

# The Divine Kingdom

An Introductory Study of the Kingdom of God  
by Franklin

Let me Introduce you to THE KING of The Kingdom

Our **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, who is The **BLESSED** and **ONLY SOVEREIGN**, **The KING OF KINGS** and **LORD OF LORDS**, who **alone possesses immortality** and **dwells in unapproachable light**, whom no man has seen or can see. To HIM BE HONOR AND ETERNAL DOMINION! Amen.

**He was before all things** Colossians 1:16-17

- Therefore HE came from nowhere for there was no place and nothing for HIM to come from.

**By Him all things were created** Colossians 1:16-17

- By the Power and Authority of His spoken Word

**And in Him all things hold together** Colossians 1:16-17

- HE is the nuclear glue that holds the atoms and everything together

Philippians 2:6-11

Although HE existed in the form of God, did not regard **equality** with God a thing to be grasped,

- Our LORD JESUS CHRIST was Equal in Deity with GOD The FATHER

but **emptied** Himself, taking the form of a **bond-servant**, being made in the likeness of men.

- He gave up HIS position, HIS THRONE, stepped down from Heaven, giving up everything except HE **DID NOT** GIVE UP HIS DEITY.

Being found in appearance as a man, HE **humbled** Himself by becoming **obedient** to the point of **death**, even **death on a cross**.

- He came to **seek** and to **save** His own. **YOU!** Luke 19:10
- And HE who knew no sin became sin on our behalf, so that **we** might become the **righteousness of God in Him**. 2 Cor 5:21

For this reason also, **GOD highly exalted Him**, and bestowed on HIM **THE NAME** which is above every name, so that at the name of **JESUS EVERY KNEE WILL BOW**, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that **every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is LORD**, to the glory of God The FATHER.

**GOD The FATHER highly exalted Him** and gave GOD The SON THE KINGDOM Luke 22:29

- Hebrews 1:8 And of the Son He says, **YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.**

Daniel 7:13-14 I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a SON OF MAN was coming, and HE came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before HIM. And to HIM was given **Dominion, Glory** and a **Kingdom**, That all the peoples, nations and language might serve Him. **His dominion** is an **everlasting dominion** which **will not pass away**; and **His Kingdom** is one which **will not be destroyed**.

Revelation 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened, and a white horse, and HE who sat on it *is* called **Faithful** and **True**, and in righteousness HE judges and wages war. HIS eyes are a flame of fire, and on HIS head many diadems; and HE has a name written which no one knows except Himself. Clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called **The Word of God**. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following HIM on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it HE may strike down the nations, and HE will rule them with a rod of iron; and HE treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of GOD, THE ALMIGHTY. And on HIS robe and on HIS thigh HE has a name written, "**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**"

Daniel 2:44 In the days of those kings **the GOD of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed**, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself **endure forever**.

Daniel 7:18 And the **saints** of the **Highest ONE** will **receive** the **Kingdom** and **possess the kingdom forever**, for all ages to come.

What is the Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of God is **Righteousness, Peace & Joy** in The Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17

- Righteousness (no sin).
  - He leads me in the paths of Righteousness. Psalm 23:3
- Peace
  - He causes me to lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. Psalm 23:2
- Joy
  - In His presence is fullness of Joy Psalm 16:11

How do we enter the Kingdom?

1. Two Births are necessary:

- John 3:5-6 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water (natural birth) and the Spirit (spiritual birth) he cannot **enter** into the Kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh (natural birth) and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (spiritual birth).
- The gospel of Salvation. ie. John 3:16; Acts 16:30-31

2. Child-like Faith and Trust in your Heavenly FATHER.

You believe everything HE says to be TRUE, nothing and no one else compares. He is stronger than all others. When HE throws you up in the air you have no fear because HE always catches you. There is no one you love more than YOUR FATHER.

- Luke 18:17 Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.
- The gospel of The Kingdom. Luke 9:23

The Next Question is: How do we live in the Kingdom of GOD?

