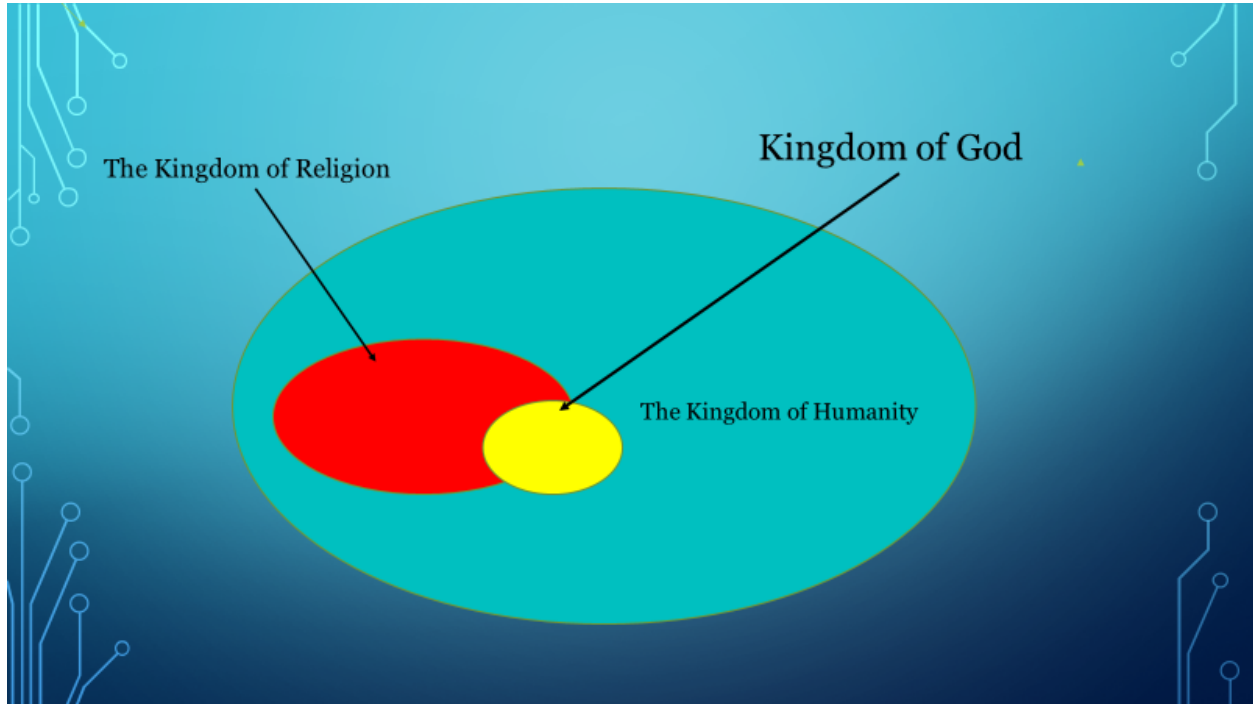


Entering the Kingdom of God

Three circles/ review



We are flesh and blood. We were born into the kingdom of humanity. We are affected by what goes on in this world. The Spirit of God has been poured out on us. We are subject to the kingdom of God that lives within us. The things of the flesh and the things of the spirit directly oppose each other. Not only are we subjected to those two opposing realms or kingdoms, but we have also been influenced by the kingdom of religion and its false interpretation of the principles that govern the kingdom of God.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Religion has reared its ugly head and the world is pressing in.

God's creation is governed by natural and spiritual laws which cannot be broken!

The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations." "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. (Psalms 33:11-12)

The kingdom of God is God centered. Our blessing is realized to the degree that we adhere to the divine laws that govern the kingdom.

There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield." "For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee. (Psalms 33:16-22)

The blessing of God rests on the nation whose God is the Lord!

Because the nation is defying every godly principle that this nation was founded on, it is only a matter of time until it crumbles.

And how are we responding to what is going on around us?

Celebration-A lot of people have an end time mentality that says Jesus is coming for his people soon and the rest of the world will be destroyed.

Anger-we hate what the ungodly people are trying to push off as truth and we want to fight back

Concession-The Bible said this would happen and we can't stop it.

Indifference-I don't want to hear about what is going on and I don't want to get involved!

The answer is not found in any of these approaches. We can't just sit back and wait until Jesus comes for his church. What if it does not happen the way that we think it will? Or what if it does not happen at the expected time? Getting angry at the opposing forces just propels them forward with more determination than ever to get their way. We can't just give up as though there is nothing that can be done about what is going on because that is not God's way to handle things. And we can't just isolate ourselves in a bubble with the attitude that we don't want to hear about it. For us that are older, we don't have so much at stake, but our

grandchildren's very lives are at stake. What will happen to them or what kind of life will they live if we don't address these issues?

Going back to the vision that God showed me when I was distressed about everything going on. God said this is a good time because the church is coming to the end of itself. The church is going to realize that a lot of their approach has been a religious law approach that does nothing to change the hearts of people.

What does God see when He looks at what is going on? What would His response be? This is not the first time that things like this have happened.

Sodom and Gomorra:

Abraham and his family were told by God to come out of Ur. I have plans for you but you are going to have to leave what's comfortable behind. Abraham was accompanied by his nephew Lot's family. Lot's herdsmen began to argue with Abraham's herdsmen saying that there was not room enough for both of their herds.

Genesis 13:7 Strife arose between Abraham and Lot's herdsmen. Abraham said we are family, there should be no strife between us, you pick where you want to go and I will go the opposite way. Lot picked the best looking piece of land. Everyone wanted that piece of land but with it there was a price to pay because Sodom was filled with self centered people.

But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly. (Genesis 13:13)

God saw the unselfish heart of Abraham: Because you let Lot choose what looked like the best piece of land, I will honor you for trusting me to provide what you need.

And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever." (Genesis 13:14-15)

A battle over Sodom arose and the king of Sodom fled. Sodom was pillaged and Lot was taken captive. Abraham went in with his men and liberated all that were taken captive and restored Sodom.

*And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he ~~was~~ the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed ~~be~~ Abram of the most high God, **possessor of heaven and earth**: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.*
Genesis 14:18-20

Melchizedek honored Abraham and called him the possessor of heaven and earth.

And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. Genesis 14:21

Abraham refused to accept the reward that the king of Sodom offered him saying God was the sole source of his blessing. He did not want the king of Sodom to get credit for making him wealthy.

Everything started here: Abraham also said what use would earthly treasure be to me since I have no heir to pass it on to anyway.

And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir [a servant born in my household is the closest thing I have to leave everything to]; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. Genesis 15:4-7 Emphasis in brackets mine

An interim of time passes where Abraham and Sarah produce Ishmael.

Later God sent two angels to tell Abraham and Sara that this time next year they would have a child. From there these same angels were sent by God to check out the wicked reports concerning Sodom and Gomorra.

And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

God let Abraham in on what was about to happen because he saw Abraham as a faithful steward of the land that was given to him to possess.

And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. Genesis 18:16-19

Abraham began to intercede for the people of Sodom.

And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? (Genesis 18:23)

will you spare Sodom if 50 righteous people can be found living there? The answer was yes and Abraham went from 50 down to 10 with the same question. God's final reply was, I will spare Sodom if you can find ten righteous people.

Abraham was not looking at Sodom through the eyes of a selfish conqueror. He saw the land and the people that came with it as a whole. They were all part of the inheritance!

We don't have to get everyone straightened out in this nation. The future of our nation depends upon a handful of people who are determined to walk in righteousness. It is not going to be determined by the government.

God made a covenant with all nations. You do this and I will do this:

*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, **[presence, perspective]** and turn from their wicked **[vex, displeasure, calamity]** ways;*

then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14) brackets contain Hebrew definition for the word wicked, my emphasis

God won't determine the future of this nation. The people of the world will not determine the future of this nation. The government can't fix this nation.

God's people...If my people...will determine the future of this nation. PRAY....ask for God's presence, and look to him as the deliverer. If just a small handful of people will turn to me again I will heal their land. God is waiting on us.

Lot, on the other hand, was self centered. He was not looking to God the way Abraham was. He did not have the same sense of loyalty toward God and other people that Abraham had. His family was a mess! He was strictly looking out for number one! He did not teach his family the ways of the Lord. His son in laws laughed at him when Lot told them what was going to happen to Sodom and Gomora and they stayed back. His wife looked back with longing eyes for what she was leaving. Lot refused to flee to the mountains where Abraham was. Lot picked a place similar to Sodom on the fertile plains. Lot's daughters saw that there was no family left to produce an heir for their father so they tricked Lot into laying with them so that Lot would have a seed to pass his inheritance to.

But Abraham was interested in the testimony-in the people. He fought for Sodom. He was loyal-the people did not deserve mercy-but Abraham fought for it

Nineveh:

God said, Jonah I want you to go to Nineveh and tell them if they don't repent, I will destroy them.

