

The Kingdom of God

A biblical study in twelve lectures
by Steve Gregg

Lecture #1
The Meaning of the Kingdom

I. Perceiving the relevance of the kingdom:

...in praying

Matthew 6:9-10

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done
On earth as *it is* in heaven.

I. Perceiving the relevance of the kingdom:

...in preaching

Matthew 24:14

And this ***gospel of the kingdom*** will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

I. Perceiving the relevance of the kingdom:

...in pursuing

Matthew 6:33

But ***seek first the kingdom of God*** and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

II. The difficulty of defining the kingdom of God

A. Synonymous with "the kingdom of heaven"

Matthew 19:23-24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter ***the kingdom of heaven***. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter ***the kingdom of God***."

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching ***the gospel of the kingdom of God***, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and ***the kingdom of God is at hand***. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for ***the kingdom of heaven is at hand***."

B. Not synonymous with “heaven”

Matthew 6:10

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

C. Not synonymous with “the millennium”

Isaiah 9:6-7

And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called

Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of *His* government and peace

There will be no end.

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,

To order it and establish it with judgment and justice

From that time forward, even forever.

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom **which shall never be destroyed**; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and **it shall stand forever.**

Daniel 7:13-14, 27

“ I was watching in the night visions, and behold, *One* like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. **His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed...** Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. **His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom**, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”

Luke 1:32-33

“...He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and **of His kingdom there will be no end.**”

D. What is its relationship to Israel?

Acts 1:6-8

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, **“Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”** And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Romans 9:6

It is not as though God's word had failed.
For ***not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.***

E. Not some mystical inner realityLuke 17:20-21

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, ***the kingdom of God is within you.***"

Luke 16:16

The law and the prophets *were* until John. Since that time ***the kingdom of God*** has been preached, and ***everyone is pressing into it.***

Matthew 5:20

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means ***enter the kingdom of heaven.***

Matthew 7:21

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall ***enter the kingdom of heaven,*** but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

F. Spiritual in natureJohn 3:3-7

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, 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 is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, ***unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and ***that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*** Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Romans 14:17

for ***the kingdom of God is*** not eating and drinking, but ***righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.***

III. The Kingdom as a "people"**A. Israel from Sinai till Saul**Exodus 19:5-6

Now therefore, ***if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant,*** then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And ***you shall be to Me a kingdom*** of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Judges 8:22-23

Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, “**Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also**; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian.” But Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; **the LORD shall rule over you.**”

1 Samuel 8:6-7

But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “**Give us a king to judge us.**” So Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but **they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.**”

Hosea 13:11
I gave you a king in My anger, and took
 him away in My wrath.

B. Israel under monarchs—the House of David1 Samuel 15:26-28

But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, **and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.**” And as Samuel turned around to go away, *Saul* seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. So Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has **given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.**”

2 Samuel 7:12-13

“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, **I will set up your seed after you**, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**”

2 Samuel 7:12-13

“**When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers**, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”

C. Prophecies of the kingdom

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings **the God of heaven will set up a kingdom** which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; **it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms**, and it shall stand forever.

Hosea 13:9-10

“ O Israel, you are destroyed, but your help is from Me. **I will be your King**; where is any other, that he may save you in all your cities?”

Zechariah 14:9

And **the LORD shall be King over all the earth**. In that day it shall be—“ The LORD is one,” and His name one.

Isaiah 2:2-4

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *that* the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and **all nations shall flow to it**. Many people shall come and say, “ Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. **He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people**; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; **nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore**.

D. The Messiah

Genesis 49:10

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, **until Shiloh comes**; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

Psalms 110:1

The LORD said **to my Lord**, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

Daniel 7:13-14

“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, **One like the Son of Man**, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed...

Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a Child is born,
 Unto us a Son is given;
 And the government will be upon His shoulder.
 And His name will be called
 Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 Of the increase of *His* government and peace
There will be no end,
 Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
 To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.

E. Taken from apostate Israel;
Given to another

Matthew 21:43

"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."

Matthew 22:8-9

Then [the King] said to his servants, "The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding."

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Lecture #2

The Centrality of the Kingdom

A. The Gospel of the kingdom of God

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching *the gospel of the kingdom of God*, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Matthew 9:35

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, *preaching the gospel of the kingdom*, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 24:14

And *this gospel of the kingdom* will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

B. John the Baptist

Matthew 3:2

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for *the kingdom of heaven* is at hand!"

