

The Gospel of the Kingdom The Kingdom before the Foundation of the World

Studio Session 103

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This kingdom of God existed before the foundations of the world because God created man pursuant to a plan, obviously. Its amazing how the obvious has been so absent from our perspectives. We assume that the beginning was simply where God decided to fashion or to 'squeeze out' the form of man from the dust of the earth. No, God created man pursuant to an existing plan. Because you see, there are factors attending the creation of man that are eternal, things known in the mind of God that explains why God would make man.

And the kingdom of God was the concept that God envisioned by which to take man into Himself, into His purposes for man. And as a result the kingdom is both eternal and invisible; invisible in time but eternal in nature. So in the book of Matthew chapter 25, listen to this. In one of the parables Jesus speaks of the end of the age and in verse 31 Jesus says, "When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him and He will separate the people one from another as a sheppard separates sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right hand and the goats on His left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come you who are blessed by My Father take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'"

The kingdom existed since the creation of the world, before God formed man from the dust of the ground. When the earth was without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep. When God stretched out the foundations of the earth upon nothing. Before that time the kingdom existed. You see it's a mistake to think that the heavenly kingdom will come only at the end of the age. We will see the progressive revelation of the kingdom, and part of what we will see is a form of the kingdom at the end of the age. That is, the new Jerusalem that comes down out of heaven. But do you know that that appearing of the kingdom is really the appearing of WHERE the kingdom will reside, not necessarily the kingdom itself. The new Jerusalem is a city but the kingdom, you see, is within you.

Jesus once said to His disciples when He spoke of the kingdom, He said, "Don't say look here the kingdom or look there the kingdom, for behold the kingdom of heaven is within you." Wait a minute, how could the new Jerusalem, if that's the kingdom, how could that be within you as a person, whether in your spirit or within your being? No, that's not the kingdom per say, it's part of the kingdom in that it's the dwelling place of those who are in the kingdom, it's the house but it's not the residence; it's not the thing itself. Romans 14:17 puts it this way, "The kingdom is not food or drink the kingdom however is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit." Righteousness, that's the character of God; peace, that's the result of His rule because He can suppress His enemies. Someone who lives in righteousness and peace with the character of God and in harmony with God has joy in their lives. The world is looking for joy, joy is the result of the kingdom resident within you.

Evangelicals have classical deferred the appearing of the kingdom to the return of the Lord. And in that way they've been able to dispense with the need to deal with the gospel of the kingdom, consequently, the only thing that they deal with is the gospel of salvation. But again, the things that are being said as to what a person needs to do are deliberately being said to point a person to a destiny of going to heaven, not to anything else. So for the majority of churches and church goers there's no concept of a life supported by the authority of Jesus Christ which life is lived out within the context of the body of Christ, the purpose and direction of that life being ruled and governed by the Holy Spirit and that internal to you are changes that transform you as a being in this earth. If you don't understand that, then what is your life going to consist of except trying to use God to promote your own success, rather than living the life that God put you here to live for which purpose He dwells in you, to which end He will empower you.

That's why Christians seem so routinely schizophrenic, they have visions and beliefs about heaven but they're fully vested in trying to live in the earth in the way that the unbelievers live. Such a dichotomy does not result in peace and there is no explanation of anything that happens in the earth in any other way and from any other viewpoint except cause and effect. Hurricanes come and batter our coasts destroying lives and property in almost unimaginable dimensions and the purveyors of religion wring their hands and have nothing to say to the culture. Why? Because this gospel that they've preached is bankrupt, it's a gospel of the earth, it's a gospel of delayed hope, it's a gospel that if it has any value has a futuristic value.

And it hardly does anything for the present life and the people who follow it their lives are not significantly impacted by the gospel that they believe because it's really not the whole gospel, it's only part of it. It selects items that are true and throws them at you without any kind of context. The context is the gospel of the kingdom. There is no place in the scriptures that speaks of any other gospel. I'm convinced that the any other gospel we're told not to preach is largely the gospel we are in fact preaching; which is about the

death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus and His ascension to heaven. All of which are true but without the context of the kingdom you don't know what it means in terms of it's application. So how is it applied? It is applied to say, "If you will try Jesus, He will save you and will take you to heaven," and some will add to that, that He'll change your life. All of which are true but it's so much more than that.