Jonah was angry when God asked him to go to Nineveh because he knew God's heart and he did not think that Nineveh deserved God's attention, or mercy.

And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil." (Jonah 4:2)

After the whale incident, Jonah finally went to Nineveh and warned the people just like God told him to. Trouble is, they repented, and God did not to destroy them like He said He would. Jonah was angry because God showed them mercy and this was his response:

Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live. (Jonah 4:3)

God used a gourd to show Jonah his heart.

Jonah 4:4-11 Jonah went off to pout outside of the city. It was hot and God caused a gourd to grow up and shade Jonah. Then God caused that same gourd die and Jonah became even more angry at God.

And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death. Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?" (Jonah 4:9-11)

Jonah represents the heart behind the kingdom of religion. Bad people don't deserve mercy. However it is not God's desire to pass judgement. He sees the heart behind everything with compassion. He wants men to walk in the fulness that men were created to walk in. The people of Nineveh were blind because they did not have a revelation of the truth. [They cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand] This is what has happened in our nation. God's heart is not to destroy those people on the left that are causing all of the problems, but to set them free. He sees them with compassion. The church has a judgmental attitude like Jonah who was angry because Nineveh repented and God had compassion on them.

God is longing for this nation to turn back to him. The future of this nation has no future unless we turn back to him. Apart from the goodness of God, our nation is not going to make it.

God is big enough to heal this land and turn the hearts of the people back to himself. What is our part? If all the people in politics can't fix the problem, what can be done.

The flesh profits nothing. Christians have approached what is going on with anger and name calling. Rallying and voting are not going to fix the heart problem! I tried that once. Don't get me wrong, I do think that we need to be informed and I do think that we should vote. But how we go about it makes all of the difference. Anger does not do anything but stir up trouble.

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.(Proverbs 15:1)

We cant be angry, we cant be passive, we cant look at everything with a defeatist attitude, we need to intercede on this nation's behalf. We need to have compassion on the people who don't deserve mercy and we need to put our expectancy for the healing of this nation in God's hands the same way that Abraham did with the same sense of loyalty that he had toward Sodom.

This country was bought with a price. We need to stand up for it.

I would that prayers be made for all men and all men in authority. 1 Timothy 2:1 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. 1 Timothy 2:8

We need to put away our anger and believe God without doubting that he can change the hearts of the people that are causing all of the problems.

Let's get back to the kingdom.

What and where is the kingdom? The kingdom is that place within us where the Holy Spirit who produces a sense of I am righteous, I have peace and I am happy abides.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Romans 14:17)

How do we enter into that kingdom?

John 3:1-5 Says that unless we are born of water and the spirit we can't see or enter into the kingdom. Unless the word we know has been interpreted by the Spirit, we cannot enter into that place within us where righteousness, peace and joy abides.

We cant claim possession of the kingdom God has given us by going through the religious door:

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:21-23)

Workers of iniquity or people who have become occupied with the things of the law have presented a false picture of who God is that the world is not buying. It makes God look bad and those who are touting the law look like hypocrites. Romans 2:17-24

It is the goodness of God that causes men to turn to God. Romans 2:4

Everyone is looking for that sense of righteousness, peace and joy- but it can't be found the world's way either. The world has decided that by doing everything that is right in their own eyes they will finally find peace and happiness.

*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, **that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.** (Galatians 5:19-21) emphasis mine*

*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, "Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, **shall inherit the kingdom of God.** (1 Corinthians 6:10) emphasis mine*

There is a way that seems right unto man, but the end is vain. Anything we do that does not line up with God's divine law will fail to produce the peace we are all looking for because everything done Outside of that law invites the enemy and his accusing tactics.

How do we enter into the kingdom? What is it that will bring that sense of value and meaning to life that everyone is looking for?

There is only one way!

