

The Seeker's Guide to the Kingdom of God



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Unless otherwise noted, all scriptures are taken from the King James Version.
Other scripture versions are notated as follows:

AMP Amplified Bible
BBE Basic Bible in English
CEB Common English Bible
CEV Contemporary English Version
ESV English Standard Version
GNB Good News Bible
GW God's Word
HCSB Holman Christian Standard Version
KJV King James Version
MSG Message Bible
MEV Modern English Version
MKJV Modern King James Version
NET New English Translation
NIV New International Version
NLV New Life Version
NCV New Century Version
NTE New Testament for Everyone
TLB The Living Bible
VOICE The Voice Translation
YLT Young's Lateral Translation

Dedicated to the Commonwealth of the Kingdom of God

Acts 2:44-45 (AMP)

And all those who had believed in Jesus as Savior were together and had all things in common considering their possessions to belong to the group as a whole. And they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing the proceeds with all the other believers, as anyone had need.

Acts 4:32 (AMP)

Now the company of believers was of one heart and soul, and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was exclusively his own, but everything was common property *and* for the use of all.

Commonwealth:

A group of associated people who share and use their wealth for the common good.

The two requirements to be in a Kingdom:

- **Have a King.**
- **Be in His domain.**

Jesus is My KING

(Give up the right to rule your own life)

Act 17:7 (CEV)

Now they (Paul and Silas) have come here, and Jason has welcomed them into his home. All of them break the laws of the Roman Emperor by claiming that someone named Jesus is king."

Jesus is My Owner

(Give up the right of private ownership)

1 Corinthians 6:20 (TLB)

For God has bought you with a great price.
So, use every part of your body to give glory
back to God because he owns it.

Join me in a deep dive into the Domain of the Kingdom of God. We will discover the requirements of God to be included in the Kingdom. We have the King, but knowing the boundaries of His domain is essential if we are going to enter and stay in the Kingdom.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to my country. You have arrived here in my nation because you are seeking information about the Kingdom of God. Because you have arrived from a place with a different type of government, it may be very difficult for you to comprehend a kingdom. Most of the world has thrown off the rule of kings and has lost sight of the values that kingdoms provide.

In America, the government is a republic, ruled by an elite group of elected officials and the federal department employees, known as bureaucrats, whom they have hired. Many in America mistakenly think that they are in a democracy. They are not. The United States is a republic. Americans vote on representatives, who make the laws; they do not vote on the laws themselves. A democracy is ruled by the people, while a republic is ruled by elected officials. California and twenty-six states have imitative or referendum votes, but these still require the signature or approval of the governor or the legislatures. They are basic opinion polls. Seeing that many don't understand governments, it would behoove us to look at what kingdoms really are and how they function.

INTRODUCTION

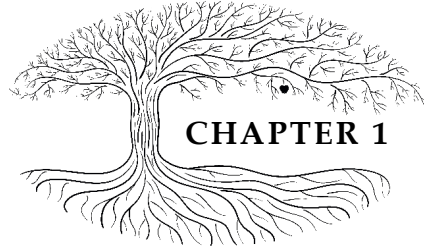
Your quest for knowledge has brought you to this forum. You have discovered, or at least heard of, the Kingdom of God and are seeking more information. The following pages will assist you. In a paragraph or two, I will attempt to define a kingdom in simple terms that will be easy to understand. “Keep it simple” has always been my aim. Express an idea with words that we can all understand, and keep it short. The first chapters will answer “What is it?” The following chapters will address how to apply the concept, or how you can live in the Kingdom of God now and make it a part of your Christian life.

The Seeker’s Guide to the Kingdom of God will assist you in understanding how we lost the Kingdom nation in ancient times, and the status of Jesus as King along with it. One must have both a king and a domain to have a kingdom. If you lose one, you lose both.

There is much written and known about King Jesus, but there is very little information available about the domain of the Kingdom that Jesus founded. Everyone can embrace the fact that accepting Jesus as King is a requirement to live the Kingdom life. But it is in performing the duties of the domain that we fail to accomplish the Kingdom life intended for us.

It was a problem with dominion that caused us to lose the King in the Garden of Eden. These next pages are extremely important in illustrating the extent of His

territory, because these principles and truths about the expanse of His domain will keep you in the Kingdom. Staying in the King's domain will garner the favor of the King that you need for the abundant life provided for you by being a Kingdom citizen.



What Is a Kingdom?

The word “kingdom” is a contraction of two words: “king” and “domain.” The king is the easy part to understand. You already know that Jesus is King. You know that He is on His throne in a distant place, but still rules this earthly colony, just as King George III ruled the American colonies from a faraway land. Much can be learned about kings—their attributes, privileges, authority, wealth, and prestige. But the second part, the domain, is where we interact with that king. The domain is where we live and function as citizens. For that reason, the domain becomes extremely important for us to understand so we can live in it successfully. We need to abide by its requirements to survive and thrive. We need a training course in how to be the subjects of our King properly. It is much more than just being saved or being a believer, it is understanding and

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remaining in the domain. This is how we find favor with the King and are blessed by His presence and our citizenship.

A KINGDOM IN EARTHLY TERMS IS the territory over which a king rules and has absolute authority. That is a simple, concise definition. But those are big words with huge meaning behind them. The King is central to a Kingdom. One individual holds all the power. The government rises and falls on the shoulders of one person. If you know the game of chess, you know that it's won by capturing only one piece, the king. You can have all your pieces left on the board but still lose because your king is captured. On the field of battle, if the enemy can kill your king, the battle is lost, and the war is over. Likewise, if you can kill the enemy's king, you have the victory. The enemy army will withdraw from the field. Those concepts represent the absolute authority of the King. The nation's identity is embodied in the King.

The territory is the domain, or the "dom" part of the word kingdom. The borders of a kingdom stretch out as far as the power of the king can be extended by force. He is only limited by the distance his army can project the king's authority. In earthly kingdoms, borders are an essential part of what defines each kingdom. There has to be a border, or a limit to the king's authority, *unless* his authority is worldwide,

making him the sole world leader. In that scenario, one ruler would have complete control of the entire earth.

Kingdoms were called commonwealths. The king was the owner of all land and objects of value in his realm. Since people are objects of value, they were also owned by the king. They were called subjects and not slaves because they were free to leave and find another kingdom if they so desired. Some did leave, and others may have been expelled or killed if found to be disloyal to the king. But if one elected to stay and serve the king, they were considered law-abiding citizens who were welcome to share in the king's wealth.

Being the owner of everything required lots of help and care to manage that vast wealth. The king needed loyal subjects to take management positions and regulate all aspects of his wealth. Subjects were given authority over parts of the king's assets and instructed to increase that value for the good of the kingdom. The more wealth generated, the more that the king could allocate to his subjects to oversee. The wealthier the king, the more that all shared in his abundance. A king's wealth was determined by how wealthy his subjects were. His glory was manifested in the prosperity of his subjects. In 1 Kings 10:4–6, the Queen of Sheba was impressed by the well-cared-for servants of King Solomon. A benevolent king takes good care of his property, just as you do. Therefore, his subjects, being

his property, are very well cared for. Being a law-abiding citizen in a kingdom with a benevolent king was a very positive experience. You shared in the wealth of the king. It was a mutual benefit for all parties, king and subjects, to prosper. Hence, they were known as commonwealths.

An example of the king's ownership of everything is seen in the names given to a nation's ships. In the United States, the ships are titled with the prefix USS, followed by a particular name, such as the USS *Sullivan* or USS *Alabama*. That prefix stands for United States Ship and declares its owner. But in the United Kingdom, the ships bare the prefix HMS. Those letters designate the owner as His Majesty's Ship. Private ownership was at the heart of the American Revolution. The British call it the American Rebellion. In the Garden of Eden, private ownership was at the heart of the overthrow. God called it an insurrection. The domain is where we live or die with our relationship to the King.

The KINGDOM OF GOD IS the territory over which Jesus rules and has absolute authority. Again, big words with huge meanings. The word "God" defines who the Kingdom belongs to. Who is the owner of this Kingdom? We immediately place Jesus in the role of God because of the scriptural truths that make Jesus the visible aspect of God. The justification is given in Colossians 1:15 (GW): "He [*Jesus*] is the image of the invisible God." This Kingdom belongs to God. Since Jesus is the only one of

the Godhead that we can see, the Father and the Holy Spirit being invisible, we perceive and view Jesus as we gaze upon the throne of this Kingdom. Ezekiel saw that same concept in his vision of heaven, recorded in Ezekiel 1:26, when he saw a man (Jesus) on the throne of heaven. John evidenced the same in Revelation 5:13 writing his vision of a man, Jesus, on the throne in heaven.

Colossians 1:15a (GW)

He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God.

Ezekiel 1:26 (KJV)

And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man [*Jesus*] above upon it.

Revelation 5:13 (KJV)

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him [*Jesus*] that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

This Kingdom of God is radically different than earthly kingdoms that have borders. When we say territory of the Kingdom of God, its realm and dominion have no

earthly land limit, but rather extends to all the earth because it is in the hearts of individuals. Its territory has different limits. It does not have land mass to rule over, but instead has people to rule *in*. It is a borderless kingdom with its domain in the hearts of people willing to accept His rule and live in His sphere of influence. The same requirement exists in earthly kingdoms: Be loyal to the king. But the domain part is the major difference. In earthly kingdoms, the geography is the issue, while in the Kingdom of God, hearts (mental state) are the issue. Whom you declare to be your king and ruler, as well as your willingness to submit to His ownership (*domain*), become the two aspects that put you and keep you in the Kingdom of God.

It is easy to see Jesus as King, even though most of the church world is preoccupied with the ego and the self-centeredness that they call worship. Most of church culture focuses on the individual, their salvation, and their worship. Little in our present culture acknowledges the rule of Jesus as King in the lives of the believers. Even less is given over to the domain of the King, His ownership of our being and all that we possess.

1 Corinthians 6:20 (TLB)

For God has bought you with a great price. So
use every part of your body to give glory
back to God because he owns it.

Simply stated, the Kingdom of God is Jesus being on the throne of your heart and mind, in a real, vital, living citizenship within a spiritual nation. Then you must accept his ownership of you and all that you possess so that you share in the commonwealth of all the King has. The Kingship of Jesus is easy to grasp, but to put it into daily practice and consciousness is a challenge. Even harder is the concept of His ownership (*domain*) of our life and possessions. We get it. We have the King on His throne, now let us tackle the hard part—living it daily by staying in His domain and living under His ownership.

Luke 17:21 (GW)

They can't say, "Here it is!" or "There it is!"

You see, God's kingdom is within you.

True Christian life requires a change in citizenship, a change in government, and a change in allegiance. Anything less leaves the believer in a treadmill of mediocracy, ever learning and struggling. Living daily as a citizen of the Kingdom of God is the goal Jesus set for His followers. Living as a citizen of that nation is the fulfillment of the abundant life Jesus promised. That requires a change in government, relocating, in your mind, to a country controlled by a king.

As a dual citizen, the primary allegiance is directed to the King and not to the worldly government of the earthly territory in which you reside. The believer is

moved to an out-of-this-world lifestyle because he is primarily focused on the government of the Kingdom of God. Non-Kingdom believers are left to struggle over doctrines and chase religious gimmicks that aim at finding higher ground. If they can be led to the Kingdom of God and seek it first, they will be spared years of wilderness living. The Kingdom of God is the highest ground outlined by Jesus.

Since Kingdom living is our goal, understanding kingdoms becomes imperative. In the Kingdom of God, the King is your owner. Nothing is yours; you and everything that you have belongs to Him. You are a citizen and subject to His authority. That authority does not give you a vote or the right to question the decrees of the King. It is possible that Kingdom living will be hard for you after decades of living in a worldly country where you think that you have authority. Our current world governments are not good training grounds for Kingdom living. You can choose which kingdom or country you want to live in, but if you choose the Kingdom of God, you will be under the authority of the King.

The unique thing about a benevolent king is his desire to share with his subjects the wealth of the nation. Even though he is the owner and wealthy party, he knows that if his subjects flourish, so does he. His wealth is measured by the wealth of the people in his realm. He

becomes the promoter of those who have the drive and desire to flourish. That form of economy is called a commonwealth.

It is in understanding ownership that the kingdom manifests its great value. To be a vibrant participant in a kingdom, one must acknowledge the king and give him respect and allegiance. The subject must also accept the concept of the commonwealth. Private ownership leads to struggle and misguided allegiance. It is rooted in greed. Commonwealth leads to unity and liberty. It is rooted in mutual respect and giving. Love can be defined as giving. One cannot outgive the king, but the more that you try to shower him with gifts, the more his favor is poured on you.

In Jesus's story about the prodigal son, the young man asks for his inheritance and leaves to spend it all on lavish living. We find two different types of domains represented in the story. One is the domain of private ownership, the other the domain of the commonwealth, or king's ownership. The prodigal son receives his wealth as private ownership. He is now a capitalist and on his own. Here is the difference: Would you want your father to leave you a million dollars in your own checking account, or would you like to have a checkbook drawn on your father's account that has a trillion-dollar balance? Our greed leads us all to be like the prodigal son and desire ownership. But the favor

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of the king and the blessings of his domain are far greater in value.

Communist and socialist governments are attempts at commonwealth systems, but they fail because of greed. The leaders get the wealth, while most common people remain under tight control. Kingdoms can fail as well if the king does not value his subjects as much as or more than himself. A kingdom with a benevolent king accomplishes the sharing of wealth with the greatest of ease. The key to its success is the king. He must be authoritarian, but at the same time act for the benefit of his citizens and not his own gain. Jesus has proven to be that king who gives rather than takes. He so loved the world that he gave His own life for it (*John 3:16*). That is the true test of a benevolent king.

The following chapters will take us on a journey to explore ownership. The Kingdom is a real, vital, and living nation that thrives in the shadows of our present times. To thrive in the Kingdom, we need to understand the domain of the King. To that end, let's dive deep into God's ownership of this planet and everything on it, which includes the ownership rights of His citizens. Join me as we look at the Kingdom of God's domain.

It is imperative to explore God's ownership in depth. It is this truth that holds the key to our return to the Kingdom living enjoyed by Adam before the fall in the

Garden of Eden. We must get this lesson down in our hearts and never forget it. We must have it so embedded in our lives that we live it every day because we have given up ownership. Total surrender to God means you recognize Him to be your owner, creator, and *King*. Daily, that principle guides your every function and event. When you came to Jesus, you received more than a savior; you got a King. To live with a short view of Jesus, something less than King, leaves your life in disarray as you struggle in the wilderness, missing the King and His glorious domain.