The kingdom is within you, all of the kingdom is the Holy Spirit. So the Holy Spirit who is in you reveals the nature of God, reveals why you are here, empowers you to function here in the things that God put you here for. You weren't just created and dumped on the planet to sort of squirm your way up and then hear the good news of going to heaven, stand up in that and that's the end of the matter. The kingdom was prepared for you from the foundations of the world. Now as we have said in a previous broadcast, when you refer to the kingdom of God you're referring to authority and power that come from the throne of God, and I assure you there is no higher, there is no greater authority.

But when you refer to the kingdom of heaven you're hearing about the reality of being an eternal being who lives in time and within this eternal being the kingdom of heaven exists. It is not a delayed entity to come sometime in the future although the nature of the kingdom is it's continuing to be revealed from age to age and from glory to glory. And the more mature you are in God, the more of the kingdom is revealed TO you, and the more of the kingdom is revealed IN you. But the kingdom already is in you. And at the end of the age, those aspects of the kingdom, reserved for then, will be brought forth and given to you then; so it's a progressive revelation. For the kingdom itself existed from before the foundations of the world and the question is, why?

There are two responses to this, they're corollaries of each other and they're compliments of each other, they complement each other. One is the purpose of God and the other is the opposition of the enemy of God. The purpose of God in creating man was to make man into sons of God. And God would have done that even if there were no one who opposed God in the matter. The fact that there are those who oppose God in the matter means that God has to protect, defend, and otherwise make sure that His purposes for man are not frustrated. Now that makes perfect sense, after all, God knew what man would endure and why.

You see, man has an enemy. The enemy of man is the devil and the devil himself is arrayed against man in a multiplicity of ways. First he has under his control approximately a third of the angels who sinned. In a series of broadcasts entitled 'The Sons of God' I have fully explored this subject so I will give I will give you the briefest synopsis here. God, when He created man, created man to be the sons of God. The evil one was not chosen, "God never said to any of the angels, 'You are My Son, this day have I begotten You.'" The angels are only the sons of God in the sense that any created being may call it's creator it's father. But we who are the sons of God are not just the

sons of God because we've been created to be the sons of God. We're also the sons of God, we're especially the sons of God, because we've been born of the Father. That's how you get to be a son in the most proper and complete sense. Not just a created being but a being who is born of his Father.

Now to be born of God means you are born of the Holy Spirit. "For the Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit's that we are the sons of God." Romans 8:11 says, "And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then He who gave Christ life from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies by His Spirit who dwells within you." That's how we are born of God. So the Spirit gives life to us because the Second Adam is a life giving Spirit. Before you can be born of God you're brought to the place of being dead to the nature of Adam that is within you. All of this is Romans 6, 7, and 8. The Spirit raises you from the dead and by that self same Spirit once you are raised from the dead you cry out 'Father, Father'. Because the Spirit Himself testifies with your spirit that your born of God, you're sons of God.

So you're not the sons of God simply because you're created a different species from the angels but you're born again. Born again implying that you were once born and then you are born again. You are first born of your mother's womb and then you're born again of the Spirit of God. So you have first a natural existence and then agreeing to being led by the Spirit you now are born of the Father, by His Spirit. And that Spirit quickens your understanding of the heavenly things that surround you, which things you cannot see unless you are born of the Spirit.

Jesus put it this way when He spoke to Nicodemus in John 3, He says, "Unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. For that which is born of flesh is flesh but that which is born of Spirit is spirit marvel not I say unto you, 'You must be born again.'" There are different ways to see and the reality of the kingdom of God can only be seen through the eyes of the Spirit because by the Holy Spirit you have every access into the grace of God. The thought that you can logically understand God is foolishness. The natural mind can only see those things for which the natural mind was created.

To see the kingdom you must be born of the Spirit, to enter the kingdom you must actually step across the barrier of the rational and to do that you do that by faith. That is, you believe in the thing that exists of which you have evidence, but it's not seen. For the kingdom is invisible, you can't say, 'Look here is the kingdom or look there the kingdom' for behold the kingdom of heaven is within you.' Don't you understand that the substance of the kingdom is heavenly, therefore it does not need to take on the dimensions of the earthly. The measurable, the quantifiable, the things that may be apprehended by the senses. If it were of such a world as that, then it couldn't be also at the same time the kingdom of heaven, now could it. If it's of the earth, it's of the earth; if it's of heaven, it's of heaven. So it requires belief.

