

Episode 1-12 - Seeing the Kingdom of God

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. In John 3, we have the interesting story of Nicodemus, who came to the Lord Jesus by night. There are several lessons we can learn from this important story.

- A. Verse 1. Ruler of the Jews=member of Sanhedrin or national council.
- B. Verse 2. A ruler was busy. Cool of night on housetop good time, place to meet
- C. The Sanhedrin had this knowledge. This made their rejection all the worse!

III. John 3:3. Seeing the kingdom of God.

- A. See = Greek *eido*, means to see and perceive.
- B. Many claim to be “born again” who know nothing about the kingdom of God!

IV. What is the Kingdom of God?

- A. Too broad a question First we need to know what a “kingdom” is!
- B. Greek = *basileia*. 162 times, 161 kingdom, once reign (KJV)
- C. Equivalent Hebrew? Hebrews 1:8, Psalm 45:6. Law of divine interchange, *malkuwth* = Hebrew word for kingdom.
- D. Still not simple enough! What is a king?

V. What does it mean to be a king? Wear a fancy hat, sit in an ornate chair?

- A. Revelation 19:12. Crown symbolizes an authority. Not a bunch of hats!
- B. Psalm 9:4. A throne is a place for exercising judgment.
- C. Genesis 49:10. A scepter means a right to rule.
- D. Hebrew *Melek*, 2523 times, *King* 2518, *royal* 2, names 3.
 - 1. Used of rulers over small tribes or vast empires.
 - 2. Applies when one has absolute authority (true monarch.)
 - 3. NOT used of “trappings” of a king.
 - 4. Never applied to Moses, Joshua, or any of the judges.
 - 5. I Samuel 8:7. Only a king in Israel when they rejected Yahweh King.
- E. *Basileus* = king, 118 times, always kings (KJV). Absolute ruler. Even Herod.
- F. Kingdom. English = “king’s doom.” “Doom” = “law” or “judgment.” Came to mean where his judgments held sway. Not original meaning.
- G. In modern English, “kingdom” means “government.”
 - 1. Luke 19:11-27. Received in far country. Not territory, but authority.
 - 2. Govern meant “to steer as a pilot.” One who reigns governs or rules.
 - 3. Psalm 103:19. Not the realm ruled over, but that which rules.

VI. When God governs.

- A. Genesis 1:17-18. God governs over many things. But the New Testament does not speak of these, but of a special, future time. Isaiah 64:4.
- B. Having power and exercising it are two different things. Example: the President. Acts 14:16. God has not always exercised His authority.
- C. Matthew 28:19. Christ was given all authority!
- D. Revelation 11:17. The Lord will yet exercise His authority.
- E. Rabbis called the coming event “the manifest Kingdom of God.”

VII. Psalm 93: A Psalm of God’s future government.

- A. Verse 1. The LORD will yet reign. The world will be stable then, not like now!

B. Verse 2. “Of old” = “from then.” The LORD from the outflow.

C. Verse 3. Floods of the LORD pour out over the world.

D. Verse 4. The LORD rules over all in the Kingdom.

E. Verse 5. His testimonies are stability. His House is set apart for the kingdom.

VIII. Conclusion. The Bible speaks with great majesty of God’s coming government over the earth. Yet modern-day Christianity all but ignores this Biblical teaching. God wishes us to know these things, not remain ignorant of them. Like Nicodemus of old, we need to “see” the Kingdom of God.