not God is a liar.

Jesus Christ, He is God.

The second person of the triune Godhead.

He is God and eternal life.

Eternal life.

Not eternal death and damnation.

Eternal life.

We were created to live forever.

The soul will live forever.

One of two places.

destruction, judgment, lake of fire, hell, judgment, lake of fire eventually, or life.

That's the two.

This is the way it's going to go for all people.

This is what moves us to share the gospel with people.

Now, when God made Adam, this is important, mankind was created in the image and the likeness of God.

Adam lived in a perfect relationship with God.

He lived in perfect world without sin and free of the curse from the fall because of sin.

Can you imagine that?

Living in immortality.

living in a perfect communing relationship with God, untarnished by sin that has separated man from God in his presence.

This is where Adam and Eve lived.

Not only that, he lived in a world that had not yet experienced the curse that God placed on this world.

Adam was to rule and he was to have dominion under God

Over the entire world that God had created.

Did you know that?

He sure was.

In fact, go with me to Genesis chapter 1.

I didn't put this in here, but I want to show you so you don't think I'm making this up.

Genesis chapter 1.

Let me find my eyes real quick.

Here we go.

Here we go.

Genesis chapter 1, go with me to verse 26.

I want you to see this.

This is going to help you understand this whole kingdom thing.

It's going to help you get it, help you grasp it, help you understand why Satan has power over the whole world.

Why is this such a big deal?

You're going to understand this now.

I want you to see.

It goes all the way to the very, very back, the very, very beginning.

And I want you to know something incredible about Scripture.

Everything that was in the beginning shall be again in the very end.

That's what's going to happen.

And that has huge ramifications for us Christians because we're also going to live like Adam one day in immortality in life.

We're also going to live like Adam one day in perfect, unbridled, unseparated communion and access to God.

One time.

It's going to happen in the future.

We're also going to live in a world with a new heavens and a new earth where it's completely perfect and untarnished by any sin.

This is what the beauty of the gospel is.

And if you understand scripture, you start in Genesis where God designed it to be so perfect and who was going to rule and reign over all God created.

God created man, given authority by God to have dominion and rule over all that God had created.

When you get all the way to Revelation chapter 22, who's once again doing that very thing?

You and I, Christian, are ruling under God by authority over all that God will create again.

Did you know that?

And the rest of the Bible, from Genesis all the way to the book of Revelation, is God's story that he's written down for you to understand how he redeemed everything that was lost.

That's the Bible in a nutshell.

And it's huge, Christian, for you.

Let's look here real quick.

Then God said, let us, I'm not going to get into this, but us is plural for a meaning reason.

Why?

Because God is one God, three persons, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Here we go.

Let's not spend time there.

I have done that many times, but here we go.

Let us make man in our image.

Nothing else was created in the image of God, only man.

Here's the final crowning jewel of God's creation in creation week.

Let us make man in our image.

Notice this, after our likeness.

And let them have what?

Dominion.

Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, over the livestock, over all the earth and every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

God gave them authority to have dominion over all that He created and man created in the image and likeness of God was to rule over, under God, over everything He has made.

That was God's creation.

And so God created man in his own image.

In the image of God, he created him.

Male and female, he created them.

And God blessed them.

And God said to them, be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it.

Subdue it.

And have dominion.

And then he goes through the list.

Have dominion over everything that I've created.

That's what God originally had designed in the creation week that man was to do.

But man was created also with a free will.

How can you have genuine love without free will?

You cannot.

God created not only angels with free will, but He created us with the ability to have free will as well.

And so we find this incredible truth.

Now go with me now, as we're going to see something enters in here.

Go to Genesis 3, verse 15.

You don't have to flip very far and you'll find it.

Now we have Satan who is now in the garden.

There's this temptation that he's now tempting Eve and then Adam is with her.

And God gave them one command.

They can have everything, do everything.

This is all theirs.

But there's one tree that you can't eat from.

It's the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Let me tell you something.

Not all knowledge is good.

And we are in the knowledge information age.

What is coming with AI, I'm telling you right now, they're going to sell it as a bill of goods because you're going to have better things, better health, better money.

It's all better, but let me tell you what's really coming.

Disaster.

AI is going to change this world, you all, like you have never seen ever before.

It's going to change things so drastically, but it'll all play a part in God's final day of the Lord as we're going to see Him learn as we go through this.

It's part of it.

They didn't ask any of us if we wanted it,

But the elites don't have to ask anything.

They just have to convince you.

That's all they got to do.

And then have authority over all those things.

Let's move on.

All right.

In Genesis chapter 3, we're looking at the curse now.

Man has sinned.

Now we're looking at the curse.

We know that Adam died both spiritually, he eventually died physically, and he was separated completely from God in that perfect relationship.

