

**Module: Eternal Life Ministries**  
**Course: Kingdom Living: Patterns and Principles**

## INTRODUCTION

All men live in a natural kingdom of this world. They live in a city or village which is part of a nation. That nation is a kingdom of the world.

In addition to the natural kingdoms of this world, there are two spiritual kingdoms that exist. Every person alive is a resident of one of these two kingdoms: The kingdom of Satan or the Kingdom of God.

This course concerns the Kingdom of God. It introduces the two spiritual kingdoms, their rulers, and their residents. It provides spiritual keys for gaining access to the Kingdom of God and warns of things that result in being cast out of the Kingdom. The past, present, and future of this Kingdom are examined, Kingdom parables are explained, and its patterns and principles of living are stressed.

Why is the study of the Kingdom of God important?

Jesus told His followers:

**And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. (Matthew 24:14)**

Before Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom in its final form, the Gospel of the Kingdom must be extended throughout the nations of the world.

In order to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, you must understand the Kingdom of God. Before you can become a custodian of the keys to the Kingdom, you must first experience that Kingdom.

In the past, much emphasis has been placed on the life and ministry of the King of the Kingdom, Jesus Christ, and rightly so. But not enough emphasis has been given to the Gospel of the Kingdom. Jesus told the religious leaders of His time:

**Ye shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men: For ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. (Matthew 23:13)**

It was this Gospel of the Kingdom which was the central purpose of Christ's life. He began His earthly ministry by declaring the arrival of the Kingdom (Matthew 4:17). He ended His earthly ministry by speaking of things pertaining to the Kingdom (Acts 1:3). In between the beginning and end of His earthly ministry, the emphasis was on the Kingdom:

**And He said unto them, I must preach the Kingdom of God to other cities also; for therefore am I sent. (Luke 4:43)**

The Kingdom of God was the greatest concern of Jesus. His teachings and parables focused on the Kingdom. His miracles were a demonstration of the Kingdom of God in action.

The phrases "Kingdom of God" and "Kingdom of Heaven" are used over 100 times in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We are told to seek first the Kingdom, to pray for it, and to preach it. We are told how to enter the Kingdom and taught that residency in it requires a new lifestyle.

To enter this Kingdom, maintain residency, and fulfill the commission to preach its Gospel to the world it is necessary to understand the principles and patterns of the Kingdom. That is the purpose of this course.

But there is a greater purpose than just understanding Kingdom principles. You must go beyond mere knowledge of the Kingdom to actually experience it and make it the central purpose of your life.

People seek meaning in life. They want a cause for which to live and die. Make the Kingdom of God your central purpose of life and ministry. It is a Kingdom that cannot be shaken by enemy forces. It is an eternal cause to which you can give your total allegiance.

# COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify the invisible spiritual kingdoms.
- Identify the rulers of the invisible kingdoms.
- Identify the residents of the invisible kingdoms.
- Explain how entry is gained into the Kingdom of God.
- Summarize the past, present, and future of the Kingdom of God.
- List sins that prevent entrance into the Kingdom of God.
- Recognize the importance of spiritual patterns and principles.
- Demonstrate understanding of basic principles of the Kingdom of God.
- Demonstrate understanding of Kingdom parables.
- Become an ambassador of the Kingdom of God by spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom.
- Continue independent study of the Kingdom of God.
- Continue independent study of the ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ.

# CHAPTER ONE

## THE INVISIBLE KINGDOMS

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter, you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Demonstrate understanding of the natural and spiritual worlds.
- Define the word "kingdom."
- Identify the two spiritual kingdoms.
- Identify the rulers of the spiritual kingdoms.
- Identify the residents of the spiritual kingdoms.
- Define the phrase "Kingdom of Satan."
- Define the phrase "Kingdom of God."

### KEY VERSE:

**And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations: and then shall the end come. (Matthew 24:14)**

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter concerns the natural and spiritual worlds. The natural world is that which you can see, hear, touch, or taste. It is the visible world around you.

But there is another world that surrounds you of which you are a part. It is an invisible world that is composed of two spiritual kingdoms. In this chapter, you will learn about these spiritual kingdoms, their rulers, and their residents. You will learn of the Kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God.

### NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL

Man exists in two worlds: The natural world and the spiritual world. The natural world is that which can be seen, felt, touched, heard, or tasted. It is tangible and visible. The country, nation, city, or village in which you live is part of the natural world. You are the resident of a natural kingdom located on one of the visible continents of the world. You can see the people who are part of your environment. You can communicate with them. You can experience the sights, sounds, and smells around you.

But there is another world in which you live. That world is a spiritual world. You cannot see it with your physical eyes, but it is just as real as the natural world. Paul speaks of this division of natural and spiritual:

**There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. (I Corinthians 15:40)**

All men have a natural body that lives in the natural world. But man is also a spiritual being with an eternal soul and spirit. Man is body, soul, and spirit. Your spiritual being (soul and spirit) is part of a spiritual world just as your natural body is part of the natural world.

## **TWO SPIRITUAL KINGDOMS**

There are natural kingdoms of this world. A natural kingdom is a territory or people over whom a king rules. The Bible speaks of the kingdoms of the world. The kingdoms of the world are presently under the control of Satan:

**Again, the Devil taketh Him (Jesus) up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;**

**And saith unto Him, All these things will I give thee, if you wilt fall down and worship me. (Matthew 4:8-9)**

In the future, all the kingdoms of the world will become kingdoms of God and He will rule over them:

**And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11:15)**

In the natural world a king is the sovereign ruler of the kingdom. All the territory and people of the kingdom belong to him. He has the power of life and death over his subjects.

The spiritual world is composed of two spiritual kingdoms, the Kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of Satan consists of Satan, spiritual beings called demons, and all men who live in sin and rebellion to God's Word. The Kingdom of God consists of God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, spiritual beings called angels, and all men who live in righteous obedience to God's Word.

## **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

There is one Kingdom of God, but it is described in different ways in Scripture. The expression "Kingdom of Heaven" is also used as a name for the Kingdom of God.

This Kingdom is identical to the Kingdom of the Father (Matthew 26:29), of Jesus (Revelation 1:9), of Christ Jesus (II Timothy 4:1), of Christ and God (Ephesians 5:5), of "our Lord and His Christ" (Revelation 11:15), of "our God, and the power of His Christ" (Revelation 12:10), and "of the Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13). All of these are names for the Kingdom of God. For purposes of simplicity, the single title "Kingdom of God" is used in this course.

The Kingdom of God is not a denomination. Denominations are man-made organizations of groups of churches. They have been established for practical purposes of organization and administration. Denominations are major church organizations like Baptist, Assembly of God, Methodist, Lutheran, etc.

The Bible speaks of the true Church which is not a denomination or religious organization. The true Church is composed of all those who have become residents of the Kingdom of God. The true Church is the corporate spiritual body that God established by which the Gospel of the Kingdom is to be extended to the nations of the world. This Church is composed of all men and women who are residents of the Kingdom of God.

The Church is not only to preach and teach the Gospel of the Kingdom, but it should provide a scale model of life in the Kingdom of God. The Church should operate by Kingdom patterns and principles and demonstrate in its lifestyle the teachings of its King, Jesus Christ.

The Kingdom of God existed in the past, it exists in the present, and it will exist in the future, all in different forms. At the present time in the natural world, the Kingdom of God exists individually within every man, woman, boy, or girl who has made Jesus King of their lives. In the future, there will be an actual visible revelation of God's Kingdom. You will learn more about the past, present, and future of the Kingdom of God later in this course.

