



A Three-Fold Cord

Creation, Redemption & Dominion

2nd Edition, Revised & Expanded

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Living in The King's Domain – Kingdom

All through Scripture runs a common thread of authority. The overarching issue of history is who is sovereign: the Creator God or someone, something else? While there is no real question who is actually in charge, on a more practical note, the issue has been what to do with the challengers, both physical and spiritual. You saw some of that in chap 2, "Apologetics," chap 4, "Origins," and chap 7, "Redemption." Every nation or kingdom models this in some fashion. These five components of that authority have been expounded by Ray Sutton in *That You May Prosper*.

1. Sovereignty – Who is in charge?
2. Authority – Who represents the sovereign? To whom do I report?
3. Law – What are the rules?
4. Sanctions – What happens if I keep or break the rules?
5. Legacy – Who gets the inheritance? Who wins in the end?

1. Ultimate Ownership – Who Is Running This Outfit?

Kingdom is about property, and God owns it all by right as the Creator.

Psalms 24:1

The earth is Yahweh's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

John 1:1-3

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Isaiah 45:18

For thus says Yahweh, “Who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited? I am Yahweh, and there is no other.”

2. King of Kings – The Present Rulership of King Jesus

1 Corinthians 15:25-26

25 For **He must reign until** He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The **last enemy** that will be destroyed is death.

Psalms 110:1

Yahweh said to my Adoni, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

This is the most repeated verse in the Bible. Maybe God is trying to tell us something?

See also Mt 22:44, Mk 12:36, Lk 20:42, Acts 2:34, 1Cor 15:25, Heb 1:13.

By AD 350, the Christians were a dominant influence in the Roman Empire. Think of that, 300 years it took, bought with blood, prayers, and action. This was the Gospel of the Kingdom in action. God’s purposes have been Church and state, side by side, different jurisdictions, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, working to effect improvement for all citizens, finishing the Eden Project. In almost all cases, the state has subverted the Church, with their permission, and undermined God’s purpose.

This was the situation at the founding of America. But over the last 200 years we Christians have abandoned what we gained in favor of millions of years and futurism. We are seeing the fruit of such neglect on an increasing scale. May God have mercy on us and those that suffer needlessly because of our neglect.

Jesus is Lord of all, but unbelievers dictate the land’s use. Why is that? Christians owning property, or starting businesses, for the purpose of Kingdom expansion is a foreign idea. It is not spiritual enough. Most Christians think religiously rather than nationally. God has always been interested in the nations. A study of “nations” in both the Old and New Testaments is instructive. There are many that talk about the restoration of nations to the family of God. Here are a few:

Mt 28:18-20 – The Great Commission

18 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.

Revelation 21:24-26

...nations of them which are saved... (Mat 25:32, 28:19, 28:18-20, Mark 13:10, Rom 16:26, Rev 2:26, 12:5, 22:2, and so many more).

Jesus said, “I will build My [Ecclesia]...” Matt 16:18. If the Great Commission was merely a program to make converts, governments and businesses would hardly take notice. But, in truth, what we find is more like these verses:

Acts 16:16-23

16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” 18 And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour. 19 But **when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone**, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. 20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, “These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; 21 and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.” 22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

Acts 17:5-7

5 But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the **evil men from the marketplace**, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. 7 Jason has harbored them, and **these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar**, saying there is **another king - Jesus**.”

Acts 19:23-27

23 And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. 24 For a certain man named **Demetrius, a silversmith**, who made silver shrines of Diana, **brought no small profit to the craftsmen**. 25 He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: “Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. 26 Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. 27 So not only is **this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute**, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised, and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.”

These represent the real impact of the Gospel of the Kingdom on the people, businesses, and nations. Idolatry in every form – the worship of Caesar, Diana, idols of silver – was confronted by the Gospel that resulted in a backlash of persecution. All these were vanquished, but fallen man invents new objects of worship. The Ecclesia (Church) in every generation is to confront the idolatry of their time with the Gospel of the Kingdom. Jesus is Lord and the ruler of the kings of the earth and every knee must bow. We are to call leaders of every sort to truth and righteousness in their activities (Php 2:9-11, Acts 17:30, 2 Cor 10:3-5).

Question: What are the idols of today that the Church confronts?

John 2:13-16

13 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. 15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. 16 And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!”