The earth is actually cursed here, and now God is gonna give this prophecy, if you will, of the coming one who will actually set things right.

Let me show you here.

This is actually the first prophecy in all of scripture, happens in chapter three.

Speaking to Satan here, he says, I will put enmity between you and the woman.

and between your offspring and her offspring.

Notice the next word.

What does it say?

Is it capitalized?

Do you know who this is speaking of?

Yes, you do if you've been here any time at all.

You know we've talked through this many times.

This he that is coming that will be the seed of the woman is Christ.

He, this is one of the seed, the seed of the woman who will come, he will crush or bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.

So right here in Genesis chapter 3, 15, we're seeing that there would be in this devastation of the fall and sin entering the world and the curse that it brought upon everything, we see hope right here in what God has already established that there will be one who will come

And what will he do?

He will crush your head, man.

He will crush Satan under his feet.

And Christian, did you know, by the time you get to the book of Revelation, we will actually watch this event take place.

And in a sense, on the cross of Calvary, he already disarmed the enemy.

We no longer belong to the enemy or the power in the kingdom of darkness, and he has no authority over you.

Did you know that?

Satan has no authority over the Christian, none whatsoever.

You now belong to God.

You are indwelt by the Spirit of God.

Thank God for that.

So here's the first picture of redemption coming.

And then when you begin to look at Scripture and you read through the Old Testament, you're going to find out that the Old Testament follows along now with certain people in ancestries.

Very specific ancestries are in there.

They're not in there because they are just filling up space in a book here.

No, the ancestries, they all have very, very, very important meaning.

And yes, there were many more people born, but the Bible focuses on certain people.

And let me talk about this.

You're going to find that Scripture is going to focus from Adam.

It's going to move to who?

Seth.

And then it's going to focus on Seth, and you follow the lineage of Seth, and it's going to move from Seth to who?

He has Noah.

And then when you get to Noah, who is a righteous man in his generation, you're going to move from Noah to not all three of Noah's sons, although he had three sons.

You're going to move to one primary son, and who is that son going to be?

That is Noah's son, Shem.

And then from Shem, you're going to follow the lineage, and who does it go to?

He goes to Abraham.

And then from Abraham you're going to move to Isaac.

And then from Isaac he moves to Jacob.

And then from Jacob we have him being called what?

Israel.

And then you move from Israel down through his sons and all that happened there with Pharaoh and the twelve sons and the twelve tribes and everything moving forward.

And then all of a sudden God singles out another name and that is the tribe now.

A specific tribe.

The tribe of what?

Judah.

Judah.

God selects out and puts the focus, the microscope goes down and zeroes on one specific tribe primarily.

And it's the tribe of Judah.

And then from Judah, Judah goes to who?

Goes to David.

And then from David, we know that it goes to ultimately one who would come and sit on his throne and establish his kingdom forever.

And who does it go to after David?

Jesus Christ.

Goes to Jesus Christ.

Because this is the path that God chose to bring about the seed of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent.

And Satan, throughout all of this, as we're going to learn, has been trying to keep this event from taking place.

But praise God, it didn't work.

Ephesians 1, 3 through 10, listen to this.

Sorry, you've got to go a ways in your Bible to get there.

Waiting on me?

Most, that's my wife tells me.

She always tells me, waiting on you.

Actually, that's not true.

Ephesians 1, 3 through 10.

I'm just trying to develop you just a basic foundation here on what's going on here.

Because when we get all the way here to where we're headed, you're going to be so blessed, you're not even going to be able to stand it.

Ephesians 1, 3-10, Paul says, Christian, you've already been given every spiritual blessing in Christ in heavenly places.

Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.

When you get to Genesis chapter 3, verse 15, or you get to Genesis chapter 3, and we have this incredible event that happens, let me tell you something.

God is never on plan B. This has been set forth as a plan of God that we would be what?

Found holy and blameless in Christ.

All of this has been planned before the foundation of the world.

Because God is eternal.

He's outside time and outside of space.

He's the uncreated creator.

He is God.

This plan that we are witnessing and we're part of and we're seeing worked out in this world, in this real time that we're living in, this plan was set forth by God before the foundation of the world.

You've got to know that.

Go with me.

We're not going to read the rest of that, but go with me now to...

Luke chapter 4, 4 through 6.

I'm going to have to draw a close here before long, unfortunately.

But we will.

But I don't want to.

But we got to, I know.

You say, so how in the world...

did Satan, this created archangel, who rebelled against God, how did he become the prince of this world?

That the whole world is under his power.

That is, all of those outside of saving faith in Christ are under the power of the enemy.  
How did he get that authority?

Remember, God gave authority to who?

Adam.

Adam was to rule and reign.