Luke 16:16

"The law and the prophets *were* until John. *Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached*, and everyone is pressing into it.

C. The teaching of Christ

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, *for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*"

Luke 4:43

He said to them, "*I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.*"

Luke 8:1, 10

Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, *preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God.* And the twelve *were* with Him... And He said, "To you it has been given to know *the mysteries of the kingdom of God*, but to the rest *it is given* in parables..."

Luke 9:1-2, 11

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. *He sent them to preach the kingdom of God* and to heal the sick... But when the multitudes knew *it*, they followed Him; and He received them and *spoke to them about the kingdom of God*, and healed those who had need of healing.

Mark 4:30

Then He said, "*To what shall we liken the kingdom of God?* Or with what parable shall we picture it?"

Acts 1:3

To [His apostles] He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and *speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*

D. The primitive church

Acts 8:12

But when they believed Philip as *he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God* and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

Acts 14:22

...strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and saying, "*We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.*"

Acts 19:8

And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning *the things of the kingdom of God.*

Acts 20:25

And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom *I have gone preaching the kingdom of God*, will see my face no more.

Acts 28: 23

So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom *he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God*, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

Acts 28:30-31

Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, *preaching the kingdom of God* and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

**E. The Bottom Line: Lordship of Christ &
Call to discipleship**

Acts 2:36

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, *both Lord and Christ.*"

Romans 10:9

that if you confess with your mouth *the Lord Jesus* and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, *you will be saved.*

Luke 6:46

"But why do you call Me '*Lord, Lord,*' and *do not do the things which I say?*"

John 8:31

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "*If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.*"

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.* Go therefore and *make disciples* of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;* and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

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Lecture #3

The Progress of the Kingdom

I. The Kingdom Inaugurated

Matthew 12:28

But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely **the kingdom of God has come upon you.**

Luke 17:20-21

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, **the kingdom of God is within you [or "in your midst"]."**

Mark 12:34

Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "**You are not far from the kingdom of God.**"

Mark 11:9-10

Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! Blessed is **the kingdom of our father David that comes** in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Acts 2:29-32

"Men *and* brethren, let *me* speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

Acts 13:32-34

And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. **33** God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm:

' You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You.'

And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus:

' I will give you the sure mercies of David.'

The Messiah Reigns

Psalm 2:1-8

Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the LORD and against His
Anointed, saying,
"Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us."

Psalm 2:1-8 (cont.)

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.
Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:
"Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion."

Psalm 2:1-8 (cont.)

"I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me,
 'You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.
Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your
 possession.

Acts 4:24-27

So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

*' Why did the nations rage,
And the people plot vain things?
The kings of the earth took their stand,
And the rulers were gathered together
Against the LORD and against His Christ.'*

For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together..."

Psalm 110:1

The LORD said to my Lord,
"Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

Acts 2:32-36

This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. For David...says himself:

*' The LORD said to my Lord,
" Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."*

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Ephesians 1:20-22

...which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church.

Revelation 3:21

To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as **I also overcame and sat down** with My Father on His throne.

Acts 17:7

Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, **saying there is another king—Jesus.**"

II. The Kingdom Resisted

A. The devil's hostility

Revelation 12

1. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. **2.** Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

3. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

Revelation 12 (cont.)

4. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. **5.** She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. **6.** Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Revelation 12 (cont.)

7. And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, **8.** but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. **9.** So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12 (cont.)

10. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11. 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.

Revelation 12 (cont.)

12. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

13. Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. 14. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

Revelation 12 (cont.)

15. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11:12

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and **the violent take it by force**.

Luke 16:16

"The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and **everyone is pressing into it**.

2 Timothy 2:3-4

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

Matthew 12:28-29

But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, **unless he first binds the strong man?** And then he will plunder his house.

Luke 11:20-22

But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and **overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor** in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.

Colossians 2:15

Having **disarmed principalities and powers**, He **made a public spectacle** of them, **triumphing** over them in it.

Hebrews 2:14-15

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that **through death He might destroy** him who had the power of death, that is, **the devil**, and **release** those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

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Lecture #4
The Progress and Triumph of the
Kingdom

I. The Kingdom Progressing

Colossians 1:13

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Daniel 2:34-35

You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth...

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Matthew 21:43-44

“Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but **on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.**”

Matthew 13:31-32

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

Daniel 4:10-12

These *were* the visions of my head *while* on my bed: I was looking, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew and became strong; its height reached to the heavens, and it could be seen to the ends of all the earth.