Mark 5:8-17

8 For He said to him, “Come out of the man, unclean spirit!” 9 Then He asked him, “What is your name?” And he answered, saying, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” 10 Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. 11 Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. 12 So

all the demons begged Him, saying, “Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.” 13 And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea and drowned in the sea. 14 So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. 15 Then they came to Jesus and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 16 And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. 17 Then they began to **plead with Him to depart** from their region.

But what is the Kingdom perspective?

Luke 19:12-27

12 Therefore He said: “**A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.** 13 So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘**Do business till I come.**’ 14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We will not have this man to reign over us.’

15 “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. 16 Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ 17 And he said to him, Well done, good servant; **because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.**’ 18 And the second came, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned five minas.’ 19 Likewise he said to him, ‘**You also be over five cities.**’ 20 “Then another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief. 21 For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit and reap what you did not sow.’ 22 And he said to him, ‘**Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant. You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow. 23 Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’**

24 “And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas.’ 25 (But they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas.’) 26 ‘For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 27 **But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.**”’

a. Under An open Heaven

Isaiah 64:1

Oh, that You would **rend the heavens!** That You would **come down!**
That the mountains (rulers) might shake at Your presence

Mark 1:9-11

9 It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the **heavens rent** (root G4977 schizo) and the **Spirit coming down** upon Him like a dove. 11 Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (See also Mt 27:51, Lk 23:45).

This is one of the few times when all three members of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – are manifested together at the same time in the same place. This is also a refutation to those who would deny the Trinity (i.e., the oneness doctrine: God is Unity,

not Trinity) or the charge of polytheism. (See also Jn 1:1-3, Heb 1:3-10, Col 1:15, and many more).

Mark 15:38

Then the veil of the temple was torn (root G4977 schizo) in two from top to bottom.

Acts 2:1-4

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel."

Question: Where is 'sin' in this gospel? It is not there! The 'good news' is that the King has come. You can believe!

Question: Can 'time is fulfilled' and 'kingdom is at hand' mean 'but not for 2000 years?' What time was fulfilled? Dan 9:25.

John 18:33-37

33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" 35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me (for envy, Mt 27:18). What have You done?" 36 Jesus answered, "**My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "**Are You a king then?**" Jesus answered, "**You say rightly that I am a king.** For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Jn 10:27

Some try to say that because Jesus' Kingdom is "not of this world," it exists in some other place. They believe that the Kingdom can only exist where Jesus is physically located. They are thinking with a carnal mind. John 17:11, 14, 16, states we are in the world but not of the world. So is the Kingdom.

Isaiah 9:6-8

6 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. 7 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. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

The perfect order of Heaven is to be expressed in the earth with increasing definition. “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Mt 6:10. Here is a picture. How much more the Kingdom.

1 Kings 10:4-9

4 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 5 the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her. 6 Then she said to the king: “It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. 7 However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard. 8 Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom! 9 Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.”

Daniel 7:11-14

11 I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. 13 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. 14 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. Luke 1:33

Rev 1:4-5

4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

1 Timothy 1:17

17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:15-16

15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

b. Son of the Right Hand

Acts 2:32-33

32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 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.

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all

things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the **right hand of the Majesty** on high

Hebrews 8:1-2

1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the **right hand of the throne** of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Hebrews 10:11-13

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the **right hand of God**, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author [ruler] 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.

Colossians 3:1-2

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, **sitting at the right hand of God**. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

1 Peter 3:21-22

21 ... through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the **right hand of God**, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

Acts 7:55-56

55 But [Stephen], being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man **standing at the right hand of God!**"

Romans 8:34

34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the **right hand of God**, who also makes intercession for us.

See also a few more: Dan 7:13-14, Mat 26:64, Mk 14:62, 16:19, Lk 23:33
Acts 2:33-35, 5:31, 7:55-56, Eph 1:20

c. Son of David

Matthew 1:1

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the **Son of David**, the Son of Abraham (See also, Mt 9:27, 12:23, 15:22, 20:30-31, 21:9, 15, 22:42-45, Mk 10:47-48, 12:35-37.)

Luke 1:30-33

30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name JESUS. 32 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**. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Romans 1:3-4

3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was **born of the seed of David** according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

Luke 18:38-39

38 And he cried out, saying, “**Jesus, Son of David**, have mercy on me!” 39 Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “**Son of David**, have mercy on me!”