Because the Kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom and not a natural kingdom of this world, it must be understood with a spiritual mind:

**But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (I Corinthians 2:14)**

## **RULERS OF THE KINGDOMS**

The Kingdom of Satan is ruled by Satan. You will learn more about him and his kingdom in the "For Further Study" section of this chapter. Satan was originally a beautiful angel created by God and was part of the Kingdom of God, but he tried to take over God's Kingdom. You can read about his rebellion in Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:12-19. Several angels joined Satan in this rebellion and they were all cast out of the Kingdom by God. They formed their own kingdom which is called the Kingdom of Satan.

The Kingdom of God is ruled by the Trinity of God which is composed of the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. You will learn more about the ruler of this Kingdom in Chapter Two of this course.

## **RESIDENTS OF THE KINGDOMS**

In addition to the rulers, there are other residents of the two spiritual kingdoms. Evil spirits called demons are residents of the Kingdom of Satan. These spirits can enter, torment, control, and use humans who belong to Satan's kingdom. They motivate many evil acts done by men and women.

Before the end of the world, Satan will use two special spiritual beings in his kingdom called the Antichrist and the False Prophet. They will be part of the final deceptive plan of Satan to overthrow the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God also has residents. There are angels which are spiritual beings who minister to men and women who are part of the Kingdom of God. Just as demons do the bidding of Satan in the world, angels do the will of God.

Although angels and demons are spiritual beings, they reveal themselves visibly and verbally in the natural world on occasion. Demons possessing the bodies of men speak and act in evil ways through them and angels sometimes appear in visible form.

In addition to these spiritual beings, all people alive are either residents of the Kingdom of Satan or the Kingdom of God.

## **ENTRANCE TO THE KINGDOMS**

One of the parables told by Jesus reveals that all men are either part of the Kingdom of Satan or the Kingdom of God. Jesus compared the world to a field. The good seed in the field were the children of the Kingdom of God. The bad seed, which resulted in the growth of tares (weeds) were the children of the wicked one:

**The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the Kingdom, but the tares are the children of the wicked one. (Matthew 13:38)**

People enter the Kingdom of Satan through natural birth. The Bible teaches that all men are born in sin. This means that they have a basic sin nature or the "seed" of sin within. Their natural inclination is to do evil:

**Behold, I was shaped in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.  
(Psalms 51:5)**

**Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. (Romans 5:12)**

**For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)**

Because we are born with the basic sin nature, we have all at one time been part of the Kingdom of Satan. The whole message of God's written Word, the Holy Bible, is the appeal to man to move from this evil Kingdom of Satan to the righteous Kingdom of God.

Men are born into the Kingdom of Satan through natural birth. They must be reborn into the Kingdom of God through spiritual birth. You will learn more about this in Chapter Four, "*Keys To The Kingdom.*"

Those who are born again change their residency from the Kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God. They change their allegiance from Satan to God. When they enter the Kingdom of God they must learn the principles which govern life in this Kingdom. It is like learning the lifestyle of a new country to which you have immigrated. You will learn more about these important principles in other lessons of this course.

### **RELATIONS BETWEEN THE KINGDOMS**

From the time of the rebellion of Satan, there has been spiritual warfare raging between the Kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God. The Bible is the written record of the warfare between these two kingdoms.

This spiritual warfare being waged throughout the world is over the minds, souls, and spirits of mankind. Satan is trying to keep men captive to sin in his kingdom. Through deceptive methods, he entices men and women to partake of the temporary lusts of sinful living. He aims for the affections of the soul and spirit which rightfully belong to God:

**The thief (Satan) cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I (Jesus) am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)**



## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. What are the two divisions made in I Corinthians 15:44-49?

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3. What are the two invisible kingdoms in the world today?

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4. Who are the rulers of the two invisible kingdoms?

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5. Who are the residents of the Kingdom of Satan?

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6. Who are the residents of the Kingdom of God?

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7. What is the difference between these two phrases: "Kingdom of God" and "Kingdom of Heaven"?

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8. Define the word "kingdom."

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