## Living in The Kingdom

**Matthew 6:33** **Seek\*** (or desire) **first HIS KINGDOM and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, and all these things will be added to you.**

\* Imperative - a command

I like the translation "desire" it is a legitimate translation. Our Father wants us to "desire" His Kingdom above all else.

"Seek" tends to indicate that the Kingdom is Hidden from us. It is NOT Hidden, **it is in your midst** (Luke 17:21) If you Desire it -> you WILL seek it.

- What is it that we are to seek?? What is The Kingdom of God??
- The short Answer is found when JESUS told us how to PRAY:

Matthew 6:9-10 **Our Father** in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. <sup>10</sup> **Your Kingdom come.** [How?] **Your will be done,** on earth as it is in heaven.

- His Kingdom comes and is -> when HIS WILL IS DONE -> when HE IS OBEYED . . . **as it is in heaven.**
- When we **Believe** and Trust Him as Savior & **Obey** Him as **LORD.**

1 John 3:22-23 **whatever we ask we receive** from Him, **because** [1]we **keep** His commandments and [2] **do** the things that are pleasing in His sight. This is His commandment that we **believe** in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and **love** one another, just as He commanded us.

Luke 12:32 **Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you The Kingdom. IF YOU REALLY WANT IT !**

- He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6

It Gives HIM Pleasure to Give You the Good Things of The Kingdom:

- ❖ Clothes, Food, Shelter, Health
- ❖ BLESSINGS & PROSPERITY
- ❖ FREEDOM & LIBERTY
- ❖ AUTHORITY & POWER
- ❖ JOY & PEACE and much more

The **Greatest** & Most **Important Decision** You ever made was to BELIEVE and RECEIVE Jesus Christ.

When you do believe, several things happen:

#1. BORN AGAIN

**1 Peter 1:23** for you have been **BORN AGAIN** not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, by the living and enduring Word of God.

#2. TAKEN OUT of DEATH & PLACED into LIFE

**John 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and **BELIEVES** Him who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but has **PASSED OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE**.

#3. Priorities - Thinking & Actions CHANGE

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, **he is A NEW CREATION**; old things have passed away; and new things have come.

#4 RECEIVE A NEW HEART - A NEW NAME – A NEW SPIRIT.

Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you a **new heart** and a **new spirit**

Isaiah 65:15 But My servants will be called by **another name**.

Revelation 2:17 I will give him a . . . new name . . .

#5. **HE delivered** us from the **domain of darkness**, and **transferred** us into **The Kingdom** of His beloved Son.

Colossians 1:13-14

- The **New**, Born Again **person** in us, is **TRANSFERRED** into The Kingdom. That is: **The new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in **righteousness** and **holiness** of the **truth**. Ephesians 4:24

The LORD, from His eternal perspective, sees us alive and our old sinful nature as dead:

**YOU WERE DEAD** (Eph.2:1). When you came to Christ, you were circumcised, but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a **spiritual** circumcision—the **cutting away of your sinful nature**. <sup>12</sup>For **you were buried** with Christ when you were baptized [our old self and left in the grave]. And **with him YOU** [our new born again self] **WERE RAISED TO NEW LIFE** because you believed the power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

Colossians 2: 11-12 New Living Translation

So, with The LORD GOD seeing us this way -> our "old self" dead and buried -> and our New "Born Again self" raised to new life -> the Believers Eternal Life is guaranteed, a sure thing.

However, as for now, our "Old Nature" is still with us. This is the Problem, a BIG Problem.