Matthew 22:41-46

41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” **They said to Him, “The Son of David.”** 43 He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: 44 ‘The LORD (Yahweh) said to my Lord (Adoni), “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?’ 45 If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” 46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

i. David’s Throne

Luke 1:30-33

30 Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name JESUS. 32 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**. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Daniel 7:14

And to Him was given dominion, honor, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and those of every language shall serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; And His kingdom will not be destroyed.

Isaiah 9:7

Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever.

Philippians 2:9-11

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 shall bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (See also Isaiah 45:21-23.)

Revelation 1:5

Jesus Christ...ruler of the kings of the earth.

1 Timothy 6:15-16

15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the **King of kings and Lord of lords**, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Revelation 17:14

... He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.

ii. Authority in Christ

Ephesians 2:4-6

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and **made us sit together in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus

Consider these verses in the light of Eph 2:6. Notice the present tense wording.

John 14:3

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that **where I am**, there you may be also.

John 7:36

What is this thing that He said, “You will seek Me and not find Me, and **where I am** you cannot come”?

John 12:26

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

John 17:24

Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me **where I am**, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

Revelation 22:16

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

John 8:43

Why do you not understand my speech? It is even because **you cannot hear My word**.

John 10:27-28

27 **My sheep hear My voice**, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

1 John 4:5-6

5 They are of the world. Therefore, they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are of God. **He who knows God hears us**; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Luke 22:69

Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.

d. The Progress of the Kingdom

Daniel 2:34-35, 44

34 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. 35 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.**

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.

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 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. 7 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. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will perform this.

Matthew 13:31-32

31 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, 32 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.”

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.**”

1 Corinthians 15:25-26

25 For **He must reign until** He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The **last enemy** that will be destroyed is death.

3. City of the Great King – A Tale of Two Cities

Matthew 5:33-35

33 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.” 34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is **the city of the great King.**

Question: Who is the great King?

Psalms 48:2

Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, **the city of the great King.**

Notice that there are several connections being made: Mt Zion, the sides of the north and a city. (Jerusalem: next verse below) This is important and will come up later.

Isaiah 33:20-22

20 Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home, a tabernacle that will not be taken down; not one of its stakes will ever be removed, nor will any of its cords be broken. 21 But there the majestic Yahweh will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, in which no galley with oars will sail, nor majestic ships pass by 22 for **Yahweh is our Judge, Yahweh is our Lawgiver, Yahweh is our King;** He will save us;

This is a stated basis for America’s division of governmental power. Only God can manage them all.

Galatians 4:21-26

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, 24 **which things are an allegory**. For these are **the two covenants**: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and **corresponds to Jerusalem** which now is, and **is in bondage** with her children— 26 but **the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all**.

The first Jerusalem is the city corresponding to Mount Sinai (in Arabia) that produces slaves. Its day is gone. The New Jerusalem is a city of free people. This is the Body of Christ. The “new covenant in My blood...” changed everything. So many are focused on a natural city in a natural land. But that city is a slave city and will never equal the splendor of the New Jerusalem, the city of the Great King of kings. Like Rome, Jerusalem represents both a city and a people.

Matthew 23:37-38

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate

Revelation 11:8

And their dead bodies will lie in the street of **the great city** which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, **where also our Lord was crucified**.

What a tragic end to the great Jerusalem (Mt 23:37-38, Dan 9:26-27).

Revelation 3:12

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

Revelation 21:2-4

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (See also 9-11, 22-26).

4. The People of The King

1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but **chosen by God and precious**, 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. 9 But **you are a chosen generation** [kind or race], a royal priesthood, **a holy nation**, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out

of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Galatians 3:26-29

26 For **you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus**. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And **if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise**.

1 John 3:1-3

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, **that we should be called children of God!** Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, **now we are children of God**; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Colossians 1:21-22

21 And although you were **formerly alienated and hostile in mind**, engaged in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now **reconciled you** in His fleshly body through death, in order **to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight**.

Daniel 7:27

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.

Revelation 21:24-27

24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. 27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

5. The Gospel of The Kingdom

“The King has come and will save you.” is not the same as “Jesus saves”

The former is the Gospel of the Kingdom. The latter is the Gospel of Salvation, only a facet of the former. Unfortunately, when most think of the Gospel they only think of “Jesus saves.” But as with all things Kingdom, the scope and magnitude and majesty are so much more grand than what is commonly believed.

Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God**, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God is at hand**. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Matthew 3:1-2

1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, “Repent, for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand!**”

Matthew 4:17

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

Matthew 10:7-8

7 And as you go, preach, saying, **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

Matthew 12:28

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

Acts 1:1-3

1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 **until the day in which He was taken up**, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them for forty days **and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**

Notice that the bookends of Jesus’ earthly ministry start and end with the Kingdom. Jesus’ last 40 days were spent teaching His disciples about the Kingdom (Act 1:3). When was the last time, if ever, you have heard teaching on the Kingdom of God? It could easily be a yearlong series! It is all encompassing, there is nothing outside of its purview of the King. Jesus really is LORD of all, everything!

The Kingdom arrived with the King in Bethlehem in a manger in 3 BC. Jesus’s ministry and that of His disciples was all about the Kingdom from start to finish.

[Jesus's] role as the Ruler of all the earth's kings and kingdoms is still future, to be achieved after His victory over the beast and false prophet. ... Just as Christ has the right to rule, though He is not yet taken His throne as King, so we... (*Revelation* by John Walvoord and Philip E. Rawley, “Salutation” (1:4-8)

John Walvoord (1910-2002) was a former president of Dallas Theological Seminary and prolific author of many Classical Dispensational prophecy books.

Strictly speaking, the Church has no mission; for God has never commissioned her as a corporate body to undertake any task whatsoever.”

“Another error to be avoided in connection with this subject is the supposition that the Divine purpose in this age is the conversion of the world. ... is said to be made possible only by His personal presence and immediate power. (Lewis Perry Chaffer, founder of Dallas Theological Seminary,

Major Bible Themes: Present Forty-Nine Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures, chapter 36, “Intro”)

Questions: Where is this found in Scripture? What is the Great Com-Mission?

Matthew 6:33

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

Luke 12:31-32

31 But **seek the kingdom of God**, and all these things shall be added to you. 32 Do not fear, little flock, for it is your **Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom**.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, 12 that you would walk worthy of God who **calls you into His own kingdom and glory**.

Colossians 1:12-13

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and **conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son** of His love.

Question: How can we seek, or be in a Kingdom that doesn't exist?

a. The Kingdom and the Power

Matthew 6:9-13

9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. 10 **Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. **For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.** Amen.

Question: When did Jesus teach this prayer, before or after the Cross?

Matthew 10:7-8

7 And as you go, preach, saying, **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** 8 **Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.** Freely you have received, freely give.

Matthew 12:28

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

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but **in demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, 5 that **your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**

1 Corinthians 4:19-20

19 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.** 20 For **the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.**

1 Thessalonians 1:5

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, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

6. Why Are We Here?

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, “Let Us **make man in Our image**, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So **God created man in His own image**; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them**. 28 Then God blessed them, and **God said to them**, “**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**”

This dominion was never lost, as some falsely teach. Man has had mastery, for better and for worse, ever since. The fall and curse radically changed the creation and made dominion also subject to man’s fallenness. Domination is fallen dominion. “The gifts and callings of God are irrevocable” (Rom 11:29). If the gifts and callings are irrevocable, how much more the very purpose of our creation? How much more in redemption?

Luke 19:12-27

15 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. 16 Then came the first, saying, “Master, your mina has earned ten minas.” 17 And he said to him, “**Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.**” 18 And the second came, saying, “Master, your mina has earned five minas.” 19 Likewise he said to him, “**You also be over five cities.**”

The King received His kingdom while away, and business was conducted without interruption until the King returned. The reward for profitable business was civil government.

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness **will reign in life** through the One, Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 4:8

You are already full! You are already rich! You have **reigned as kings** without us—and indeed I could **wish you did reign**, that **we also might reign** with you!

Revelation 5:10

And have made us kings and priests to our God; And **we shall reign on the earth.**

Revelation 20:4-6

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And **they lived and reigned with Christ** for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and **shall reign with Him** a thousand years.

If we are in the millennium, as noted previously, then we should be reigning now.

Revelation 22:4-5

4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they **shall reign forever and ever**.

2 Timothy 2:11-12

11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. 12 If we endure, **we shall also reign with Him**.

Daniel 7:27

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.'

7. The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 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, 20 **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.

God's primary concern has always been the nations since they were estranged in Genesis 11. But it is a fact that nations are made of individuals. Nations aren't baptized; individuals are baptized. This is a case of both nations and individuals are discipled; two sides of the same vision. Over the last 150 years, emphasis has radically shifted to individuals to the exclusion of all else. You have heard, "Jesus loved you so much that, if you were the only one to accept Him, He would have died for you." This parallels the rise of Dispensationalism, on one hand and rugged individualism on the other. Both are radically individualistic. Consider these passages:

John 3:16-17

16 For God **so loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For **God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world**, but that **the world** through Him might be saved.