Its leaves *were* lovely, its fruit abundant, and in it *was* food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, **the birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches**, and all flesh was fed from it.

Ezekiel 31:3-6

Indeed Assyria *was* a cedar in Lebanon, with fine branches that shaded the forest, and of high stature; and its top was among the thick boughs...its height was exalted above all the trees of the field; its boughs were multiplied, and its branches became long because of the abundance of water, as it sent them out. **All the birds of the heavens made their nests in its boughs**; under its branches all the beasts of the field brought forth their young; and in its shadow all great nations made their home.

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: “I will take also *one* of the highest branches of the high cedar and set *it* out. I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and will plant *it* on a high and prominent mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it; and it will bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a majestic cedar. Under it will dwell birds of every sort; in the shadow of its branches they will dwell. And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, the LORD, have spoken and have done *it.*”

Matthew 13:33

Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

II. The Kingdom Future

Luke 19:12

Therefore He said, "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return..."

Daniel 7:13-14

I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!

He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.

Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a **kingdom**, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:22, 27

...until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and **the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.**

... **Then the kingdom** and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, **shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.** His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

Luke 12:32

"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

This is a faithful saying:
For if we died with Him,
We shall also live with Him.

**If we endure,
We shall also reign with Him.**

If we deny Him,
He also will deny us.
If we are faithless,
He remains faithful;
He cannot deny Himself.

Revelation 11:15

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

1 Corinthians 15:22-26

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, **when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.** For He must reign **till He has put all enemies under His feet.** The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Philippians 2:10-11

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that **every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

Isaiah 42:1-4

"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold,
My Elect One in whom My soul delights!
I have put My Spirit upon Him;
He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.
He will not cry out, nor raise His voice,
Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street.
A bruised reed He will not break,
And smoking flax He will not quench;
He will bring forth justice for truth.
**He will not fail nor be discouraged,
Till He has established justice in the earth;**
And the coastlands shall wait for His law."

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Lecture #5
A Kingdom of Priests

Exodus 19:5-6

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**’ These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood, a holy nation...**

Revelation 1:6

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and **has made us kings and priests [or “a kingdom of priests”] to His God** and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Revelation 5:9-10

And they sang a new song, saying:
“ You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
And have made us kings and priests [or “a kingdom of priests”] to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth.”

The Priest’s Calling

Hebrews 5:1, 4

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God...**And no man takes this honor to himself,** but he who is called by God, just as Aaron *was*.

The Priest's Privilege

Numbers 18:20

Then the LORD said to Aaron: "You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; **I am your portion and your inheritance** among the children of Israel.

The Priest's Responsibilities

A. To be holy

Leviticus 21:1, 6

And the LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them: '**None shall defile himself... They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God**, for they offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire, *and* the bread of their God; therefore **they shall be holy**.'

Romans 14:7-9

For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, **we live to the Lord**; and if we die, **we die to the Lord**. Therefore, whether we live or die, **we are the Lord's**. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, **that He might be Lord** of both the dead and the living.

1 Peter 1:14-16

...as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; but as He who called you *is* holy, **you also be holy in all your conduct**, because it is written, "*Be holy, for I am holy.*"

Psalms 15

- 1 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle?
Who may dwell in Your holy hill?
- 2 He who walks uprightly,
And works righteousness,
And speaks the truth in his heart;
- 3 He *who* does not backbite with his tongue,
Nor does evil to his neighbor,
Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;
- 4 In whose eyes a vile person is despised,
But he honors those who fear the LORD;
He *who* swears to his own hurt and does not change;
- 5 He *who* does not put out his money at usury,
Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these *things* shall never be moved.

B. To teach God's Word

Leviticus 10:10-11

Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying, "...that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, and **that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes** which the LORD has spoken to them..."

Malachi 2:7

For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and **people should seek the law from his mouth**; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...**”

C. To offer up sacrifices

1 Peter 2:5

...you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, **a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1. The sacrifice of our bodies

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy**, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service [or “spiritual worship”].

Romans 6:13

And do not **present your members** as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members **as instruments of righteousness to God.**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who *is* in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own**? For you were **bought at a price**; therefore **glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**

2. The sacrifice of our possessions

Philippians 4:18

Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the **things sent from you**, a sweet-smelling aroma, **an acceptable sacrifice**, well pleasing to God.