That would be all who would have been born in Adam.

We would rule and reign over all God's creation.

Well, how in the world did that transfer happen where now Adam sinned and fell and now Satan is ruling?

Well, he tells Jesus about it here when he tempts Christ.

By the way, the seed of the woman had come.

And Satan tried everything to keep this from happening.

You can read about that in the Christmas story, for example.

But nonetheless, the kingdoms of the world, here we go.

Luke 4, 4 through 6.

This is during the temptation of Jesus when he's led into the wilderness for 40 days and then he is fasting for 40 days and then Satan comes to tempt Christ.

And then Jesus will go from here and start his ministry, which leads him to the cross of Calvary, which provides salvation, offering his body for sin, all that he's going to do in order that he could redeem us.

God's plan is far greater than simply giving Israel their ability to rule.

This is about God.

This is not about them.

It's not about you.

It's not about me.

This whole story is about God and it's about his incredible glory.

It's all going to be for his glory.

Jesus answered him, it is written, man shall eat by bread alone.

And the devil took him up and showed him all the what?

Kingdoms of the world in a moment.

So we have this dichotomy that's going on right now in our life.

We are a three-dimensional being.

We know there's several dimensions out there.

We run parallel to other dimensions.

We are three-dimensional beings.

You understand that.

But there are many other dimensions out there.

Some of the physicists out there say there's as many as eight or 11, whatever.

I don't care how many they are, but there is a spiritual dimension that you are next to that you can't see.

But you can feel it and you can see it manifested in the physical realm that you live in because you can see physically the things that are being manifested.

So the spiritual kingdom, we walk right by it and it is manifesting in the spiritual world.

So Satan in the spiritual realm, he is operating in the physical realm as he works through men and people and kingdoms and nations.

He is working and orchestrating his rule over mankind.

But you know, as a Christian, do you know you have a mark on you?

Did you know that?

See, you've been given the light of Christ that indwells you.

Did you know that the principalities and power can see the light of Christ in you?

Did you know that?

You walk around with a mark on you.

You don't need a mark on your forehead or one on your hand.

Christ indwells you by His Holy Spirit and every demonic power out there, when you walk around, it sees the Spirit of God dwelling in you by the light of Christ shining from you.

You walk around as a beacon of light in this dark world and they all know you are.

That's true.

And here we're going to learn now how Satan got the authority to do what he's doing.

Notice, he shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world.

He's trying to keep him from going to the cross here.

You don't need to go to the cross here and tend to business.

I'll give you all the kingdoms now.

You want to be a king?

You want to rule Jesus?

Let me tell you something.

You don't have to go to the cross.

You don't have to provide redemption for mankind.

I'm going to go ahead and give you the kingdoms right now.

Here's the problem.

Let me show you.

He said, to you, Satan speaking to Christ, in his humanity, fully God, fully man, here we go.  
I will give all this, what word does he use?

Authority.

I will give you all this authority and the glory of the kingdoms.

For it has been what?

Delivered to me.

When do you suppose that happened?

Today.

It happened in Genesis.

When Satan came and tempted Eve and Adam was there and Adam took and partook of the one thing God said, you can do everything, have everything, it's all yours, but do not take from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

For in the day that you take of it, you will die, God told him.

Adam took, what did he do?

He had authority over Satan.

He had authority over it.

He was to rule and reign under God.

And he allowed Satan to usurp him.

And what did he do?

He actually, instead of what?

Walking in obedience to God, he actually fell under Satan and obeyed him.

And when he did that, the fall happened and there was a transfer of this authority and the kingdoms of the world that Adam was to have dominion and rule over because he spiritually died, separated from God.

He eventually physically died and then the curse comes in and Satan is telling Jesus, by the way,

I can give you all of this because I have been given the authority because it was delivered to me.

It's mine and now I have the ability to give it to whomever I choose to give it to.

This ought to help you understand a little bit more about what's going on in this world and why it is like it is.

What did Jesus say?

Jesus answered, man, oh,

Maybe I need to, mine doubled it for some reason.

Let's just go there.

Luke chapter four.

I left that part off.

That's an important part.

Let's show you what Jesus said here in Luke four.

Some of you are already there, so you're mocking me, I know.

Let's look at it here.

Put my eyes back on.

All right, here it is.

Okay.

And Jesus answered him.

It is written.

Because see what Satan said here.

He says, I will give it to whomever I will.

Notice verse 7.

I left that out.

It's very important.

If you then will worship me.

In other words, you do exactly what Adam did.

Instead of following and walking in obedience to the Father, you just worship me.

And look what Jesus says to him.

He says, it's all going to be yours, Jesus.

Just worship me.

Here's what Christ responded.

You shall worship who?