But we are told to: **consider\* / conclude\* yourselves to be dead to sin**, but **alive to God** in Christ Jesus. [be what we are] <sup>12</sup>Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body so that you **obey** its lusts, <sup>13</sup>and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of **unrighteousness**; but present yourselves to God as those **alive** from the dead, and your members instruments of **righteousness** to God. <sup>14</sup>For sin shall not be **master** over you, for you are not under law but under **grace**. Romans 6:8-14 \*imperative – a command

- The old dead, sinful nature CAN NOT enter the Kingdom.
- To be led by The Spirit -> is to walk in The Kingdom
- When led by our Flesh -> we walk in the kingdom of this world, which gives satan an opportunity.
- So it becomes VERY IMPORTANT that we "TAKE UP OUR CROSS and KEEP THE OLD ME CRUCIFIED. *If anyone wishes to come after Me, he **MUST** deny himself, **take up his cross daily** and follow Me.* Luke 9:23-24

The NEW SELF alone CAN ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD as it is created in righteousness & holiness. Eph.4:24

After we are Born Again **WE HAVE 2 NATURES** or 2 Characters in us that determine how we behave, not just one!

- The "**old self**" – the old nature
  - ✓ lives for self
  - ✓ controlled by the flesh
  - ✓ motivated by lust
  - ✓ says "yes" to sin

- The **“new self”** – the new man
  - ✓ lives for others
  - ✓ controlled by the Spirit
  - ✓ motivated by Love
  - ✓ says **“YES”** to the LORD

**The Good News is:** When walking in The Kingdom of God,  
SATAN CANNOT TOUCH THE **“NEW MAN”**

- James 4:6-7 . . . **Submit** therefore to God. **Resist** the devil and he will flee from you.
- 1 John 5:18 We know that no one who is born of God (the “new” man) sins; but **HE** who was born of God (Jesus) keeps him, and **the evil one does not touch him.**
- Proverb 1:33 But **he who listens to ME** shall live **securely** and will be **at ease from the dread of evil.**

**The Bad News is:** When walking in the kingdom of this world  
SATAN CAN ATTACK THE **“OLD Sinful SELF”**

- **What Are the Sins that give the devil an opportunity?**

**Ephesians 4:17-32** So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that [1] you walk no longer as the Gentiles walk, in the **futility** of their MIND, (18) being darkened in their UNDERSTANDING, excluded from the life of God because of the IGNORANCE that is in them, BECAUSE OF the HARDNESS OF THEIR HEART; (19) and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to SENSUALITY for the PRACTICE of **every kind of IMPURITY** with greediness. (20) But you did not learn Christ in this way, (21) if indeed you have heard Him and have been TAUGHT in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, (22) that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **LAY ASIDE THE OLD SELF**, which is BEING CORRUPTED in accordance with the lusts of deceit, (23) and that you **be renewed** in the spirit of your MIND, (24) and **PUT ON THE NEW SELF**, which in the **likeness of God** has been created in **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **HOLINESS** of the truth (25) lay aside **falsehood** and speak Truth. (26) do not let the sun go down on your **anger**. (27) and **DO NOT GIVE THE DEVIL AN OPPORTUNITY** (28) do not **steal** (29) **bad words** (30) do now grieve the Holy Spirit (31) bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice

All and every sin gives satan an opportunity and a open door.

So, be very quick to repent and confess every sin 1 John 1:9

Matt 4:17 Jesus began to preach, **Repent**, the kingdom of heaven is at hand

EXAMPLE of giving satan an opportunity: Luke 22:24, 31-34

<sup>24</sup>And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be **greatest**.

I would guess that Simon won the dispute being that he walked on water. It appears PRIDE gave satan an opportunity. Satan is a legalist. He goes to Jesus and demands his legal rights. Sin is his kingdom. Notice that he cannot touch Simon without permission, Simon belongs to Jesus. But Jesus allows it, satan had a legal right. With Simon being a leader satan puts fear in Peter's mind and he denies The LORD.

<sup>31</sup>Simon (not Peter) satan has **demanded permission** to sift you like wheat.  
<sup>32</sup> but **I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail**; and you, when once you have **turned** again (repented) **strengthen your brothers**.  
<sup>33</sup>But he said to Him, Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!  
<sup>34</sup>And He said, I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until **you have denied three times that you know Me**.

