

Kingdom of Heaven

How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:3

Within the Scriptures, we are given a vivid description of heaven as a magnificent kingdom somewhere in the distant unknown where God and His Son live and whereby we have the hope of eternal salvation. *For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is in heaven.* 2 Corinthians 5:1-2

We have been taught through various doctrines that our arrival in heaven is immediate upon departure from our earthen home. We take comfort in believing that our loved ones, who have preceded us in leaving this world, are in the presence of God. In this thinking, there is a major oversight for God's Almighty Kingdom is not for man's occupancy. We know God to be the beginning and the end; therefore, we accept that His Kingdom has always been. *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.* Revelation 1:8 The Kingdom of Heaven is God's throne and cannot be our final destination. Though there is evidence in the Bible of specific individuals brought straight forth into His Kingdom, we know it was an act of God for His purpose in prophecy. Our heaven, the New Jerusalem, will come down from God's Kingdom upon the earth to be our eternal home.

In the Book of Genesis, God details His creation beginning with the earth. *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.* Genesis 1:1-2 God made the earth on the first day. *And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.* Genesis 1:7-8

God created two heavens, or kingdoms for man; one for the *carnal* man, Adam, and one for the *spirit* man by the second Adam, Christ. The first Adam was given earth and the second Adam, Christ, is King of the New Jerusalem, our everlasting home. As there are two Adams, there exist two kingdoms within God's Almighty Kingdom of Heaven. *These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.* Genesis 2:4 Notice the plural for heavens. *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.* Genesis 2:1

When God created Adam and placed him in Heaven on Earth, He gave him authority, or jurisdiction over all the inhabitants. Adam was king of the earth with his personal throne the Garden of Eden. Adam's obedience was only to God as the Almighty King of all creation. In succumbing to Satan's deceit, Adam lost his ruling privilege forfeiting his kingdom. Earth was no longer heaven for Adam and Eve, nor would be for future descendants.

God knew this earthen heaven would be defiled requiring a second heaven which would be forever upon Christ's return. *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and earth were passed away; and there was no sea.* Revelation 21:1 The new heaven is the New Jerusalem where all God's children will live eternally with Christ, not in God's Almighty Holy Kingdom, but in the heaven that will be of His Kingdom. *Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.* Revelation 3:12

To believe there is only one heaven is a one-dimensional viewpoint. First is the Kingdom of Almighty God; second, the Kingdom of Earth as given to Adam, and the third eternal kingdom, the New Jerusalem, which is Christ's Kingdom. *And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.* Daniel 7:14 Our heavenly home is in the New Jerusalem with Christ as our King, and not in God's Almighty Kingdom of Heaven though God's Kingdom encompasses all.

We are not qualified to enter before the throne of God. What we have been given is cleansing of our unrighteousness and sanctified by the blood of Jesus to be called children of God with the privilege to seek our Father, personally, and not through an appointed priest as in generations past. *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.* Hebrews 10:16-17

There is a distinct difference between entering God's holy Kingdom and having the means of communing with Him. It is with Christ's authority as He sits at the right hand of the Father, and the Holy Spirit as our advocate and intercessor, that each faithful believer may have access to God through prayer. We do not enter into the sacred Kingdom of God; however, God made a way for His children to approach Him until the time comes and we live with Christ as our King.

We partake of a resurrection just as Jesus was resurrected from death, and our resurrection is in Christ upon His return. As Christ died, resurrected, and ascended into the Kingdom of Heaven, so when man dies he also must have a resurrection unto eternal life in the New Jerusalem. *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.* 1 Corinthians 15:52 As Christ conquered death, so has He done for the believers giving us a new body for our new life.

There is a period of a thousand years, the Kingdom of Peace (Millennium), when the saints will live with Christ as He prepares us for our new, eternal home. It is also during this time that those who have not known of God are given the opportunity of everlasting life. *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.* Revelation 20:5-6

When we die, our spirit awaits for the Lord to call us forth from the grave. *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17

God's Kingdom functions in a very succinct and orderly manner. Laws are in place and we are expected to honor them. All nations have governments or parliaments with legislations that the people are required to adhere to. God's Kingdom is no different and when we lack wisdom or misunderstand His principles, we do not benefit. *For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.* 1 Corinthians 4:20

As King and our Father, God has given instructions on how we may communicate with Him in the example of the Lord's Prayer. *And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.* Matthew 6:5-13 This does not mean that we recite the Lord's Prayer, but to see the methodology by which we are to approach our Father in His Kingdom. God presents the keynotes of what is required.

This is our commandment of prayer and is very simple. God tells us to seek Him, privately, make it very intimate and personal. He already knows what we will ask of Him, but requires that we not be prideful in our petitions. He teaches that whatever He has established within His Kingdom is available to His children on earth. If at any time, we waver, hold doubt, or question His ability, we have voided the prayer because our prayer is the example of our faith. Therefore, should we lack in the application of our faith, it will not release Kingdom power for the Holy

Spirit only responds to the truth in God's Word. We have not lost our salvation, but we are unprepared to live a bountiful life as our Father intended and overcome the adversities of living in a fallen world.

God's Kingdom treasures are spiritual, and we know them to be love, forgiveness, mercy, grace, faith, praise, goodness, kindness, glory, belief, trust, blessings, promises, healing, compassion, miracles, prosperity, prophesy, power, authority, and eternal life. *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.* Matthew 13:44 These treasures are foundational for our spirit life.

We should never forget that we are the sons and daughters of the Almighty King and all that is established within His Kingdom is for His children. *Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.* Psalm 145:13 Nothing would please God more than the acceptance of our inheritance. It becomes imperative that we conduct ourselves as the rightful heirs we are in Christ for the King, our Father.

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Author: Patricia Marlett