Matthew 25:31-33

31 "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. 32 **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. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Revelation 21:24-27

24 And **the nations of those who are saved** shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the **glory and the honor of the nations** into it. 27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

God's purposes are much bigger and much grander than rescuing "hell-bound sinners." The Gospel of Salvation is only a subset, a facet of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

The purpose of the Great Commission is to Christianize whole nations, teaching them to put into practice all of Jesus's commands, not merely making converts of individuals from every country.

Jesus said, "...I will build My [Ecclesia]..." (Mt 16:18). Ecclesia more correctly translated means "assembly" and historically carried a different connotation than "Church." Assembly meant the gathering or congregation of saints, while Church implied the building and/or the leadership, but not necessarily the congregation. In Roman times, the ecclesia was a local assembly of people chosen for the responsibility of carrying out Roman requirements in that locality. Thus, the true purpose of the 'Ecclesia' or local church is to carry Heaven's requirements to the people in their local area. Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Mt 28: 18), "Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven" (Mt 6:10).

There are about 50 commands given by Jesus. These not only apply to the individual believer but to the social order as well. Remember ecclesiastical authority and civil authority are different jurisdictions. Half of the list can be, and are, accomplished by unbelievers, and are even necessary for the prosperity they enjoy because they work in the world. They just don't know why. The other half requires divine empowerment, also called grace. Here is one such list, there are other such lists:

(<http://www.thegospeltruthministry.com/50commandments.htm>):

1. Repent - Mt 4:17
2. Follow me - Mt 4:19
3. Rejoice - Mt 5:11-12
4. Let your light shine before men - Mt 5:16
5. Obey God - Mt 5:17-18
6. Be Reconciled - Mt 5:24-25
7. Do Not Commit Adultery - Mt 5:29-30
8. Keep Your Word - Mt 5:37
9. Go the Second Mile - Mt 5:39-41
10. Love Your Enemies Mt 5:44
11. Be Perfect - Mt 5:46-48
12. Practice Secret Disciplines - Mt 6:1-18
13. Lay Up Treasures - Mt 6:19-21
14. Seek First God's Kingdom - Mt 6:35
15. Judge Not, judge righteous judgement - Mt 7:1-2, Jn 7:24
16. Do Not Cast Pearls - Mt 7:6
17. Ask, Seek, Knock - Mt 7:7-8
18. Do Unto Others - Mt 7:12
19. Choose the Narrow Way - Mt 7:13-14
20. Beware of False Prophets - Mt 7:15
21. Pray for Laborers - Mt 9:37-38
22. Be Wise as Serpents - Mt 10:16
23. Fear Not - Mt 10:28
24. Hear God's Voice - Mt 11:15
25. Take My Yoke - Mt 11:29
26. Honor Your Parents - Mt 15:4
27. Beware of Leaven - Mt 16:6
28. Deny Yourself - Lk 9:23
29. Despise Not Little Ones - Mt 18:10
30. Go to Offenders - Mt 18:15
31. Beware of Covetousness - Lk 12:15
32. Forgive Offenders - Mt 18:21-22
33. Honor Marriage - Mt 19:6

34. Be a Servant - Mt 20:26-27
35. Be a House of Prayer - Mt 21:13
36. Ask in Faith - Mt 21:21-22
37. Bring in the Poor - Lk 14:12-14
38. Render to Caesar - Mt 22:19-21
39. Love the Lord - Mt 27:37
40. Love Your Neighbor - Mt 22:39
41. Await My Return - Mt 24:42-44
42. Take, Eat and Drink - Mt 26:26-27
43. Be Born Again - John 3:7
44. Keep My Commandments - John 14:15
45. Watch and Pray - Mt 26:41
46. Feed My Sheep - John 21:15-16
47. Baptize My Disciples - Mt 28:19
48. Receive the Enduement of Power - Lk 24:49
49. Make Disciples of all the Nations - Mt 28:20
50. Demonstrate God's Power - Mk 16:17

Mt 28:18-20 – The Great Commission

18 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

Mark 16:15-18

15 And He said to them, “**Go into all the world** and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And **these signs will follow those who believe:** In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; **they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**”

John 14:12-14

12 “**Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also;** and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

Don't get distracted by the greater works until you can do the same works.