

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Message Two

The Divine Life and the Kingdom

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26; 2:9; John 6:57, 63; 3:3, 5, 15; 1:12-13; 1 John 3:2;
Matt. 5:20, 48; Luke 17:20-21; Mark 4:26-29; Rom. 5:17;
Eph. 3:16-17; Matt. 13:8; 8:2; Rev. 22:1

I. In the beginning of Genesis we see God's intention for man to have His eternal life within him so that he could exercise dominion for God and bring in His kingdom—Gen. 1:26; 2:9; Matt. 6:10:

- A. God's placing man in front of the tree of life indicates that God wants man to receive Him as man's life by eating Him—Gen. 2:9; John 6:35, 57.
- B. In order for man to touch God's reign and bring God's authority to the earth, he must receive God's life inwardly; if man does not have God's life, he will have no way to bring in God's kingdom—John 3:3, 5, 15.
- C. It is necessary for us to grasp this point—that if man is to represent God and to exercise dominion on the earth, then man must possess God's life; man cannot possibly bear so lofty a responsibility in the strength of his own natural life—cf. Matt. 19:26.

II. The kingdom of God as the reign of God is a realm not only of the divine dominion but also of the divine species—John 3:3, 5; 1:12-13:

- A. In John 3 the kingdom of God refers more to the species of God than to the reign of God; to be the species of God means to have the life of God—cf. Gen. 1:24-25.
- B. The unique way to enter into the kingdom of God is to receive God as life and gain God Himself through regeneration, which is to be born of God to have the divine life and nature—John 1:12-13.
- C. As those who have been born of God, we have the reality of the divine life within us and we are being transformed and conformed to the Lord's image in our entire being; it is logical to say that all the children of God are in the divine realm of the divine species—2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29; 1 John 3:2.
- D. Because we are the Father's children, having the Father's divine life and divine nature, we can be perfect as our Father is and have the highest living of the kingdom of the heavens—Matt. 5:20, 48.

III. The kingdom of God is not merely a material realm in which God rules over His people and exercises His authority; the kingdom of God is the Lord Jesus sown as a seed into the believers and developing into a realm over which God can rule in the divine life—Luke 17:20-21; Mark 4:3, 26-29:

- A. The Lord Jesus came to be the kingdom of God by sowing Himself as the seed of the kingdom into God's chosen people—Luke 17:20-21; Matt. 13:3-23.
- B. After this seed has been sown into the believers, it will grow and develop within them into the kingdom of God; this indicates that the establishing of the kingdom is absolutely a matter of the growth in life, not of our work—1 Pet. 1:23; 1 John 3:9; Matt. 13:4-8; Mark 4:3, 26-29:
 - 1. The kingdom does not come as a sudden change; it is a matter of Christ as life growing step by step and little by little within us—1 Pet. 2:2; cf. 1 John 2:1-13; Exo. 23:30.
 - 2. Our human spirit is the place for the Lord Jesus to sow Himself into us, and our heart is the place for Him to grow in us—Ezek. 36:26; Eph. 3:16-17.

3. By being poor in spirit and pure in heart, we can give the Lord the ground to grow within us, and this growth will be the real coming of the kingdom—Matt. 5:3, 8.
4. The good earth in Matthew 13:8 signifies the good heart that is not hardened by worldly traffic, that is without hidden sins, and that is without the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches; such a heart is the good soil that grows Christ—Matt. 13:3-23.
5. We should be diligent to pursue the growth and development of the divine life within us until we are richly and bountifully supplied the entrance into “the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”—2 Pet. 1:3-11.

IV. We have received the divine life of the kingdom, and we must see that we are kings in the divine life to reign in life—Rom. 5:17:

- A. When we were saved, we were put into the position of a king in order to reign in life—1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 5:10.
- B. To reign in life is to reign over such things as sin, the world, Satan, the natural man, the self, and individualism, and to live a life of the highest virtues—Rom. 5:10, 17, 21; 6:11, 13, 22; 7:6; 8:2, 4; 12:9-21.
- C. We reign in life by receiving the abundance of grace through Christ and by receiving the abundance of the gift of righteousness—Rom. 5:17.
- D. To reign in life in practice means to be under the ruling of the divine life, to be obedient and submissive to the Lord—Col. 2:19; cf. Matt. 8:9.
 1. When His throne is set up in us, His life will flow into us and become our inner supply—Rev. 22:1; cf. Heb. 4:16.
 2. When we are under His ruling throne, His life can be manifested through us in power—cf. Num. 17:8.