2 Samuel 24:24

Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy *it* from you for a price; **nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing.**" So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

3. The sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise

Hebrews 13:15-16

Therefore by Him let us continually **offer the sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to **do good and to share**, for **with such sacrifices God is well pleased.**

Psalms 141:2

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

Revelation 5:8

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden **bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**

The Kingdom of God

A biblical study in twelve lectures
by Steve Gregg

Lecture #6 The Cost and Value of the Kingdom

Matthew 13:44-46

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:44

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field..."

Matthew 13:38

"The field is the world..."

Matthew 13:44

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field..."

Exodus 19:5

"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people..."

Matthew 13:44

"...he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Philippians 2:5-8

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Matthew 13:44

“...and *for joy over it* he goes and sells all...”

Hebrews 12:2

...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, *who for the joy* that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Matthew 13:44

“...he goes and sells all that he has *and buys that field.*”

Acts 20:28

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God *which He purchased with His own blood.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

...you are not your own...For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Peter 1:18-19

...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

1 John 2:2

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also *for the whole world.*

Matthew 13:45-46

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

From "Disciple" —by Juan Carlos Ortiz

...when we find Jesus, it costs us everything. He has happiness, joy, peace, healing, security, eternity, everything. So we say, "I want this pearl. How much is it?"

"Well," the seller says, "it's very expensive."

"But how much?" we ask.

"Well, a very large amount."

"Do you think I could buy it?"

"Oh, of course. Everyone can buy it."

"But didn't you say it was very expensive?"

"Yes."

"Well, how much is it?"

"Everything you have," says the seller.

We make up our minds. "All right, I'll buy it," we say.

"Well, what do you have?" he wants to know. "Let's write it down."

"Well, I have ten thousand dollars in the bank."

"Good—ten thousand dollars. What else."

"That's all. That's all I have."

"Nothing more?"

"Well, I have a few dollars here in my pocket."

"How much?"

We start digging. "Well, let's see—thirty, forty, sixty, eighty, a hundred, a hundred twenty dollars."

"That's fine. What else do you have?"

"Well, nothing. That's all."

"Where do you live?" He's still probing.

"In my house. Yes, I have a house."

"The house too, then." He writes that down.

"You mean I have to live in my camper?"

"You have a camper? That, too. What else?"

"I'll have to sleep in my car!"

"You have a car?"

"Two of them."

"Both become mine, both cars. What else?"

"Well, you already have my money, my house, my camper, my cars. What else do you want?"

"Are you alone in this world?"

"No, I have a wife and two children...."

"Oh, yes, your wife and children, too. What else?"

"I have nothing left! I am left alone now."

Suddenly the seller exclaims, "Oh, I almost forgot! *You* yourself, too! Everything becomes mine—wife, children, house, money, cars—and you too."

Then he goes on. "Now listen—I will allow you to use all these things for the time being. But don't forget that they are mine, just as you are. And whenever I need any of them, you must give them up, because now I am the owner."

From *Disciple*, by Juan Carlos Ortiz (1975), pp. 34-35

Matthew 13:45

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant...who...found *one pearl* of great price...

Revelation 21:21

The twelve gates were twelve pearls:
each individual gate was of one pearl.
And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Acts 14:22

...they returned strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying,
"We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Luke 14:12-14

Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Colossians 3:1-2

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Luke 14:33

So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Matthew 19:21

Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, *sell what you have* and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, *follow Me.*"

Matthew 19:27

Then Peter answered and said to Him, "*See, we have left all and followed You.* Therefore what shall we have?"

Acts 2:44-47

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 4:32-35

Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

Hebrews 10:34

...for you had compassion on me in my chains, and *joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods*, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

Luke 9:57-62

Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go."

And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

Then He said to another, "Follow Me."

But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house."

But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

But he said, "Lord, let **me first** go and bury my father."

And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let **me first** go and bid them farewell who are at my house."

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

2 Timothy 2:3-4

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

An American college student had been converted to Communism, in Mexico, and wrote the following letter to his fiancé, explaining why he must break off their engagement:

"We Communists have a high casualty rate. We're the ones who get shot and hung and lynched and tarred and feathered and jailed and slandered, and ridiculed and fired from our jobs, and in every other way made as uncomfortable as possible. A certain percentage of us get killed or imprisoned..."

"...We live in virtual poverty. We turn back to the party every penny we make above what is absolutely necessary to keep us alive. We Communists don't have the time or the money for many movies, or concerts, or T-bone steaks, or decent homes and new cars. We've been described as fanatics. We are fanatics. Our lives are dominated by one great overshadowing factor, the struggle for World Communism..."

"...We Communists have a philosophy of life which no amount of money could buy. We have a cause to fight for, a definite purpose in life. We subordinate our petty, personal selves to a great movement of humanity, and if our personal lives seem hard, or our egos appear to suffer through subordination to the party, then we are adequately compensated by the thought that each of us in his small way is contributing to something new and true and better for mankind..."

“...There is one thing in which I am in dead earnest, that that is the Communist cause. It is my life, my business, my religion, my hobby, my sweetheart, my wife and mistress, my bread and meat. I work at it in the daytime, and dream of it at night. Its hold on me grows, not lessens as time goes on. Therefore I cannot carry on a friendship, a love affair, or even a conversation without relating it to the force which both drives and guides my life...

“...I evaluate people, books, ideas and actions according to how they affect the Communist cause and by their attitude toward it. I've already been in jail because of my ideas, and, if necessary, I'm ready to go before a firing squad.”

Philippians 3:7-8

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

1 Corinthians 6:6-7

But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!
Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?

Hebrews 10:34

for you had compassion on me in my chains, and *joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods,* knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

Hebrews 11:24-26

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

Matthew 13:10-11

And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, "*Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*"

Mark 4:34

But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.

John 15:14-15

You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for *all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

Psalms 25:14

The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.

Proverbs 3:32

For the perverse person is an abomination to the Lord, but His secret counsel *is* with the upright.

John 15:8

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear *much fruit*; so you will be My disciples.

Luke 6:40

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

Romans 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Luke 19:17

And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'

Revelation 5:9-10

And they sang a new song, saying:

" You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us [a kingdom of] priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

The Kingdom of God

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Lecture #7

Entering the Kingdom of God

Luke 13:23-27

Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?"

And He said to them, "**Strive to enter** through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from.'"

Mark 9: 43, 45, 47

...If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you **to enter into life** maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—

...And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you **to enter life** lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—

...And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you **to enter the kingdom of God** with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire...

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. **For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"**

An atheist wrote:

"If I firmly believed, as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of religion in this life influences destiny in another, then religion would mean to me everything. I would cast away earthly enjoyments as dross, earthly cares as follies, and earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity..."

"...Religion would be my first waking thought, and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness. I should labor in its cause alone. I would take thought for the morrow of Eternity alone. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a life of suffering. Earthly consequences would never stay my hand, or seal my lips. Earth, its joys and its griefs, would occupy no moment of my thoughts..."

“...I would strive to look upon Eternity alone, and on the immortal souls around me, soon to be everlastingly happy or everlastingly miserable. I would go forth to the world and preach to it in season and out of season, and my text would be, **WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?**”

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Do you not know that the unrighteous **will not inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will **inherit the kingdom of God**.

Galatians 5:19-21

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God**.

Ephesians 5:5

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, **has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God**.

Matthew 19:23-24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that **it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven**. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter **the kingdom of God**.”

Matthew 21:31

Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots **enter the kingdom of God** before you.

Matthew 18:3

"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means **enter the kingdom** of heaven."

John 3:3-6

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, 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 is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.** That which is **born of the flesh** is flesh, and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit.

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Matthew 28:18-19

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore^[a] and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

1 Corinthians 10:1-2

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea...

Acts 8:12

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

John 3:5

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God

Romans 14:17

...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Luke 6:46

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?

Luke 19:11-19

Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.' But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this *man* to reign over us'..."

Luke 19:11-19 (cont.)

"And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.' And he said to him, 'Well *done*, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.' And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.' Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'

Matthew 24:45-51

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards...

Matthew 24:45-51 (cont.)

"...the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 21:43

"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.

Matthew 5:20

For I say to you, that unless your

2 Peter 1:5-11

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...

2 Peter 1:5-11 (cont.)

For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for **so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Matthew 25:31-40

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

"And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...'

Matthew 25:31-40 (cont.)

"... for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink... I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

Matthew 25:31-40 (cont.)

"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

"Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept...

Matthew 25:1-13 (cont.)

"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

"And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves' ..."

Matthew 25:1-13 (cont.)