- Romans 10:9 . . . **believe in your heart**. The LORD looks at the heart.
- And Peter did repent: <sup>62</sup> **And he went out and wept bitterly**.
- Sin is satan's kingdom and gives satan a legal right, an opportunity.
- He denied the LORD three times and three times confesses he Loves The LORD. John 21:15-17

EXAMPLE of Receiving our New Name and New Character:

John 1:42 Jesus looked at him and said, **You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas** (Aramaic - translated **Peter**)

- ❖ He WAS NOT BORN AGAIN at this time.
- ❖ "**shall be called**" not now, but in the future. When?

When his name is changed → when he believed:

Matthew 16:13-19 Now Jesus was asking His disciples, **Who do people say that the Son of Man is?** (14) And they said, Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. (15) He said to them, **But who do you say that I am?** (16) Simon Peter answered, You



are the Christ, the Son of the living God (Romans 10:9-10). (17) And Jesus said to him, Blessed are you, **Simon Barjona**, because flesh and blood did not **reveal this to you, but My Father** who is in heaven.

(18) I also say to you that **you ARE Peter**, (Petros) and upon this rock (Petra) I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

(19) "**I will give you the KEYS of the kingdom of heaven**; and whatever you bind (forbid) **on earth** shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose (allow) **on earth** shall have been loosed in heaven.

(cp. Mt.18:18)

THE KEYS are for USE ON EARTH ! (Ps.115:16 earth given to man)

**Petros**; a small rock, a stone. **We also Are "Small" Stones**: 1 Peter 2:5

**Petra** a massive rock.

Psalms 95:1 O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, let us shout joyfully to **the rock of our salvation**. Psalm 89:26 2 Samuel 22:3, 47

JESUS IS > "THE ROCK" > "The Foundation Stone"

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no man can lay a **foundation** other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Mt.7:24 hears & does / built on **the rock**

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; and, **new** things have come.

- A NEW NAME    A NEW HEART
- A NEW PERSON    Ephesians 4:22-24 "new self"

Ephesians 4:22-24 In reference to your former manner of life, **lay aside the old self** (the Simon in you), which is BEING CORRUPTED in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your **mind**, and **PUT ON the new self** (the Peter in you), which in the likeness of God HAS BEEN created in **RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS OF THE TRUTH**.

After we are Born Again **WE HAVE 2 NATURES** in us, not one

- The "**old self**" – the old sinful nature – **SIMON**
  - ✓ lives for self
  - ✓ controlled by the flesh
  - ✓ motivated by lust
  - ✓ says "yes" to sin

- The “**new self**” – the new righteous man – **PETER**
  - ✓ lives for others
  - ✓ controlled by the Spirit
  - ✓ motivated by Love
  - ✓ says “YES” to the LORD

Romans 6:16 . . . when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, **you are slaves of the one whom you obey**

Romans 6:19 For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in lawlessness (kingdom of darkness) **so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification** (Kingdom of GOD)

**JESUS, as a man**, in a picture or type, **entered** The Kingdom when:

[1] **HE answered His call** and **left His family and this world’s system**. It was demonstrated in HIS baptism – death to self and **OBEDIENCE** to HIS Heavenly FATHER.

[2] Then JESUS said “**NO**” to **satan and SIN** and “**YES**” to His FATHER in The Temptation. **Then JESUS returned to Galilee in power of The Spirit with Great Authority** (Luke 4:14 & 18).

John 8:29 He who sent Me is **with Me**; He **has not left Me alone, for I ALWAYS DO THE THINGS THAT ARE PLEASING TO HIM**.

**Abraham**, in a picture or type, [1] was **Blessed** and entered The Kingdom when he answered his call and left his family and this world’s system to **follow The LORD**. (Genesis 12:1-4). [2] And when **his obedience** took a **giant step forward** he was **GREATLY BLESSED**. (Genesis 22:16-19)

I have sworn, declares the LORD, **because you have done** this thing and **have not withheld** your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>indeed **I will greatly bless you**, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall **possess the gate of their enemies**. <sup>18</sup> In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **BECAUSE YOU HAVE OBEYED MY VOICE**.

