

Bible Doctrines

God has promised and is planning a glorious home for His redeemed people.

Genesis 1:31 2: 8 Originally God provided a perfect environment for man but this fair home was, lost through the entrance of sin into the world.

Jeremiah 29:11. The entrance of sin has not altered God's plan.

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (R.S.V.)

Isaiah 45: 18. God made the earth for a purpose.

To carry out His original purpose to inhabit the earth with a righteous people God gave His Son so that man might triumph over sin and become righteous. The acceptance of Christ's righteousness will restore in the believer into the image of God which man bore in the beginning and qualify him for entrance into the future home.

2 Peter 3: 6, 7, 10. This present world with its marks of sin will pass away.

2 Peter 3: 13. There will be a new earth inhabited by a righteous people.

2. The New Earth Has Been the Hope of the Saints.

Hebrews 11: 8-10. Abraham looked forward to a better world than this one.

Hebrews 11:13-16. All Abraham's true children possessed the same hope.

Romans 4:13. The promise to Abraham embraces the earth.

Galatians 3: 29. The true children of Abraham are those who accept Christ.

1 Peter 1:3-5. The living hope of the Christian is fastened upon an inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled and eternal.

Matthew 5: 5. Christ has promised that the meek shall inherit the earth.

3. The Reality of the Future Life.

Isaiah 65: 21-25. Isaiah spoke of man's future home as a place of reality where there will be projects, home life, and development.

Revelation 21: 1-5. Sin and its effects will not exist in the new earth.

Revelation 21: 9-27. A description of the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 22: 1, 2. The redeemed will have access to eternal life. Doubtless the tree of life is a symbol of the eternal joys of the new earth.

Revelation 22: 3. There will be security from sin.

Revelation 22: 14, 15. Only the righteous will inhabit the New Jerusalem

Isaiah 35: 1-10. A picture of the better land

4. Christ the King of the New Earth.

Revelation 11: 15. “The kingdom of the world” (R.S.V.) is to be given to Christ. “The sovereignty of the world.” (Goodspeed's translation.)

Daniel 2:44. All earthly kingdoms will pass away.

Daniel 7: 27. Christ's kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom.

Revelation 22: 4. The redeemed are given the blessed assurance of seeing Christ.

MEMORIZE: 2 Peter 3: 13.

Questions on the Lesson

1. What sort of home did God provide for man originally? How was this purpose hindered?

2. Show that the entrance of sin did not lead God to abandon His plan.

3. What did God make the world for?

4. What will happen to this present world? What will take its place?

5. What did Abraham look for?

6. How do all God's children regard their life in this world? What is their hope?

7. What was promised to Abraham? Who share in this promise?

8. How does Scripture assure us of the reality of the future life?

What are some of the things the saints will do in the new earth?

9. How does Peter describe the new earth?

10. Who did Christ say would inherit the earth?

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11. What does John say will not exist in the new earth?
12. What words assure us that sin will never again enter the human family?
13. Give a brief description of the New Jerusalem.
14. Who will not enter the New Jerusalem? Describe the character of those who will enter it.
15. Who will be the King of the new earth? What is said about His kingdom?
16. What assurance is given the righteous in regard to seeing Christ?

40. THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1. The Extent of God's Rule.

The kingdom of God is the realm in which He rules or exercises His dominion. Christ designated the domain of God's authority as "the kingdom of God." (Matthew 4:17), or "the kingdom of heaven." (Mark 1: 15.) Territorially, the kingdom of God embraces the universe.

- Psalm 103: 19. His kingdom rules over all.
Psalm 50: 10-12. All living things belong to God.
Psalm 24: 1. The earth is the Lord's.
Haggai 2: 8. The wealth of the world is God's. Potently, however the actual exercise of God's control within His domain is limited, through the invasion of sin.
Isaiah 1:2,19,20. Sin is rebellion against the authority of God.
Romans 6:16. Those who commit sin choose another lord.

When sin exists God's lordship as king is not recognized. His rule is rejected. The existence of sin in this world means that God does not hold full control in the territory which constitutes His kingdom. This is not because He lacks the power to control but because His love and mercy spares sinners that they might repent and become His loyal subjects. Thus God has voluntarily resigned the full exercise of His ruler ship and has permitted an evil kingdom, the kingdom of Satan, to exist within His own territory in the hope that those who do not now acknowledge Him as their king will be led to do so ere it is forever too late.