“...And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

“Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”

Luke 16:16

“The law and the prophets *were* until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is **pressing into it.**”

Acts 14:22

[Paul went about] strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

2 Timothy 2:3-4

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

The Kingdom of God

A biblical study in twelve lectures
by Steve Gregg

Lecture #8
The Kingdom of Grace

Acts 20:24-25

But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the **gospel of the grace of God**. And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom **I have gone preaching the kingdom of God**, will see my face no more.

Hebrews 12:28

Therefore, since we are **receiving a kingdom** which cannot be shaken, **let us have grace**, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses, but **grace and truth came** through Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:20-21

Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that **as sin reigned** in death, **even so grace might reign** through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:14-22

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are **not under law but under grace**.

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, **you are that one's slaves whom you obey**, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness...

Romans 6:14-22 (cont.)

For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **What fruit did you have** then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, **you have your fruit** to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

Titus 2:11-12

For **the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared** to all men, **teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.

Romans 3:21-24

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...

Romans 4:4

Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

Romans 11:6

And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace...

Ephesians 2:8-10

For **by grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **not of works**, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Proverbs 11:16-17

A gracious woman retains honor,
But ruthless men retain riches.
The merciful man does good for his own soul,
But he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.

Ecclesiastes 10:12

The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious,
But the lips of a fool shall swallow him up...

2 Corinthians 8:7

But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—**see that you abound in this grace also.**

Colossians 4:6

Let your speech always **be with grace**, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy **and find grace to help** in time of need.

2 Corinthians 3:5

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but **our sufficiency is from God.**

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make **all grace abound toward you**, that you, always **having all sufficiency in all things**, may have an abundance for every good work.

Hebrews 12:28

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us **have grace, by which we may serve God** acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

1 Corinthians 3:10

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder **I have laid the foundation**, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

1 Corinthians 15:10

But **by the grace of God I am what I am**, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, **yet not I, but the grace of God** which was with me.

Romans 12:6

Having then gifts differing according to the **grace that is given to us**, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith...

1 Peter 4:10-11

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, **as good stewards of the manifold grace of God**. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ...

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and **given us everlasting consolation** and good hope **by grace, comfort your hearts** and **establish you** in every good word and work.

2 Corinthians 12:9

And He said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you**, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

James 4:6

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
*" God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."*

1 Peter 5:5

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for
*" God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."*

Romans 5:2

...through whom also **we have access by faith into this grace** in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:8

For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith...**

2 Peter 1:2

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord...

2 Peter 3:18

...but **grow in the grace** and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace** to the hearers.

The Kingdom of God

A biblical study in twelve lectures
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Lectures #9 & 10
The Kingdom Present With Power

Mark 9:1

And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the **kingdom of God present with power.**"

Revelation 12:10

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and **the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come**, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

Matthew 9:35

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease** among the people.

Luke 10:9

And **heal the sick** there, and say to them, '**The kingdom of God has come near to you.**'

Mark 16:20

And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but **in the power of God**.

1 Corinthians 4:19-20

But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. **For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.**

Ecclesiastes 8:4

Where the word of a king is, there is power.

Mark 1:21-27

Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, "Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

Mark 1:21-27 (cont.)

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine *is* this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."

Matthew 9:5-8

"For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

Luke 7:19-22

And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'"

Luke 7:19-22 (cont.)

And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Matthew 12:28

But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

Luke 11:20-22

But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.

Colossians 2:15

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Hebrews 2:14-15

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Judges 14:5-6

So Samson went down...to the vineyards of Timnah. Now to his surprise, a young lion came roaring against him. And **the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him**, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand.

Micah 3:8

But truly **I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord**, and of justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression.

Zechariah 4:6

“This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will put My Spirit within you** and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Zechariah 12:10

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication...

Isaiah 44:3

For I will pour water on him who is thirsty,
And floods on the dry ground;
I will pour My Spirit on your descendants,
And My blessing on your offspring

John 7:37-39

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**" **But this He spoke concerning the Spirit**, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Acts 10:38

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Hebrews 6:4-5

[Christians described as] "those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and **have become partakers of the Holy Spirit**, and have tasted the good word of God and **the powers of the age to come...**"

Acts 1:6-8

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

1 Thessalonians 1:5

For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also **in power, and in the Holy Spirit** and in much assurance...

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

2 Corinthians 12:9

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **My strength is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, **that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

2 Corinthians 4:7-11

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side...perplexed... persecuted... struck down...always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

Daniel 11:32

Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but **the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.**

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him...**

Philippians 3:10

...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death...