Matthew 11:12 **From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence** (or is forcibly entered) **and violent men take it by force** (or seize it for themselves).

This verse indicates that entering and remaining in the Kingdom of GOD can require a struggle, a fight that is between our OLD NATURE and our NEW NATURE.

Galatians 5:17-26 The **sinful nature** wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the **Spirit gives us desires** that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. **These two forces are constantly FIGHTING EACH OTHER**, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. <sup>18</sup> But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are victorious and free.

<sup>19</sup> **When you follow the desires of your sinful nature**, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that **anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.**

<sup>22</sup> But the **Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives**: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and **self-control**. There is no law against these things!

<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

<sup>25</sup> Since we are **living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading** in every part of our lives. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another. New Living Translation

The above passage describes very clearly the battle, the struggle for us to remain and live in the Kingdom of God.

Luke 16:16 The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD has been preached, and everyone is **FORCING HIS WAY INTO IT.**

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 **THE WEAPONS** of our **warfare** are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses (wrong beliefs). <sup>5</sup> For destroying **speculations** and every lofty thing raised up against the **knowledge** of God, and **TAKING EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE** to the **obedience of Christ.**

This verse makes it obvious that **THE BATTLE is in OUR MIND**. Our struggle is to bring all our thoughts into **alignment with Christ's will**

**Your Kingdom come. Your WILL be done**

Romans 6:17 But thanks be to God that though **you were slaves of sin**, you became **obedient from the heart to that form of teaching** to which you were committed

The following steps will help bring your thoughts in line with and obedient to the Will of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

1. To take captive every thought requires **WARFARE** against both the lusts of our sinful old nature and the thinking, reasoning, and knowledge of the world and it's ways.
2. We **MUST be resolute** in focusing **our mind on JESUS** and Heavenly things rather than the things of this world.

1 John 2:15 **Love not the world**, neither the **things** that are in the world.

Philippians 3:18-20 . . . they are enemies of the cross of Christ, <sup>19</sup>whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who **set their minds on earthly things**. <sup>20</sup>For **our citizenship is in heaven**

Colossians 3:2 **Set your mind on the things above**, not on the things that are on earth.

The mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace

Romans 8:6-8 For the **mind** set on the flesh is death, but the **mind set on the Spirit** is life and peace, <sup>7</sup>because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh **cannot please God**.

**We MUST FILL OUR MIND WITH GOD'S WORD**

Psalms 1:1-3 How **blessed** is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! <sup>2</sup>But **his delight is in the law of the LORD**, and in His law **he meditates** day and night. <sup>3</sup>He will be like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in **whatever he does, he prospers**.

Psalm 19:7-14 The **law of the LORD is perfect**, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup>The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. <sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup>They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup>Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In **keeping them there is great reward**. <sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer. And Psalm 119

We MUST fill our mind with GOD'S WORD, And with those things that are noble, excellent and praiseworthy

Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise,  **dwell on these things**. <sup>9</sup>The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me,  **practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you.

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in **perfect peace**, whose **MIND is stayed on YOU** because he trusts in You.

Always be careful what your eyes see and your ears hear.  
RESOLUTELY REFUSE:

(1) to let your eyes be an instrument for lust

Job 31:1 I have made a **covenant with my eyes**; how then could I gaze at a virgin?

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

(2) REFUSE to set any worthless or evil thing before your eyes . . . books, magazines, pictures, TV, etc.

Psalm 101:3 I will set nothing wicked before my eyes

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts**.

Matthew 11:12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence (or is forcibly entered) and violent men take it by force (or seize it for themselves).

Luke 16:16 The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is **forcing his way into it**.

Revelation 12:10-12 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now **salvation**, and the **power**, and the **Kingdom of our God**, and the **authority** of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. <sup>11</sup>And **they overcame him** by **The BLOOD of the LAMB** and by the **word of their testimony**, and they did not love their lives to the death.