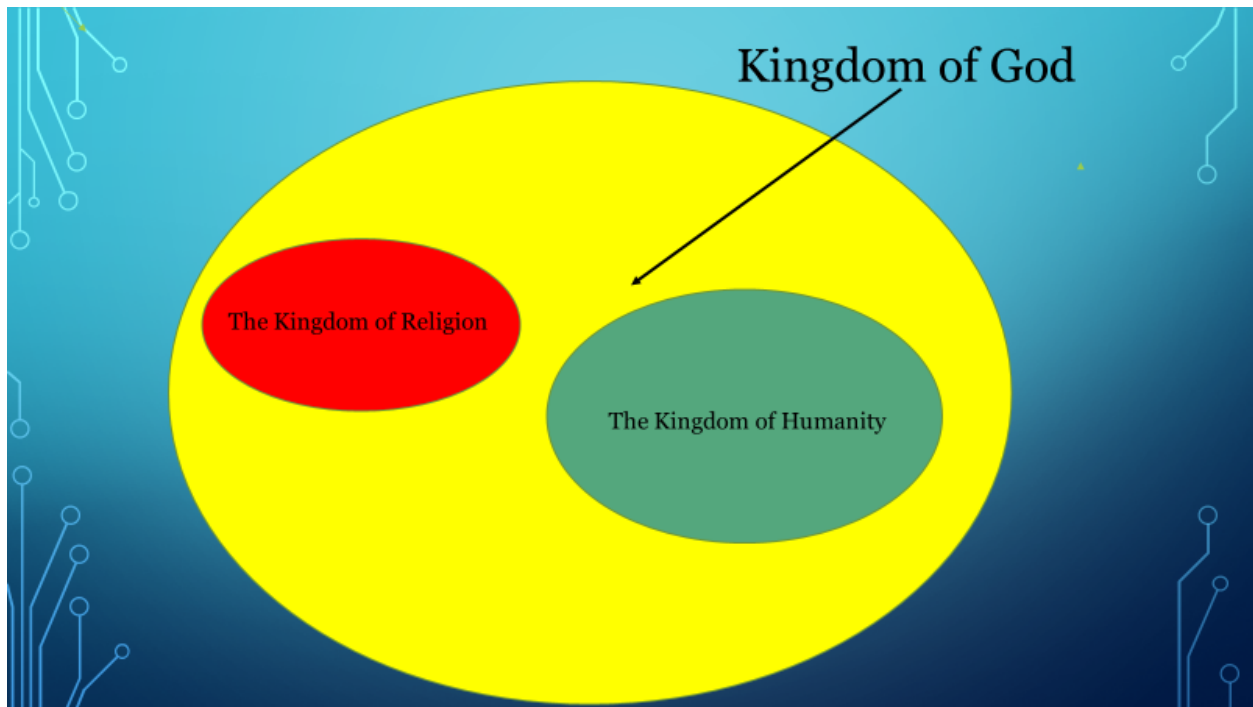
We have to enter in with a spiritual mind and our eyes on God.

My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him." (Psalms 62:5)"He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. (Psalms 62:6)

The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all." (Psalms 103:19)

"Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. (Psalms 103:21)

We have this chart backwards! Look at the new chart.



It does not matter where the world is trying to take us and it does not matter that religion is trying to make God look like a God of judgment. The truth is, God's kingdom trumps everything! His kingdom dominates all other kingdoms.

*And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws:THE ENEMY IS TRYING TO DEFY THE LAW OF THE KINGDOM by promoting lies. BUT IT WILL STAND...But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and **all dominions shall serve and obey him.** Daniel 7:25-27 emphasis mine*

GOD SAID. Abraham, look to the north, look to the south look to the east and to the west, everywhere you see I will give it to thy seed forever!

God says to us, LOOK TO THE north, south, east and west. YOU ARE PART OF THE SEED GOD HAS GIVEN TO ABRAHAM. ABRAHAM DID NOT SEE The promised inheritance through selfish greedy eyes. He saw himself as a steward of the most high God. How do we see our world around us? How do we see the people God has given us stewardship over?

The unjust steward

And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward. Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. LUKE 16:1-3

This is a parable directed at the Pharisees or religion to show them how they have abused God's most treasured possession-His people.

The steward was accused of wasting **[squandering, separating]**the master's goods **[the things of value God possesses]**.

When the steward saw that he was going to lose his job, he became desperate! I believe that up until this point he had been a hard taskmaster that saw himself too good for the people that he had been put in charge of.

I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses. LUKE 16:4

He said, I am going to have to make friends with these people because when I lose my job, I am going to have to live with them.

And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Luke 16:8-12

The steward went to everyone that owed the master money and said, I tell you what, you give me half of what you owe and we will consider your debt settled. Why would someone be commended when they settled the debts for half? I think it was because the steward finally saw the value of the people he was put in charge of and began to have compassion and mercy on them.

If God can't trust us with the hearts of the unrighteous heathens, if we can't see the value of those that appear to be least worthy or those that deserve mercy the least, then we can't be trusted to do the work of the kingdom. We can't serve two masters. We can't be self centered if we are going to serve God!