Colossians 1:9-11

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be...**increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power**, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.

Luke 17:3-6

“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”

And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”

So the Lord said, “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

Galatians 5:16

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Romans 8:2, 4, 11-14

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death...that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit... But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you...

Romans 8:2, 4, 11-14 (cont.)

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.

Luke 4:14

Then Jesus returned **in the power of the Spirit** to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.

Luke 24:49

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem **until you are endued with power** from on high.”

Acts 4:33

And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

Ephesians 3:7

I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me **by the effective working of His power.**

Acts 6:2-3

Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, **full of the Holy Spirit** and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business..."

Acts 6:8

And Stephen, **full of faith and power**, did great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 8:5-7

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

1 Peter 4:10-11

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies...

Luke 10:19

Behold, **I give you the authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy**, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

Ephesians 6:10-11

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and **in the power of His might**. Put on the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil**.

Luke 11:9-13

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone?...

Luke 11:9-13 (cont.)

“...Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

James 4:2-5

You do not have because you do not ask. **You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss**, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?

Acts 8:18-21

And when Simon [the sorcerer] saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, **for your heart is not right in the sight of God**.

Matthew 17:18-20

And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "**Because of your unbelief.**"

James 1:6-8

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Luke 18:1ff

He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and **not lose heart.**

Genesis 32:24-28

Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

And [the Man] said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks."

Genesis 32:24-28 (cont.)

But [Jacob] said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

So He said to him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Jacob."

And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Isaiah 64:7

And there is no one who calls on Your name, who stirs himself up to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us, and have consumed us because of our iniquities.

1 Kings 18:41-45

Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain." So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea."

So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."

1 Kings 18:41-45 (cont.)

Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'"

Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain.

The Kingdom of God

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Lecture #11
The Law of the King

James 2:8

If you really fulfill **the royal law** according
to the Scripture,
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself,"
you do well.

James 1:25

But he who looks into **the perfect law of liberty**
and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer
but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in
what he does.

James 2:12

So speak and so do as those who will be judged by
the law of liberty.

Matthew 5:3, 10

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:19-20

Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of
these commandments, and teaches men so,
shall be called **least in the kingdom of
heaven**; but whoever does and teaches them,
he shall be called **great in the kingdom of
heaven**. For I say to you, that unless your
righteousness exceeds the righteousness of
the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no
means **enter the kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 6:9-10

In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come...

Matthew 6:33

But **seek first the kingdom of God**
and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.

Matthew 7:21

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,'
shall **enter the kingdom of heaven**, but he
who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:17

Do not think that I came to **destroy** the Law
or the Prophets.
I did not come to destroy but to **fulfill**.

Hebrews 7:11-12

Therefore, if perfection were through the
Levitical priesthood (for under it the people
received the law), what further need was
there that another priest should rise
according to the order of Melchizedek, and
not be called according to the order of Aaron?
For the priesthood being changed, of
necessity **there is also a change of the law**.

Colossians 2:16-17

So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or
regarding a festival or a new moon or
sabbaths, **which are a shadow** of things to
come, but **the substance is of Christ**.

1 Corinthians 9:19-21

For though I am free from all men, I have
made myself a servant to all, that I might win
the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew,
that I might win Jews; to those who are under
the law, as under the law, that I might win
those who are under the law; to those who
are without law, as without law (**not being
without law toward God, but under law
toward Christ**), that I might win those who
are without law.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe **all things that I have commanded you...**"

Matthew 22:35-40

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**"

Romans 13:8-10

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for **he who loves another has fulfilled the law.** For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law.**

Galatians 5:14

For **all the law is fulfilled in one word,** even in this:
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! **You shall love the LORD your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Leviticus 19:18

You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself:**
I am the LORD.

Luke 3:10-11

So the people asked [John the baptist], saying,
"What shall we do then?"

He answered and said to them, "He who has
two tunics, let him give to him who has none;
and he who has food, let him do likewise."

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you
love one another; as I have loved you, that you
also love one another. By this all will know that
you are My disciples, if you have love for one
another."

Romans 12:10

Be kindly affectionate to one another with
brotherly love, **in honor giving preference to
one another.**

1 John 3:16-17

By this we know love, because He laid down
His life for us. **And we also ought to lay
down our lives for the brethren.** But
whoever has this world's goods, and sees his
brother in need, and shuts up his heart from
him, how does the love of God abide in him?