The single greatest sin in the church today is the sin of unbelief. Jesus put it this way, "The work of God is this, that you believe on the One who has been sent," and in my earlier analogy of Jacobs ladder, Jesus once said to Nathanael, "Nathanael, if you believe you will see heaven open and angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." Those who believe in the existence of the kingdom admittedly are not going to be well received by those who believe only in the rational. You notice how I said that? Those who believe in the kingdom are not going to be approved by those who believe only in the rational, only in the rational. The funny thing is, the people who believe in the rational think that they're the smart ones, that they've got the edge, they've got the advantage. When what they have is a self imposed blindness, for they seek to explain the existence of everything using only the tools of the rational. I have nothing against reason, you understand, but I will not bow to the imperialism of reason. Reason, by definition, is a highly limited tool; it is limited to the measurable, to the quantifiable, the observable, the scientific if you like. And there are things that may be properly studied and observed by this methodology but the kingdom is not one of them, for the kingdom is an eternal existence in time.

Now in this dichotomy, the great tool of our enemy, the one who opposes us; is unbelief and he entraps men in the cycle of unbelief. Humans who do not believe in the existence of an eternal kingdom, who do not believe in any more than the rational, are the ones to be pitied because they are at a profound disadvantage. By definition, everything that exists outside of the scope of the rational does not exist to the mind of the rational; if you cannot prove it, it doesn't exist. That's a fascinating thought, isn't it? And that's the imperialism of it.

There are so many things in the human experience that cannot be explained by reason. Psychology makes the best attempt to put the things that cannot be explained into rational terms. Everyone knows the dreadful limitations of psychology because it is an attempt to quantify the unquantifiable; the super rational by the rational. It is not the better thing to dismiss the things that you cannot understand and to say there may be some explanation but because we don't have a way of knowing what these explanations are then these things do not exist. The person who takes that viewpoint would fit well in 14th century Europe, where the prevailing theory was that the earth was flat because they did not possess the tools by which to observe and analyze the data that was visible to them. Their senses said if you sail beyond the pillars of Hercules then you will fall off the edge of the earth. The reality is, there is so much more, there is in fact so much more.

The kingdom of heaven was created by God as the operating context in which to protect and preserve His children from the enemy and at the same time the kingdom of God was created as the context in which for the body of Christ to live out a destiny of sonship. An eternal destiny known in the mind of God before the foundations of the world. One

speaks of the POWER by which we are meant to live, the other speaks to the reality in which we DO live. The power by which we live is necessary because our enemy understands how to entrap us. Our enemy knows that the human being lives primarily by his soul, by the reasoning of his soul, by the rational processes. And he knows exactly how to use this against us.

The human being desires greatly to pursue understanding of the things that stir within the being of the person. But if all that you have are the tools of the soul, then whatever conclusions you come up with will be tainted by the process you use to get there. So the enemy sets his entrapment, not on the path of the human being seeking God by his spirit, the spirit of man pursuing the Spirit of God; for he knows that there is no success possible on that path. The path on which he is much more likely to be successful is the soul's emotions and the souls reasoning as the tools that the human will use to understand the eternal things.

At that point, you see, everything is subject to these very, very limited tools. The product of this process is a counterfeit of the truth. So for example God intends to give us a relationship with Him as His sons in which He lives in us, in which we live by His strength and power and we pursue destinies that He has created, in advance, for us to walk in. In that sense the kingdom is within us. The alternative is the product of the soul, it's religion. All of the souls creation, which may be rationally explained to another who also lives by his soul and makes complete sense, all of that is the counterfeit to the truth. This counterfeit is really a product of the kingdom of darkness, the evil one.

And so in the next broadcast I want to talk about how the enemy entraps us in the process of the soul and makes us slaves where we were meant to be set free as sons in the kingdom of God. When we look at this comparison what we will see is the importance of the gospel of the kingdom to free those who have been trapped in such a way as this. And we will speak about what is the nature of repentance, from what must we repent when the gospel of the kingdom comes to us.

I'm Sam Soleyn, I hope you'll continue to study with me as we explore the gospel of the kingdom. Bless you; I'll see you next time. Bye bye.