2. The Present Kingdom of God in this World.

The present kingdom of God in this world is a moral or spiritual kingdom consisting of those who willingly acknowledge God as the king of their lives. By speaking of it as a spiritual kingdom we mean that it is concerned with man's inner life where the Spirit of God desires to exercise control.

- John 18: 36. Christ's kingdom is not a national worldly kingdom set up by force of arms.
Romans 14: 17. The kingdom of God is not material but moral. It is to be recognized by the character of its subjects rather than by external things.
John 6: 15. Jesus refused an earthly crown.
Luke 17: 20. God's kingdom is not established by outward demonstration such as war.
Luke 17: 2 1. "The kingdom of God begins in the heart." "Desire of Ages," page 506.

3. How to Enter the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 4: 17. Jesus announced the kingdom of God to be at hand. The Jews of His day were expecting a national worldly kingdom like the kingdom of David, but Christ had not come to establish such a kingdom.

- Matthew 6: 33. Men are to seek the kingdom of God.
Colossians 1: 13. One may now enter the kingdom of God. Paul spoke of Christians as those who had been "transferred" from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God.
Revelation 1: 9. John, though persecuted and imprisoned by the Emperor of Rome, regarded himself as being in the kingdom of God. All true Christians are in the kingdom of God although they still live in a world of sin. They belong to God's spiritual kingdom composed of men from all nations.
John 3: 1-6. Entrance into the kingdom of God is through conversion-the new birth.
2 Corinthians 5: 17. Through union with Christ we become new men in Christian character.
Matthew 13: 44-46. Entrance into the kingdom of heaven calls for full surrender to God.

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4. The Future Aspect of the Kingdom of God.

While the kingdom of God begins in this present world in the hearts of men who accept Christ, it will have a future development when sin and sinners are forever eliminated from the universe. Then God's kingdom will reach its consummation with a righteous people in a new and glorious environment. Thus the kingdom of heaven has two phases, one pertaining to the present, the other to the future.

Matthew 6: 10. Christ taught His followers to pray for the coming of His kingdom.

Luke 22: 30. The Lord's supper reminds us of a future kingdom.

Matthew 25: 31. The future kingdom of glory is brought to us at the Second Advent.

We enter the kingdom in this life by conversion. When the kingdom triumphs over all its foes and is established in glory, all God's children will enter it at the Second Advent, either through translation or resurrection. (1 Thessalonians 4: 16-18.)

Daniel 2: 44. God's kingdom will destroy all earthly kingdoms and stand forever.

Revelation 11: 15. Christ will be the King of the coming kingdom.

Matthew 25: 31-46. The righteous will inherit the kingdom; the unrighteous will be excluded.

Matthew 13: 40-43. Sin is to be eradicated from the territory of God's domain.

Revelation 21: 27. A kingdom of eternal security.

MEMORIZE: John 3:5.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How did Christ designate the realm of God's ruler ship?
2. Describe the kingdom of God territorially.
3. How is it that God does not exercise full control in His domain?
Why does He suffer rebellion to continue?
4. Describe the nature of God's kingdom in the world today?
5. How did Christ seek to explain the true nature of the kingdom He was inviting men to enter?
6. What does Paul say are the qualities which mark the kingdom of God?
7. How did Jesus show that He had not come to establish an earthly kingdom?
What did He regard as the territory where God wished to rule?
8. What did Christ urge men to seek?
May a person enter God's kingdom now, or must he wait till the Second Advent?
9. What kingdom do we belong to if we have not entered the kingdom of heaven?
10. How does a man enter the kingdom of heaven?
11. What lesson concerning entrance to the kingdom of God is taught in the parables of the treasure hid in a field and the pearl of great price?
12. What change takes place in those who enter Christ's kingdom?
13. What change will take place in the kingdom of God in the future? When will this change occur?
14. In what two ways did Christ seek to keep His coming kingdom in mind?
15. What will become of all earthly, kingdoms?
16. What announcement did John hear in heaven at the sounding of the seventh trumpet?
17. Who was given the privilege of inheriting the kingdom when it is established in all its glory?
18. Relate the parable of the wheat and the tares.
19. What assurance of security is given concerning the coming kingdom?

For Further Study

1. Does Satan have a kingdom?
2. Are there two kingdoms of God-a present and a future-or only one?
3. What is the gospel of the kingdom? (Matthew 24; 14.)
4. How should Christians relate themselves to the kingdoms of this world'

41. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS