

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Nicky Sisco

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

Kingdoms have existed for a long time. The first kingdom recorded in scripture is found in Genesis 10:10 with Nimrod as king. Every kingdom has a king or chief who establishes what is acceptable or unacceptable in their kingdom.

In this study, we are going to ask ourselves three questions, each being referred to as kingdom questions.

KINGDOM QUESTION ONE: Have you heard about the gospel of the Kingdom?

KINGDOM VERSES: It is found in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

"Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (NKJV).

KINGDOM QUESTION TWO: What is the gospel of the Kingdom?

Before answering this question, we need to know what is meant by the word gospel. The English word "gospel" means good news or good message. The gospel of the Kingdom as found in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 is the _____, _____, and _____ of Jesus Christ.

KINGDOM VERSES: Romans 6:16-18 (NKJV),

"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? ¹⁷But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."

The believer's faith in Christ is always connected to God's Word and the doctrine of the apostles (1 Corinthians 15:1, 3; Romans 6:17). "For this reason, believers can be described as people who submit to the Christ of the Bible as their Lord and Savior and who live under the Word of God. They submit without reservation to its authority, hold firmly to its teaching, trust its promises, heed its warnings, and follow its commands. They are a people captive to the Word of God, using the Scriptures to test all human ideas and

accepting nothing that is contrary to the Bible." (*Full Life Study Bible*, p. 1796, 1 Corinthians 15:2).

The first record we have of the gospel being preached can be found in Acts 2:22-36. In these verses, Peter preached how Christ died and rose from the dead. When the crowd "heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".

KINGDOM QUESTION THREE: What answer did Peter give the people when they asked how to obey the gospel of the kingdom?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

God's Word is God's will. The verses we read in the Bible give us the King's instructions for his people. Let us examine these three kingdom concepts mentioned in Acts 2:38: repentance, water baptism, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Kingdom Concept #1: REPENTANCE

Repentance is a turning away from sin and a turning towards God. When you repent, you feel great sorrow over your sins and decide to change your ways.

It is God's goodness that leads you to repentance. And it is only a godly sorrow that can bring repentance unto salvation (Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10). Repentance must be both an outward and inward confession

KINGDOM VERSE: Romans 10:10, "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation".

KINGDOM CONCEPT #2: WATER BAPTISM IN JESUS NAME

The word baptism comes from the Greek word BAPTIZO which means "to dip, bury, or immerse". Can you bury someone by sprinkling them? No. In the same way, a person must be completely buried or immersed in water to follow the correct biblical method for baptism.

In Acts 8 the Ethiopian eunuch, treasurer of Queen Candace's kingdom, saw his need for baptism and in verse thirty-six said "here is water". Both he and Phillip went down into the water and came up out of the water.

John the Baptist baptized people in Aenon because "there was much water there" (John 3:23). This allowed him to bury or immerses them in the water.

The name of Jesus represents all the power and authority of God and makes it available to us (Matthew 28:18; John 14:14; Acts 3:6, 16).

Baptism is necessary because it shows we have died out to sin by repentance and are burying our past sins and sinful lifestyle (Colossians 2:12). Baptism places us into the family of Christ (Galatians 3:27).

Additional examples on how the early church baptized people can be found in Acts 8:12-16; 10:44-48; 19:1-6.

KINGDOM CONCEPT #3: GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit is "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). God's Word shows us a kingdom pattern that can be seen in the book of Acts: Whenever someone received the gift of the Holy Ghost they spoke in an unknown language (Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-48; 19:1-6).

When Peter shared these kingdom concepts with the people, they gladly received the Word and were baptized. Three thousand entered into the kingdom of God (Acts 2:41).

KINGDOM VERSE: "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again'" (John 3:7).

Are you ready to respond to the gospel of the kingdom? To be born of water means water baptism in Jesus Name and to be born of the

Spirit is to have the indwelling Spirit of God. We see this in the application of John 3:5 throughout the book of Acts. What Jesus told Nicodemus to do is what the Apostles practiced.

The gift of the Holy Ghost is that life giving, life flowing power of God that allows you to be regenerated or re-created. You can be born again. When you experience the power of God in your life, it will change you from the inside out. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). The gospel of the kingdom is for everyone!

(All scripture references have been taken from the *New King James Version*)