



**Part 1 – The Kingdom Story:** *What God Originally Intended In The Beginning He Will Get In The End*

**Part 2 – The Kingdom Journey:** *How God moves from original plan in Genesis to restoration in Revelation*

**Step 1** – Return The **Land** Through **Abram/Abraham**: A Man Who Loved God

**Step 2** – Return The **Rulership** Through **David**: A Man Who Loved God

**Step 3** – Return The **Relationship** Through **Jesus**: The Son Of God

**Part 3 – The Kingdom Vision:** *Seeing what the Kingdom of God will be like through the prophets.*

**Kingdom of God** = the time *“everything wrong with world is made right.”*

**Part 4 – The Kingdom Message** – *Beyond just our hope, God’s kingdom is also the theme of the gospel itself.*

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**This Week: The Kingdom People:** *How the church/people of God become the people of the future kingdom now.*

**Ezekiel 37:21-28** - Future promises described. This is a great section, highlighting the Kingdom elements we have seen (ex: David, Abraham [Jacob], Relationship). Greatest part: *“I will be their God, and they will be my people”*

The kingdom of God is a primarily a future event. However, a big piece of the Kingdom has already happened as the king of the Kingdom has been identified and has come! In addition, the spirit/power of the Kingdom has come. We wait for the rest to be completed, but we are currently in a unique time in history.

King Jesus has been raised from the dead.  
King Jesus has been given all authority.

King Jesus has been exalted to the right hand of God  
King Jesus has sent the spirit.

Though the king is not here *physically* present, he is here *spiritually* present. And as a result, the future promises of the age to come are “splashing” over into this age.

### **The Church ≠ The Kingdom Of God**

- In light of that, it’s helpful to understand that the Scriptures do not equate “the church” with the Kingdom of God. We will see some present realities of the Kingdom of God that effect the church, but the church did not replace the Kingdom hope and plan after Jesus came.

- It seems that there is some confusion about this today because of a lack of understanding of the Old Testament promises of the kingdom. As a result, some have redefined “the kingdom of God” when we arrive at the New Testament loosely to encompass “wherever God rules”, thus making the church of God a good candidate for “the kingdom of God”. But from our study of the Old (and New) Testament promises, we understand that the Kingdom is much bigger than that.
- We don’t build God’s kingdom for him. We submit to his authority and invite others to be a part of it though the gospel. It is not a Christian’s job to take over the nations (especially forcefully) to “build God’s kingdom.”
- But, the church is filled with the people/citizens of the kingdom of God. We live by the ways of the king. As a result, our interactions, our mannerisms, our standards, priorities and all the rest are influenced by the fact that we wait for this Kingdom promise to come.

**Future Kingdom Things God Has Done In Part Now:**

**Restoration In Relationship With Him:**

Future Promise: Isaiah 65:24

Present Reality: Ephesians 2:12-13, 19

**Newness:**

Future Promise: Isaiah 65:17

Present Reality: 2 Corinthians 5:17

**God’s Presence With Us:**

Future Promise: Ezekiel 37:27-28

Present Reality: 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16

**Physical Healing/Power Over Devil/Demons:**

Future Promise: Isaiah 35:6

Present Reality: Acts 3:8, etc

**Kings & Priests:**

Future Promise: Revelation 5:9-10

Present Reality: 1 Peter 2:9-10

**Future Kingdom Things That We Live In Light Of Now:**

Love	Teaching the nations God’s ways	Justice	
Forgiveness/Reconciliation	God’s standards rule the world	Peace	<b>&amp; more</b>

We should live NOW according to how we will be living in the Kingdom of God.

When people come and interact with Christians they should get a small taste of what it will be like in the Kingdom. It should be different than when they interact with people living for this age. The gathering of the church is an embassy for kingdom. When we are together, you sense the kingdom spirit. When we leave, we are ambassadors for the king.

**2 Peter 3:3-15a** – The things of this age are going to burn. In light of that, “what sort of people ought we be?”

Though the foretaste of the kingdom is great, it is not the end of the story. There is still a lot wrong with the world. In the meantime, we live faithfully and wait for the kingdom to come.

**Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16**

Though we may see some of it now, it’s only a foretaste, a shadow. Because it is going to be beyond what we can even understand or know today!

**Revelation 21:1-5** – Fully experiencing and knowing “*I will be your God. You will be my people.*”

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