

The Kingdom of God: The Ultimate Purpose of Creation

The Bible shows us that God, from beginning to end, has a consistent purpose — **to obtain a kingdom as the sphere of His rule, so that His glory may be expressed within it (see Matthew 6:13b), namely His Kingdom.** Originally, after God completed the first universe, He entrusted it to an archangel to manage on His behalf (Luke 4:6). Later, this archangel rebelled against God (Ezekiel 28:13 - 17; Isaiah 14:12 - 15) and became Satan, God' s adversary, thereby damaging God' s authority.

To deal with this adversary, Satan, and to express His authority, God created **Adam**, so that man might **exercise dominion over the earth** on His behalf (Genesis 1:27 - 28). However, shortly after man was created, Satan came to deceive man (Genesis 3:1 - 7), causing God' s authority to be hindered on the earth. Therefore, God established a way of redemption to recover man (Genesis 3:21; 4:4), so that man might still serve as the vessel for **the expression of His authority on the earth.**

Satan, realizing this, caused man to ignore God' s way of salvation and instead seek self-preservation and human civilization (Genesis 4:3, 5, 16 - 22), resulting in extreme corruption and bringing about God' s judgment through the flood (Genesis 6:11 - 13). Yet people such as **Noah** received God' s grace, accepted His way of salvation, walked with God, and submitted to His authority (Genesis 6:8 - 9).

After Noah came out of the ark, God gave man authority to govern human society (Genesis 9:6). Satan again used this authority to cause mankind to establish many kingdoms, thereby turning them away from God' s rule. At Babel, mankind even rebelled against God, attempting to overthrow His authority (Genesis 10:32 - 11:4). God therefore came down to judge them (Genesis 11:5 - 9) and called **Abraham** out from among them, intending to make his descendants into a nation (Genesis 12:1 - 2), so that God might exercise His authority

among them.

After Abraham was called, he stood on a heavenly ground, under God’ s government, and God’ s authority was exercised through him on earth. However, not long afterward, his descendants went down to Egypt, lost their heavenly position and authority, and fell under the bondage of Pharaoh, through Satan’ s hand. At that time, God delivered them—**the children of Israel**—from Egypt and made them His kingdom (Exodus 19:4 - 6), so that He might exercise His authority and express His glory among them.

Yet after entering Canaan, they soon followed the nations, desiring a king like them, thereby rejecting God’ s authority and government (1 Samuel 8:4 - 7). Later, God raised up **David**, a man after His own heart (Acts 13:22), and through him God ruled among them as King. But not long after, because David’ s descendants and the people rejected both God and His authority, they were carried away into Babylon, and God’ s kingdom on earth was lost.

Later, through the recovery under **Ezra and Nehemiah**, God was again able to exercise His authority among them. But soon afterward, they again fell into degradation and desolation, and God’ s authority among them was lost again, until the time when the **Lord Jesus** came to earth.

When the Lord Jesus came, He began His ministry by proclaiming, “The kingdom of God is near; repent.” (Mark 1:15). Wherever He went, He cast out demons so that God’ s authority might be established there, and the kingdom of God might come (Matthew 12:28). Although He manifested the authority of God through miracles, signs, and teachings for over three years, the Jews refused to repent and submit to God’ s authority. Therefore, the Lord told them that the kingdom of God would be taken from them and given to **another people—the church** (Matthew 21:43). The church is therefore the sphere of God’ s authority on earth and is thus “a holy nation” (1 Peter 2:9).

Originally, when the church was in its proper condition, it allowed God, through the Holy Spirit, to exercise His authority and express His glory within it. However, not long afterward, the church on earth failed and became desolate. It became filled with sin, human will, and the world, allowing Satan to gain ground within it, so that God' s authority was no longer freely exercised.

In such a condition, God called the believers to be **overcomers**, to return to the church' s original standing (Revelation 2 - 3), to represent the church in dealing with Satan' s dark power and to allow God' s authority to be exercised. As a result, these overcomers will bring God' s kingdom and authority to the earth (Revelation 12:10), and the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (Revelation 11:15). In the millennial kingdom, they will reign with the Lord Jesus over the world (Revelation 20:4 - 6), so that God' s authority may be exercised throughout the earth without hindrance, and God' s glory may fill the whole universe.

At the end of the millennium, after the Lord destroys Satan' s final rebellion, He will deliver the kingdom back to God (1 Corinthians 15:24). Then the new heaven and new earth — **New Jerusalem** will come, and God will obtain a new universe as His kingdom, the sphere of His rule. In this realm, He will reign together with His Son and with us, His redeemed people as His bride, exercising His authority and expressing His glory forever and ever.

The Reality of Kingdom of God

The kingdom is the sphere where God rules and exercises His authority. The reality of

the kingdom of God is heaven reigning within us—causing us to depart from sin, overcome the flesh, not walk according to the flesh, not live for ourselves, reject the world, resist Satan, and live entirely in the realm of heaven. It is to submit to heaven's authority, be restricted by heaven, and live out a heavenly life on earth. In our conduct and behavior, there is no earthly flavor, but only a heavenly expression.

In the Old Testament, God instructed the children of Israel to attach a blue cord to the tassels on the corners of their garments (Numbers 15:38 - 39). Blue is the color of heaven. God wanted them to attach this blue cord to the edges of their garments, surrounding their steps, meaning that their walk should be restricted by heaven. They were not to follow their own desires or the lust of their eyes, nor commit spiritual unfaithfulness, because they were God's people and were to be separated from all the nations of the earth.

In the New Testament, God desires even more that we be separated from the earth and everything earthly, and live in a heavenly condition. His New Testament salvation brings us into this very reality—the reality of the kingdom of God—so that we may live under God's rule. He has regenerated us with His heavenly life from above (John 3:3, 5), giving us a heavenly nature (1 Corinthians 15:47 - 48), making us citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20), and seating us together with Christ in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:6).

Therefore, although we are still on earth today, heaven's life has entered into us and remains within us. Even though we are on earth, we are heavenly people, able to enjoy heavenly rights, live in a heavenly atmosphere, and receive heavenly supply. If we live by the heavenly life within us, we will live in the reality of the kingdom of God—submitting to heaven's authority and restriction. There will be no sin, no world, no flesh, no self, no activity of the flesh, and no earthly flavor. Our living, work, speech, and conduct will all be heavenly in expression, full of a heavenly taste.

A person who lives in such a reality of the kingdom of heaven, submitting to heaven's authority and restriction, does not need human governance. He can be more law-abiding and orderly than anyone else, because heaven itself rules within him, governing and restraining him. The rule of heaven is far stricter and more thorough than any human law or regulation. No national law, family rule, school discipline, workplace regulation, or human authority can compare with the strictness and thoroughness of heaven's rule.

If we still need external control, it shows that our Christian living is not up to the proper standard. It means we are not living under heaven's rule. If, without human supervision, we become careless or act lawlessly, it proves we are not under heaven's authority. If we can lose our temper at will or quarrel freely with others, we are not under heaven's restriction. If our flesh can still be easily stirred up, and we still act or speak according to the flesh, we are living outside the reality of the kingdom of heaven and have lost our heavenly position, falling back into an earthly condition.

Therefore, we must be completely without flesh, without self, rejecting the world, and living in the realm of Kingdom of God. We must not allow the earth to touch us, but submit to Kingdom's authority and be restricted by it. Then we will live out a heavenly life on earth, bearing a God's expression and taste. Only then are we truly living in the reality of the kingdom of God.