The Lord, your God, and him only shall you serve.

This is who we serve.

Satan would love for you to serve him.

We aren't doing that.

We're serving Christ.

So, as we make our way here now, turn with me to Revelation chapter, oh boy.

We better close.

The reason I say that is because what we're moving into here next, I don't want to stop.

Why is that?

Because what you're getting ready to learn from Scripture is to gain an incredible understanding about these empires of the world.

What is going on?

What is God doing?

Even right now, what's happening?

You're going to understand that God is already given to men like Daniel and to the Apostle John on the island of Patmos.

He gives him an outline, if you will, of all these major empires throughout history that actually deal with God's people in an oppressive and controlling way.

What we're entering into, as we're going to learn, is we're entering into the seventh head or the seventh beast.

We're entering into that right now.

Do you know the number seven is very significant in Scripture?

In all over Scripture, God uses the number seven to speak of completion or fullness.

And as we get here, we know the Scripture teaches us about these nations.

It begins with what?

The nation of Egypt.

dealing with the nation of Israel, when all the sons of Judah, not Judah, but of Israel were there in Egypt, and then how the nation itself was built up, but it was under oppressive slavery by Pharaoh, and then God sends Moses and brings the people out.

You start with Egyptians, you move to the Assyrians, and from the Assyrians, you're going to move to the Babylonians, and then from the Babylonians, you're going to move to the Middle East,

the Medo-Grecian empire.

And then from there, you're going to move to the Grecian empire.

And then you're going to move to the Roman empire.

And then finally, as we get into our time, we have this last beast that's going to rise up.

And what is it going to be?

It's going to be this redeemed, if not redeemed, but if you will, another rising up of this imperialistic new world order, Luciferian satanic world system.

And that is the final.

We're in the seventh, folks.

I want you to know this.

We're already here.

And most Christians maybe don't think about it or don't know it.

But you ask yourself, why is the world going the way it's going?

Why is everything moving to a one world, one world, one world?

Why do our presidents keep talking about a new world order and all of this with Davos and the New World Economic Forum and all this?

Why is it all coming back to one world?

Because we're moving to the day of the Lord.

And we're in the final kingdom.

The final.

Before Jesus comes and destroys that kingdom.

And sets up His kingdom, which Scripture tells us in Daniel and Revelation, His kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom.

His kingdom shall have no end.

And all of us who are part of the kingdom, we will rule with Him forever and ever and ever and ever and ever.

We're already here at this time.

This is what's going on.

Don't miss the next few weeks is all I'm gonna tell ya.

If you do, you're not gonna really have a grasp of what's really going on in this world.

And we haven't even gotten started.

We just, basically these are crumbs getting us to the first course of a five course meal.

If you can settle for crumbs, hopefully you'll want another meal.

Don't miss these next few weeks because they have very important consequences and impact on your life in real time right now in this day.

And it's going to answer a lot of questions for you about what's going on in the world and what is to come.

But as I said last week, Christian, as good as this life is, that we can enjoy here being part of the kingdom of God, living in this world, it ain't nothing.

For the best is yet to come.

The best is yet to come.

So we're going to close in prayer.

Don't miss next week.

Bring some people with you.

I'm telling you, you're going to be blessed as we go through this study.

I want you to know what it means to be part of the kingdom.

I want you to know and understand the blessings of being part of the kingdom.

I also want you to see and understand what we're going to do forever one day in the kingdom.

And we're going to get to all those things, Lord willing, in the next few weeks.

Thank you guys for your attention.

Let's close in a word of prayer.

As always, we always offer the lodge there to be a place where people can go and receive prayer.

And I know that I'm a straight shooter.

That's just how I roll.

But also, guys, we're not living in a time where we can be playing games anymore in church.

I got no interest in religion.

I got no interest in playing games.

I got no interest in making anybody happy.

I only have one interest and that is to please the Lord because we have to talk straight in this time.

And if you like to have your head in the sand, trust me, you're in danger of being deceived in these last days.

I would encourage you to face these things in the reality of where we're living.

But you can do this with joy and with excitement, with expectation.

You don't have to walk around in drudgery and your lip poked out and kicking cans down the road because we're living in a difficult time.

No, Christian, God already wrote down for you what you need to know about these days.

Why?

So you know what to expect and then you can live with the joy of the Lord in your life.

You can live with the power of the Spirit of God in order to let you shine the light of Christ wherever you go.

And we have a great purpose.

Not only do we have all the blessings we enjoy in Christ Jesus here and now, but man, we have a great calling, every one of us, to go out this week and tell people about how they can get reconciled and be right before God.

Share with them your testimony.

Tell them the gospel that they might become saved and know the blessed hope that you have in Jesus Christ.

Do that this week.