Romans 7:9-11

I was alive once without the law, but when
the commandment came, sin revived and
I died. And **the commandment**, which
was to bring life, **I found to bring death.**
For sin, taking occasion **by the
commandment**, deceived me, and by it
killed me.

2 Corinthians 3:3-6

...clearly you are an epistle of Christ,
ministered by us, written not with ink but **by
the Spirit of the living God**, not on tablets of
stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, **of the
heart...** but our sufficiency is from God, who
also made us sufficient as ministers of the
new covenant, not of the letter but of the
Spirit; for **the letter kills**, but the Spirit gives
life.

1 Corinthians 16:14

"Let all that you do be done with love."

Ephesians 3:17

...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love...

Matthew 7:12

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

2 Corinthians 11:28-29

...besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn...?

Galatians 5:13

For you, brethren, have been **called to liberty**; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**.

John 13:13-17

"You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.** Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. **If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.**"

Philippians 2:3-4

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem others better than himself**. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for **the interests of others**.

1 John 3:16-17

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

Romans 14:15

Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

Matthew 23:23-24

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the **weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith[fulness]**. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O man, what *is* good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?

John 5:30

I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge;
and **My judgment is righteous [just]**,
because I do not seek My own will but the
will of the Father who sent Me.

John 7:24

Do not judge according to appearance, but
judge with righteous [just] judgment."

1 Corinthians 6:1, 5

Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?...I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?

Luke 6:27-36

"But I say to you who hear: **Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.** To him who strikes you on the one cheek, **offer the other also.** And from him who takes away your cloak, **do not withhold your tunic** either. **Give to everyone** who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods **do not ask them back.** And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise..."

Luke 6:27-36 (cont.)

"But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But **love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing** in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. **Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."**

Matthew 5:33-37

"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

Psalms 15:1, 4

Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?
Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

He who swears to his own hurt
and does not change..."

Ephesians 4:15

but, **speaking the truth in love**, [we] may
grow up in all things into Him who is
the head—Christ

Proverbs 12:18

There is one who speaks
like the piercings of a sword,
But the tongue of the wise promotes health.

Proverbs 15:1

A soft answer turns away wrath,
But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 18:8

The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles,
[traditional Jewish translation: "wounds"]
And they go down into the inmost body.

▪ Proverbs 26:18-19

Like a madman who throws firebrands,
arrows, and death,
Is the man who deceives his neighbor,
And says, "I was only joking!"

Proverbs 27:14

He who blesses his friend with a loud voice,
rising early in the morning,
It will be counted a curse to him.

James 3:6

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

James 1:19

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, **slow to speak**, slow to wrath

Proverbs 29:11

A fool vents all his feelings,
[“uttereth all his mind”—KJV]
But a wise man holds them back.

Proverbs 17:27-28

He who has knowledge spares his words,
And a man of understanding
is of a calm spirit.
Even a fool is counted wise
when he holds his peace;
When he shuts his lips,
he is considered perceptive.

Mark 10:21

Then Jesus, **looking at him, loved him**, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

Ephesians 4:15

but, speaking **the truth** in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend,
But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass,
you who are spiritual restore such a one in a
spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest
you also be tempted.

2 Timothy 2:24-25

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but
be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in
humility correcting those who are in
opposition, if God perhaps will grant them
repentance, so that they may know the truth.

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and
always be ready to give a defense to everyone
who asks you a reason for the hope that is in
you, **with meekness** and fear

Luke 4:22

So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the
gracious words which proceeded out of His
mouth.

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your
mouth, but **what is good for necessary
edification, that it may impart grace** to the
hearers.

Hebrews 10:24, 25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works...exhorting one another...

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and **everyone who loves is born of God** and knows God. **He who does not love does not know God**, for God is love.

1 John 3:14

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

Galatians 5:22

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love..."

Romans 5:5

Now hope does not disappoint, because **the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit** who was given to us.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and **of love** and of a sound mind.

1 John 5:1-3

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and **everyone who loves Him who begot [God] also loves him who is begotten of Him [His kids]**. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. **For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.**

Luke 9:23

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself, and take up his cross daily**, and follow Me.

Luke 17:8-10

But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise you, **when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'**"

John 12:26

"If anyone serves Me, **let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also.**"

1 Peter 2:21-23

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps**: "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.

1 Corinthians 11:1

"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."

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